

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar

## State of New York



SK David R. Barkstedt  
Grand Commander  
235 W. Saugerties Rd.  
Saugerties, NY 12477-3146  
Phone: 845-235-5037

e-mail: [dave@eliteconsultantsinc.com](mailto:dave@eliteconsultantsinc.com)

The Commander of each Commandery is hereby ordered to read this General Order at the first Conclave following receipt:

### General Order No. 1

To: The Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Commandery Officers and all Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery:

Christian Greetings Sir Knights

The Theme for the Templar Year 2022-2023 is:

### *FAITH*

It's not something we do-it's something we are.

"God's word says that we are saved by grace through Faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works."

Ephesian 2:8-9

We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. Those different prepositions make all the difference in the world! Good Works are evidence of salvation, not the cause of it. If there are no works or change of life to follow salvation, then it should be questioned whether the person/knight is truly saved.

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10

Explanation and Commentary of Ephesians 2:10

This powerful verse shows the interplay between our good and free will to do things, especially good things, and the role God plays behind our will. We are created by God, for God and in God. We are created for the purpose of action. The action we should take is the action that God had in mind for us to

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take when he designed and built us. When we are embarking on a good work, it will certainly be an act of will, but we should pray for God's blessing in it and that it is what he wants us to do. That is, it aligns with not only his ways and his Word, but that it is one of the things written for us to do. When we have done the good work, we should then thank God in heaven that we were able to accomplish it, not only that we were successful, but that we had the energy to attempt it in the first place.

We are not saved by "good works." We are saved by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins. We are saved by his good work before we are called to our own good works. This life is a free gift by grace from God is both just and the justifier (Ro 3:26) of those who will be saved. But this does not mean that we are not called to do good works in Christ. Indeed we are called to it and we will be rewarded, sometimes in this life, but certainly in the next (Mt 25:21).

### **The Good Works of a Christian Knight Templar**

*Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York for 2022-2023 & beyond.*

*The Grand Commandery now has an updated website and twice a month each Knight will receive a Constant Contact Newscast for all Knights who have submitted their email to Grand Commandery.*

#### **Zoomposium:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick A. Beitter Symposium will be held on January 21, 2023 via Zoom. All Grand Line Officers, Zone Commanders and new Recorders are required to attend. There will be a general session, then breakout sessions for Grand Line Officers, Zone Commanders, Deputy Zone Commanders and Recorders. All Sir Knights are welcome to attend, especially those interested in serving in these offices. Details to follow.

#### **2023 Annual Commandery Inspections:**

This year the inspection process is extremely important after several years going through Covid, now high gas prices and with the Commanderys getting back on their feet. The Tactics, Sword Manual and Ritual will be our focus as we continue to improve throughout the year. The work of the Recorders and Treasurers continues to be an important factor of the inspection. Inspecting Officers will be expected to present the Grand Commander's Message, promote our Charities, and listen to the concerns of our Constituent Commanderies and its Knights.

#### **Ritual**

**The Ritual Requirements** shall be recited by memory and not read. The work this year will be:

**Illustrious Order of the Red Cross (Truth)**- Pg. 31, starting with CC.: "Sovereign Master, when our Most Excellent Grand Master" .....and ending with " I will submit to exile or even death. "

**Knight of Malta (Faith)**-Pg. 75 Starting with Prior: "Take up your sword and wipe it.....and ending with top of Pg 76 and his body to perils and dangers in His service.

**Order of the Temple (Faith)** -Pg. 141 Starting with C: Pilgrim, starting with "you have sealed your faith" .....and ending at middle of Pg 142 "Libation, is considered by Knights Templar more sacred and binding, if possible, than any other."

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## **Membership & Marketing (M&M)**

Membership may be the most important and challenging aspect of this Templar year. The events of the past two years have severely impacted our ability to fraternize with our fellow Sir Knights and Masons in general. I have Faith that our bonds will draw us back into the Asylums, Secret Vaults, Tabernacles and Temples that have for long been a place of comfort and joy. We must make an earnest attempt to reengage our long-standing members for the good of the Order.

The inability to confer Orders and Degrees on a consistent or convenient schedule has impacted all Masonic Bodies and will require a significant, unified effort to accommodate and welcome candidates to our Order.

I have Faith that the Sir Knights will continue the long standing and essential practice of participating in the Degree work of Symbolic Lodges, Chapters and Councils cementing the bonds of union in our memberships.

Zone 8 Pilgrimage is schedule for November 5, 2022, in Palmyra, NY

Zone 4 Pilgrimage is scheduled for March 8, 2023, in Schenectady, NY

Zone 3 Pilgrimage is scheduled for June 3, 2023, in Saugerties, NY

**All Orders scheduled by any Commandery/Zone need to be listed on our website** -contact Terry Mehlenbacher at [mehlenbacher@gmail.com](mailto:mehlenbacher@gmail.com) to have the Order(s) posted on Grand Commandery's Website Calendar. This will allow Knights who missed the Orders in their Commandery/Zone to have another chance on becoming a Knights Templar.

