



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

June 2023 | A.O. 905



Memorial Day Ceremony

Pictured Above - Sir Knights from Campbell County Commandery participating in a memorial day ceremony in LaFollette, TN, on May 29th.

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Submission Request!

Sir Knights - We need submissions for the GCTN newsletter. Please news and events to:
KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com

News

Sir Knights,

May 15, 2023, was the final day of the 55th Annual Voluntary Campaign of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Below you will find the results of the Campaign for Tennessee. Congratulations to all the Commanderies in the State that will receive Certificates and Seals for all their hard work this year.

Campaign Activity

Record Count = 28

Body: **Tennessee, Knights Templar** Campaign: **55th** Fiscal Week: **34**

NOTE: All contributions postmarked on or before May 15th are credited and closing reports are based on membership as of May 15th posted within the MMS database. Following the close of any campaign reports from the system may change because of membership adjustments and Commanderies merging into others. Therefore the numbers represented on these reports after a campaign has officially closed will not change the final results because official results are only based on MMS database reports as of May 15th of that year.

	Contributions Only - used for awards						Contributions + Trusts + Wills				
	Total for Week: 34	Count	Cumulative Total	Rank	Members as of:	Active Member	Rank	Total for Week: 34	Count	Cumulative Total	Rank
Tennessee	\$4,775.00	637	\$65,806.50		2,682	\$24.54		\$4,775.00	638	\$92,140.12	
Grand Commandery	\$0.00	4	\$575.00			\$24.32		\$0.00	5	\$26,908.62	
Athens No. 34	\$170.00	5	\$170.00	26	51	\$3.33	24	\$170.00	5	\$170.00	26
Baldwin No. 7	\$160.00	26	\$2,835.00	9	88	\$32.22	6	\$160.00	26	\$2,835.00	9
Campbell County No. 44	\$150.00	6	\$200.00	25	29	\$6.90	21	\$150.00	6	\$200.00	25
Carter No. 37	\$180.00	30	\$5,715.00	4	106	\$53.92	3	\$180.00	30	\$5,715.00	4
Chevalier No. 21	\$90.00	9	\$315.00	23	103	\$3.06	26	\$90.00	9	\$315.00	23
Clarksville No. 8	\$0.00	31	\$2,360.00	12	172	\$13.72	16	\$0.00	31	\$2,360.00	12
Coeur de Lion No. 9	\$2,055.00	26	\$4,551.00	5	111	\$41.00	5	\$2,055.00	26	\$4,551.00	5
Cumberland No. 26	\$610.00	25	\$2,770.00	10	123	\$22.52	11	\$610.00	25	\$2,770.00	10
Cyprus No. 23	\$400.00	16	\$3,175.00	7	69	\$46.01	4	\$400.00	16	\$3,175.00	7
Cyrene No. 42	\$0.00	3	\$660.00	20	46	\$14.35	15	\$0.00	3	\$660.00	20
De Payens No. 11	\$0.00	16	\$1,030.00	16	156	\$6.60	22	\$0.00	16	\$1,030.00	16
Dickson No. 41	\$0.00	23	\$2,400.00	11	123	\$19.51	13	\$0.00	23	\$2,400.00	11
Greeneville No. 43	\$60.00	22	\$2,848.00	8	113	\$25.20	10	\$60.00	22	\$2,848.00	8
Jackson No. 13	\$30.00	10	\$790.00	19	60	\$13.17	17	\$30.00	10	\$790.00	19
Kingsport No. 33	\$0.00	133	\$9,210.00	1	113	\$81.50	2	\$0.00	133	\$9,210.00	1
Lexington No. 36	\$180.00	16	\$810.00	18	92	\$8.80	19	\$180.00	16	\$810.00	18
Lookout No. 14	\$370.00	32	\$7,840.00	2	91	\$86.15	1	\$370.00	32	\$7,840.00	2
Manchester No. 40	\$210.00	16	\$465.00	22	91	\$5.11	23	\$210.00	16	\$465.00	22
Murfreesboro No. 10	\$0.00	33	\$3,605.00	6	139	\$25.94	9	\$0.00	33	\$3,605.00	6
Nashville No. 1	\$80.00	77	\$6,340.00	3	327	\$19.39	14	\$80.00	77	\$6,340.00	3
Paris No. 16	\$0.00	21	\$1,715.00	14	81	\$21.17	12	\$0.00	21	\$1,715.00	14
Park Avenue No. 31	\$0.00	18	\$946.25	17	83	\$11.40	18	\$0.00	18	\$946.25	17
Plateau No. 38	\$0.00	2	\$50.00	27	54	\$0.93	27	\$0.00	2	\$50.00	27
Rosemark No. 39	\$0.00	5	\$601.25	21	75	\$8.02	20	\$0.00	5	\$601.25	21
St Omer No. 19	\$0.00	10	\$1,510.00	15	57	\$26.49	8	\$0.00	10	\$1,510.00	15
Union City No. 29	\$30.00	15	\$2,110.00	13	66	\$31.97	7	\$30.00	15	\$2,110.00	13
Watauga No. 25	\$0.00	7	\$210.00	24	63	\$3.33	25	\$0.00	7	\$210.00	24

