

**GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
Of the
State of Illinois**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
168TH. ANNUAL CONCLAVE**



**SIR KNIGHT
RICHARD THOMAS CARNALL
Right Eminent Grand Commander
2023-2024
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS
JULY 26, 2024**

Friday, July 26, 2024

The 168th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois was held at the Abraham Lincoln Hilton in Springfield, Illinois, on July 26, 2024. Sir Knight Richard T. Carnall, Right Eminent Grand Commander presiding.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT

Richard T. Carnall	Right Eminent Grand Commander
Jamie A. Emery	Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Sean P. McBride	Eminent Grand Generalissimo
Donald J. Cowart	Eminent Grand Captain General
Christopher J. Whitney	Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Derrick S. Helfer	Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Gary W. Sheets	Eminent Grand Prelate
John M. Sansone	Eminent Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Keagle	Eminent Grand Recorder
Reno Reguya	Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
Kevin Wheeler	Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Michael Millette	Eminent Grand Warder
Randy Zaerr	Eminent Grand Sentinel
Joseph L. Pieron	Eminent Grand Color Bearer
Thomas R. Osborne	Eminent Grand Organist

EGCG Cowart: Eminent Grand Warder, Sound the Assembly.

EGW Millette: Sir Knights Assemble, Sir Knights Assemble, Sir Knights Assemble.

EGCG Cowart: Grand Officers take your stations.

EGCG Cowart: Eminent Grand Warder, direct the Escort to form the lines for the reception of the Grand Commander.

EGW Millette: Captain of the Escort, form the lines for the reception of the Grand Commander. The Right Eminent Grand Commander approaches.

EGCG Cowart: Sir Knights attention, Grand Officers, draw swords. Eminent Grand Warder, inform the Grand Commander that the Asylum is in suitable array for his reception.

EGW: Millette: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Asylum is in suitable array for your reception.

REGC Carnall: Lead on Sir Knight Grand Warder.

EGW Millette: The Right Eminent Grand Commander approaches.

EGCG Cowart: Commandery attention, present swords.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights carry swords, return swords, be seated. Eminent Grand Generalissimo, invite the Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders of the State of Illinois into the Asylum.

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor of presenting the Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois.

EGG McBride: Sir Knights, these are all Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois.

(Sir Knight) Gary Dean Hermann

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, I am pleased to present the Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Allow me to descend the dais and greet them while you introduce them.

EGG McBride:

(Sir Knight) Gary Dean Herman, once again

(Sir Knight) Charles Michael Mills

(Sir Knight) Pressly Alvin Laird

(Sir Knight) H. Wayne Hoffman

(Sir Knight) Jesse L. Johns

(Sir Knight) Charles E. Hileman, Jr.

(Sir Knight) William E. Jegen

(Sir Knight) Russell L. Schlosser

(Sir Knight) Enrique J. Unanue

(Sir Knight) William J. Smith

(Sir Knight) William J. Farris

(Sir Knight) Auston Eugene Smith

(Sir Knight) Wayne Clark

Honorary Past Grand Commander

(Sir Knight) Harris E. Boeker

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, these are our Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders. Please rise and join me in giving them a hearty welcome.

EGG McBride: We also have on the dais, Past Grand Commanders

(Sir Knight) Mark A. Keagle

(Sir Knight) John M. Sansone

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, I invite you to have a seat in the asylum and I invite Sir Knight Gary D. Herman to give us a response on your behalf.

Response given by REPGC Hermann: Right Eminent Grand Commander, on behalf of the Past Grand Commanders, we thank you for the courtesies you have extended in acknowledging us today. To the Sir Knights out there, you are the ones who are important because Past are Past – we’ve had our day. You are the future. Remember, when you elect a new bottom of the line today, you’re also electing a future Grand Commander. Search well because it’s important to get the leadership this organization needs. Thank you for your attendance, for coming to our Grand Commandery Session. On behalf of our Past Grand Commanders, thank you. That didn’t take 40 minutes.

REGC Carnall: Thank you. (applause) We were trying to take a little time off my allocution a little later but it didn’t work. The next group to be introduced will be the representatives of our youth organizations.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Present Swords!