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

The 2023 Grand Encampment East Coast Easter Sunrise Service is anticipated to be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, April 19, 2023. This is a beautiful time to visit our Nation's Capital and take in some of the sites there including the George Washington National Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and a host of museums and historic sites. There is a banquet on Saturday evening and several hospitality suites at the hotel. More information will be available from the Grand Junior Warden Sir Knight Kenneth Jordan as it becomes available.

Did you know that any Sir Knight can attend? All Sir Knights are welcome to Join us on our march up Shooter's Hill while the Ladies enjoy the event seated on the steps of the Memorial. Hope to see many of you there.

**Charities** (Choose generosity, it does more for you than it does for others)

- 1- **Knight Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF)** - Our Mission to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. (**Commandery Challenge** for all Knights in a Commandery to be 100% Life Sponsors \$30 donation to KTEF one time fee). The bigger goal is to have all the Knights in the State of New York Life Sponsors to the KTEF.

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- 2- **Scholarships for Children and GrandChildren** of Knights Templar State of New York
- 3- **Holy Land Pilgrimage-** Our Mission: To send credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical / cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise. In this program, the various State Grand Commanderies of Knights Templar sponsor Christian Ministers on an expenses paid study pilgrimage in Israel for 11 days.
- 4- **St Bernard's Priory** The Grand Commandery proudly announces an opportunity for all Sir Knights to join The Priory of St. Bernard. This priory is a ceremonial group to raise funds and continue with the good works of the Grand Commandery. This name, "St. Bernard's Priory", is in honor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a principal patron of the Knights Templar. The purpose of the Priory is to supplement the Endowment fund. Each Knight who joins becomes a patron, all the while rewarding each of its members with some interesting gifts. The Endowment Fund is a fund that, when it reaches its constitutional goals, can supplement the Grand Commandery's operations, including stabilization of the dues structure. The Priory will be a long running program which will work for each Sir Knight at his own pace. The program will, at the longest time period, take each Sir Knight ten (10) years to complete. The Sir Knight would pledge \$100 each year for Ten (10) years, or at the shortest, any period the Sir Knight feels comfortable with. The Priory will give the following rewards to each of the members: For the first \$100 each Sir Knight will receive a ribbon to wear on his uniform. At the \$300 level, the Priory will present the Sir Knight with a golf style shirt with the Priory Coat of Arms. At Completion of \$700, a gift to the Sir Knight of a mug with the St. Bernard Coat of Arms. Upon the completion of the pledge (\$1000.00), each Sir Knight will be presented with a Dagger or Dirk inscribed with the Sir Knight's name, a Lapel pin, and a certificate. Please take the time to consider becoming a member of this prestigious Order dedicated to continuing the good works of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York. Plans are to increase donation levels \$2000, \$3000, \$4000 and \$5000 with different Ribbons to indicate donation level.

### **The Constituent Commandery Work**

**Tactics & Sword Manual** This year we will again go back to basics. Opening/ Closing and the Sword Manual will be our normal work. The Tactics and Sword Manual prepares us to be better Knights. All Officers of each Commandery are expected to attend every meeting of their Commandery. No Commandery can be expected to do ritual work if they cannot open in full form. An animated video is being developed for every Commandery so you have a visual aid in the opening. *Remember everything is in the Tactics Book- you just have to read it.*

**Ritual** (One of the greatest hallmarks that sets the Masonry Fraternity especially Knights Templar apart from all other fraternal or civic organizations is our Knights Templar Orders ( Ritual) especially when the Knights Templar Orders are conducted with precision and dedication) *Remember everything is in the plain English Ritual Book- you just have to read and memorize it.*

**Care-** *“As Knights Templar we are bound to give to poor and weary pilgrims, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.”*

We need to take better care of our Sir Knights and their families, with a get well or sympathy cards and/ or a personal phone call. That is the least we can do and we can and should do more.

### **History and our Antiquities**

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> book of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York will be completed this year and available for sale at the 2023 Grand Conclave. Two Volumes have already be written and publish The history of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar , State of New York 1814-2013 Volume 1 and Biographies of Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar , State of New York 1814-2014 Volume 2.

The Commanderies that have already submitted some history.

