

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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May, 2023

William Leonard, REGC 2023-2024

155th Grand Commandery Session

Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Eminent Grand Captain General

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked his other officers to write articles for the insert, and this month's article was written by our Eminent Grand Captain General.

The Grand Conclave session of the Grand Commandery of Kansas for 2023 is in the books. If you missed this session, you missed quite a lot. Let me take a moment to bring you up to speed, so to speak.

The session was opened in due form for the public reception on Thursday, 4, 2023. All of the Grand Officers were in attendance and in their stations. The Grand Commandery opening included the standard 16-man opening we have been accustomed to seeing at the each conclave. Sir Knight Robert Loflin, South Central Department Commander for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA was in attendance and was pleased with both the opening and the inspection. The regular business of the Grand Commandery was held as usual and there were no major changes except for the business concerning the changes to the perpetual life membership program, which passed with several questions and satisfactory answers.



The first Knight Templar Commissioned Chaplains were officially commissioned by the Grand Commandery of Kansas. The two Sir Knights who completed the intensive course, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr and Sir Knight Gary B. Strout, received their commissioning papers and uniform jewel from the Grand Encampment. It was a solemn, yet happy event for those who attended and witnessed it for the first time.

At the completion of the public session, before the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Robert D. McClarty could excuse everyone, Sir Knight Justin Crippen, the Grand Senior Warden, rose and addressed the Grand Commander. Sir Knight Crippen called up the members of the Honor Guard for the Grand Commandery and they performed a drill for the first time in

over 25 years. This was a momentous event for the Grand Commandery and set the new standard for the Honor Guard/Drill Team to perform at each session and to prepare for the Triennial Session for the Grand Encampment in 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The officers were elected, appointed, and installed. The 2023-2024 officers are:

RE Grand Commander	William P. Leonard
VE Deputy Grand Commander	Gary A. Mason
E Grand Generalissimo	Frederick R. Kemp
E Grand Captain General	Patrick C. Carr
E Grand Senior Warden	Justin D. Crippen
E Grand Junior Warden	Gary B. Strout
E. Grand Prelate	Roger L. Walls
RE Grand Treasurer	T. Michael Fegan
E Grand Recorder	Allan D. Jackson
E Grand Standard Bearer	Ivan M. DeTevis
E Grand Sword Bearer	Thomas M. Krauss
E Grand Warder	Dale R. Morrow
E Grand Sentinel	Juanito Ernacio
E Grand Musician	Kelly J. Long
E Grand Guards	Andrew G. Mosley, Warren L. Hughes, Herbert F. Merrick
Grand Commander's Aide-de-Camps	T. Michael Fegan, Wayne Drake, L. Kent Needham

2023 Knight Templar Feast



Templar Feast 2023

Date: July 22, 2023
Time: 4:30 PM (Begin descent) - 9:00 PM (Back above ground)
Location: Strataca Underground Salt Museum
3650 East Avenue A, Hutchinson, Kansas
Cost: \$50 per person (Pre-registration required)
Included: Travel 650' underground, museum tour and dark ride, dinner buffet, toasting cannon and beverage, Templar presentation and fellowship!
Attire: Formal (Class A without sword and chapeau)
Who: All Knights and their Ladies

We will be going underground again this year to celebrate another Knight Templar Feast. This year's feast will include a banquet, rides and tours, and more. We will be having the rides and tours before the meal this year to allow adequate time for all in attendance to enjoy what Strataca has to offer. It will be another great event and we look forward to seeing you, and your lady, underground again this year.

More information, and registration, is available on the Grand York Rite website at www.kansasyorkrite.org.