55TH ANNUAL VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN AWARDS

GRAND COMMANDERY OF TENNESSEE

Those Commanderies receiving Seals for achieving \$10.00 or more per member:

Nashville Commandery No. 1
Baldwin Commandery No. 7
Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 9
Murfreesboro Commandery No. 10
Jackson Commandery No. 13
St. Omer Commandery No. 19
Cyprus Commandery No. 23
Cumberland Commandery No. 26
Union City Commandery No. 29
Park Avenue Commandery No. 31
Kingsport Commandery No. 33
Carter Commandery No. 37
Dickson Commandery No. 41
Cyrene Commandery No. 42
Greeneville Commandery No. 43

Those Commanderies receiving Plaque(s) and Award Certificates for achieving \$10.00 or more per member for the first time or for those who have used up all of their spaces on the certificates:

Clarksville Commandery No. 8
Lookout Commandery No. 14
Paris Commandery No. 16

Appreciation Certificate(s) for achieving \$5.00-\$9.99 per member:

De Payens Commandery No. 11
Lexington Commandery No. 36
Rosemark Commandery No. 39
Manchester Commandery No. 40
Campbell County Commandery No. 44

Tim Sutton, EGCG
KTEF Chairman

From the Grand Generalissimo

Essentials to the Survival of Templary in Tennessee

Did you know that at least seven of our sister state Grand Commanderies are unable to field a single team to confer the Order of the Temple and have to rely on teams from other states to come and confer the order on their candidates? Is this what the crystal ball holds for us?

If you think it is, then you are probably right.

If you believe that it is not, then you are also probably right.

It is up to you and me to decide if Templary is important enough to our brethren and to our society to preserve it.

There are really only four things that are necessary to ensure not only the survival but the prosperity of Templary:

- Adequate **time** to expose the members to the superior experience of Christian Chivalry.
- Adequate **funds** to provide a superior Chivalric experience.
- Adequate **man-hours** devoted to the effort.
- **Initiative.**

Time:

By adequate time, I mean that we have to provide opportunity for the members to be exposed to the superior Chivalric experience we provide. One hour a month will not get it. More time of exposure is required. A Commandery must meet at least one time each month for a full two hour stated meeting plus annually at least two additional religious observances, some sort of civic or patriotic activity, some time to perfect and confer the orders, some social and educational time, and some time attending to our benevolent endeavors if it is to have time to provide a meaningful Chivalric experience for its members.

- If your Commandery has fewer than twelve stated meetings per year, you will not prosper.
- If your Commandery stated meetings last less than two hours, you will not have enough exposure to prosper.
- If you do nothing more than meet, read the minutes, and elect members you can send to a festival for the orders, your Commandery is ultimately doomed – you are not providing the Chivalric experience.

Funds:

Members often ask why our members won't attend Commandery functions. There are two basic reasons:

- They are usually **boring!**
- The experiences we provide at our gatherings are almost always less interesting and inferior to the experiences we are competing with, such as spectator sports, entertainment events, dinner with family and friends, and even television!

As the standard of living in our society has increased over the years, the experience we offer has steadily declined. Our appearance and dress at meetings is slovenly. Our buildings are dirty, cluttered, and ill maintained. The intellectual stimulation we provide is poor at best. Our meals, if we have them at all, are often inferior and informal to the extreme. Sometimes we are not even all that friendly. Generally speaking, almost any of us can expect a superior experience at home.

It takes money to provide superior experiences. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Quality programs are not free – they are not even cheap. Some of our Commanderies aren't taking in enough dues even to pay their rent. The few that have enough money are not spending it to provide a superior Templar experience to their own Knights.

Man-Hours (Work):

Why do you suppose that some of us attend so many meetings, but are unwilling to devote the effort to do what is necessary for our order to succeed? Perhaps we don't know what to do. (We can fix that.) Perhaps some of us are comfortable with doing things the way we have done them in the past and don't want to put forth the effort to make the Templar experience a superior one for our members who don't attend because we are not meeting their expectations.

Anything worth having is worth putting in the work to achieve.

Initiative:

Some of you will agree with much, if not all, of what I have shared above, and still nothing is happening to improve the situation. That is because no one in your Commandery has taken the initiative. The Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight Jeff Bolstad, said at our Grand Commandery meeting in March that "We don't have a membership problem – we have a leadership problem." The primary cause of failure of any organization is that the leadership fails to take the initiative. If the leadership in your Commandery refuses to take the initiative and lead, you are not necessarily doomed. Anyone can take the initiative. Do something!

The one thing that all of our Commanderies consistently do well is to provide candidates for the Knight York Cross of Honour - whether these candidates provide leadership to the Commandery or not. Leadership is a learned skill set - if you want to learn it. The opportunity to learn to be a leader is available, but it takes effort on your part.

Finally:

In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, we learn that "Truth is great and mighty above all things." Sometimes hearing the truth makes us uncomfortable. I happen to think that being a Christian Knight is very special. I just wish we were offering that experience to more members of our Commanderies. I am doing all I can think of to help turn us around toward success – are you?

John L. Palmer
Grand Generalissimo

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Submissions - KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com