Narratives needed are:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>COMMANDERY</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>CHARTERED</u>	<u>NEEDED</u>
1	Columbian	New York	1815	1882 - 2022
2	Capital City	Albany	1823	1882 - 2022
3	Utica	Utica	1823	1882 -2022
4	Morton	New York	1823	1882 - 2022
11	Watertown	Pulaski	1826	2019 - 2022
12	Cyrene-Monroe Empire Dewitt	Rochester	1827	1993 - 2022
14	Clinton	Staten Island	1828	1999 - 2022
17	Sagoyawatha	Palmyra	1996	1996 -2022
20	Lake Erie	Cheektowaga	1853	1882 - 2022
21	Malta	Endicott	1853	1854 - 2022
22	DeMolay	Hornell	1853	1944 - 2022
23	Coeur de Lion	New York	1854	1882 - 2022
25	Central City	Solvay	1857	2017 - 2022
30	Hugh dePaynes	East Aurora	1860	1996 - 2022
32	Lake Ontario	Pulaski	1862	1874 -2022
33	Washington	Saratoga Springs	1865	2021 - 2022
34	Batavia	Attica	1865	1883 - 2022
37	St. George's	Scotia	1866	2017 - 2022
40	Dunkirk	Dunkirk	1867	1882 - 2022
42	Westchester	Peekskill	1867	1882 - 2022
43	Poughkeepsie	Saugerties	1868	1878 - 2022
45	Rome	Vernon	1869	1990 - 2022
46	Norwich	Oxford	1869	2001 - 2022
50	Cortland	Cortland	1871	2019 - 2022
	Bethlehem-			
53	Crusader	Tuckahoe	1871	1968 - 2022
65	Patchogue	Islip	1900	1900 - 2022
67	Cyprus	Middletown	1904	1904 - 2022
68	Trinity	Long Island	1908	1980 - 2022
69	Calvary	Greenwich	1910	1910 - 2022
72	Massena	Massena	1918	1920 - 2022
73	Nassau	Oyster Bay	1920	1920 - 2022
76	Otsego	Cooperstown	1922	1922 - 2022

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79

Bay Ridge

Brooklyn

1924

1977 - 2022

We need your help from the Commanderies who have not submitted their Commander History or updates- **Start today !**

Also, throughout our State and beyond are Knights Templar antiquities are available on e-bay, yard sales, lodge basements and in closets. It's time that we all start saving our history before it's too late. If you find something online that belongs to a Commandery consider purchasing it and return it to its home where it belongs. If it's from a Commandery that doesn't exist, retrieve it and let us know. It's in our long-range plan to have our own Knights Templar Museum which will display and save our Knights Templar history.

**Courteously with Faith**

## *SK David R. Barkstedt*

Grand Commandery 2022-2023

### **Zone Schools Fall 2022**

**Zone 1.** Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM , Matinecock Lodge Oyster Bay NY -Mullin

**Zone 2.** Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Grand Lodge Building NYC, Chapter Room -Mullin

**Zone 3.** Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, Masonic Temple 1904. New Windsor NY -Mullin

**Zone 4.** Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Albany Masonic Temple, Albany NY -Mullin

**Zones 5 and 7.** Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, Oxford Masonic Temple, 27 East Main St., Oxford, NY - Scott

**Zone 6.** Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, Masonic Temple, 608 Oswego St., Liverpool, NY -Scott

**Zone 8.** Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM, Sagoyewatha Commandery No. 17, 67 Ontario Street, Phelps, NY -Scott

**Zone 9.** Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM, Masonic Community Center, 692 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY - Scott

**Times and dates may only be changed by the Instructing Officer with approval of the Grand Commander.**

**(New) Walter Allen DeLamater Attendance Award-** Greatest attendance ratio Knights present to Knights in Commandery plus C, G & CG must be in attendance.

(All awards will be presented at the Grand Conclave in September)

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## **Grand Commandery Reception:**

Poughkeepsie Commandery No. 43  
extends an invitation to attend the reception celebrating the anticipated election of

**Sir Knight David R. Barkstedt as Grand Commander  
of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York**

The reception will be held Saturday November 19, 2022, at the Crown Plaza Albany-The  
Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, New York 12211.

Cocktail Reception with Crudit  and Cheese Display & Cash Bar @ 6:00 P.M.

Banquet Dinner @ 7:00 P.M. featuring Duet Filet Mignon & Shrimp Dinner including assorted  
dinner rolls, salad, dessert with coffee or tea.

DJ entertainment provided.

The Hospitality Room will be open immediately following the banquet.

Those requiring overnight accommodations make your reservations directly with the  
On-Line Booking Link for November. Please feel free to share-it is as follows:

[Grand Commander Reception Book Here](#)

For guests that would like to Call-In Reservations please call the Hotel Direct at  
518-869-8100. Use **Group Res ID GCR**. Room rate: **\$139 plus tax**

**PLEASE NOTE THE RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE IS OCTOBER 29, 2022**

November 19 , 2022 Grand Commander's Reception Form

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

Lady or Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Body Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Filet Mignon & Shrimp Duet w/assorted rolls, salad, dessert w/ coffee or tea.

**Dinner charge \$90 per person**

**Special needs Dinner please advise us!**

No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form, include your check payable to Poughkeepsie Commandery No. 43 KT  
and mail by October 29, 2022 to Harry Williams @ 144 Yantz Road, Red Hook NY 12571.

Questions contact [harry.williams@marist.edu](mailto:harry.williams@marist.edu), 845-214-7468. All net proceeds will benefit the  
Grand Commandery's Charities. Our Committee looks forward to greeting you in Albany to  
celebrate a New Templar Year.

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