



John H. Austin  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Maryland

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWS

Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy Labor day weekend!

As we come to the end of a long, hot summer I send along greetings to one and all. The month of September brings us back to regular order for the Masonic world after most lodges have gone dark (or grey) for July and August. We did have some activity in the Commanderies including some Order of the Temple ritual and knighting's as well as work done with Handbook Committee and other ongoing activity and summer celebrations of our Templars. One of those is the New Knight Training headed by REPGC Charles E. Warns held in the Gothic room for a number of newly knighted men as well as experienced knights looking for a refresher. There is another opportunity coming next weekend Sat, Sept. 9 in Denton Md. at Chesapeake Commandery No.10. @ 10 AM. email GCG Scott Lapp [pyrasea@yahoo.com](mailto:pyrasea@yahoo.com) for details

This is my Penultimate message to you and as I prepare to fold my tent and hand off to a very capable group of officers in October. I want to thank all that have made my 2 year term a great success. I will publish my personal thanks to many individuals next month. Please join me however in congratulating Grand Commander Elect and the -Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Bradley Andrukitis as he prepares his line of officers and sets his plan to continue the good work of Knights Templar of Maryland. Brad has not been in the background the past 2 years, he has been a partner and extremely involved in the formation and execution of the activities of the Grand Commandery and I am humbled by his help, suggestions and contributions to the functioning and success of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland.

My current plans are to hit the ground running this fall by a final round of Grand Visitations to each Commandery in Maryland with officers of the Grand Line and introductions for some of the newly elected officers for the coming term. This farewell tour will allow a final opportunity to instruct and assist new officers of the constituent commanderies as well as answer questions about the operations of the Grand Commandery and ongoing goals. I had been waiting to visit Commanderies until after elections in May so newly installed officers could be introduced and

become familiar with routines and work of the Commanderies. My May and June became bogged down with Family issues and we'll be making that tour now. We hope to see you all as we move through the State.

September also marks two activities that we hold dear as the annual York Rite and Lodge Festive Board for Montgomery County comes around at Pentalpha Lodge No.194 in Germantown Md. on Sept. 21, followed the next day by the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference in Arlington Virginia Sept. 22-23. Below you will find the information for both events and we encourage participation.

The Festive Board is a Fall kickoff to York Rite Activity in Montgomery County and will be attended by Grand Master Fred Spicer as well as out speaker for the evening, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Jeff Bolstad. Please plan to join us. Only a couple of weeks away.

The Department Conference is a yearly opportunity to meet with the national leadership of the Templar organization and refresh the ongoing plans and efforts of the Knights Templar. Our Department Commander James Steele and his wife Shirley was recently involved in a serious traffic accident and this will be our first time to see them and wish them well. There is to be a ladies tea for the women in attendance (Saturday) as well as a dinner on Friday which will feature an opportunity to celebrate the new Commissioned Chaplains of Maryland that will be attending the dinner. Help me to congratulate, SK Dr. Christian Jensen, EPC SK James Stargell and SK Lawrence R. 'Randy' Loy.

All have completed the course and will be the first in Maryland to be celebrated and officially Commissioned.

Finally the York Rite Grand Sessions is coming up in Frederick Md. On Oct 27-28. Please go to the York Rite Website – [yorkritemaryland.org](http://yorkritemaryland.org) at the top of the page click the 'Sessions' and the registration will appear.

Courteously yours,  
John H. Austin, REGC

## COMMANDERY Visitations 2023

Tentative schedule:

Maryland No.1- Oct 6

MC No.3- Oct. 16

JDM No.4- Sept. 7

Antioch No.6- Oct. 3

Palestine No.7- Oct. 23

Beauceant No.8- Sept. 19 (joint with Carroll)

Chesapeake No.10-Sept. 10

TJ Shryock No.11- Oct. 12

York No.16- Oct. 20

Carroll No.17- Sept. 19 (joint with Beauceant)



# **PENTALPHA LODGE # 194 & MONTGOMERY YORK RITE BODIES**

**Are pleased to invite you to our annual**

## **FESTIVE BOARD**

*Thursday 21st September, 2023 at 7:00pm*

At 20516 Boland Farm Road, Germantown, MD

**Multi course dinner with complimentary commemorative cannon glass**

**EA/ FC/ MM and their ladies are all welcome**

**Ticket price: \$50.00/ person; \$80.00/couple**

**GUEST OF HONOR: MWGM Bro. Frederick A. Spicer**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Deputy GM of Grand Encampment**

**Jeffrey Bolstad**

Checks payable to: **Pentalpha Lodge #194, AF&AM**

P.O. Box 2124, Germantown, MD

Paypal: [Worshipfulmaster194@gmail.com](mailto:Worshipfulmaster194@gmail.com)

**DRESS: Tux for officers/ Dark suit and tie for men**

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Mid-Atlantic Department Conference information: DELAWARE MARYLAND VIRGINIA NORTH CAROLINA  
WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## **MID-ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM** September 22-23, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Washington DC Crystal City (New Location) 300 Army  
Navy Drive, Arlington VA 22202

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grand \_\_\_\_\_

Commandery: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady Attending: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Lady's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **ONE** of the following to attend:

General Session Registration \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 per person \$

Or- Commissioned Chaplain program \_\_\_\_\_ X \$75.00 per person\$

NOTE: The Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program is being offered for the first time at the Mid-Atlantic Department Conf.

## MEAL SELECTION

Friday Night Banquet

Steak

Salmon

Saturday Lunch -Chicken Buffet

**\*\*MEAL SELECTION & PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10, 2023\*\***

Friday Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 per person

Saturday Luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00

Hotel Registration deadline is Wednesday, August 30, 2023 Conference Registration deadline is Sunday, September 10, 2023

Per person total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with check made payable to:**

JAMES B. STEELE

5616 Sidbury Road

Castle Hayne, NC 28429-7312 E-mail: [steele2270@aol.com](mailto:steele2270@aol.com) Cell phone: (910) 619-6900

**\*\*If electronic payment, please email completed form to James Steele and submit using Zelle\*\***