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor of presenting:
Kaitlyn Knuth, Grand Worthy Advisor of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Illinois
Hailey Abermaitis, Daughter HIKE Coordinator, Illinois Job’s Daughters
Benjamin Mayberry, State Master Councilor, Illinois DeMolay
Dad Dale Goodpaster, Executive Officer, Illinois DeMolay

REGC Carnall: Please join me up here on the dais.

I want to welcome each one of you to the Grand Commandery, and we have a check for each of you on behalf of the Grand Commandery that we would like to present, and we would like to invite you to make any remarks to our Grand Conclave.

GWA Knuth: Hi, like they said I’m Kaitlyn Knuth, the Grand Worthy Advisor for Rainbow in Illinois. I just want to thank everyone for the invite. I’m sorry I couldn’t be here last night. If you guys didn’t know, I was just on my way home from our Supreme Session in Hampton, Virginia, so I was on a very long 14-hour car ride home. Believe me, I’d much rather have been here than in the car. So, I’m going to keep it short. Thank you again for the invite. I have pins – I know you guys like pins – so if you need one of my pins, please come find me or my Mom. She’s in the dining room working right now. Thank you.

HIKE Coord Hailey A: Hello, I want to say thank you for having me. Illinois Job’s Daughters greatly appreciates all the support from the Illinois Knights Templar. Have an amazing Conclave this morning, and than you so much.

SMC Mayberry: Companions, Sir Knights and friends, Thank you for having me, it is an honor to be here. I spoke last night so I will keep it brief. You guys are awesome and Illinois DeMolay cannot do what we do without you all. Thank you!

REGC Carnall: Again it’s a great pleasure to have you here with us. We’d like to invite you to have a seat while we have some additional introductions, or if you have something to do other than sit with these old guys, you’re welcome to retire. Thank you very much for joining us.

I believe we have representatives of our appendant bodies next. Oh, they would like to insist that I stick to the script and not change the order, so at this time I would like to invite Companion Ryan Irby, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois to introduce his officers who are with us today.

MEGHP Irby: Would the Grand Officers, District Deputies, and Past Grand High Priests please stand? Sir Knights, it is my pleasure to introduce the officers and Past Grand High Priests of the State of Illinois.

REGC Carnall: For some reason I have the feeling that Tom Podrovitz, or “Tom Pod,” our Most Illustrious Grand Master, let me give you the opportunity to introduce the officers of the Grand Council.

MIGM Podrovitz: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor of introducing our newly elected Most Illustrious Grand Master, Billy J. McIntyre, the newly elected Most Illustrious Grand Master and I’m going to give him the opportunity to introduce his officers.

MIGM McIntyre: There’s a few of my officers here, so please stand.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, let’s rise and welcome both our Grand Chapter and Grand Council officers to our 168th Grand Conclave. Thank you Companions and Sir Knights for joining us this morning. Now we’ll go on to the remaining appendant bodies. Eminent Grand Warder, you will invite the officers of the appendant bodies into the Asylum.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Present Swords!

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor of presenting Gregory L. Clark, Active Member of the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and Deputy for Illinois, and Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Illinois.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, please rise and join me in welcoming our representative from the Scottish Rite.

VEDGC Emery: Eminent Grand Warder, invite the representatives from the Grand Encampment into our Asylum. (Dais discussion followed to reset the order – the order was not executed at this time)
Eminent Grand Warder, invite the Grand Commandery Officers of sister jurisdictions into the Asylum.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Form arch of steel! Cross swords!

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, these are the representatives of our sister jurisdictions, who will be introduced by our Grand Generalissimo.

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, I have the honor of presenting Sir Knight Randall P. Ellington, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana (2023-2024), KCT, Grand Prelate Emeritus. Sir Knight Joseph L. Sparks, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of the

Grand Commandery of Indiana. Sir Knight Dominic J. Hamblin, Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. Sir Knight John McCracken, Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. Sir Knight Michael Robaugh, Aide to the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, KTCH. Sir Knight Brian Lewis, KTCH, KCT, Grand Royal Arch Captain of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Indiana.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, let's welcome these Sir Knights and Companions to our 168th Conclave. Please be seated wherever you'd like to.

VEDGC Emery: Eminent Grand Warder, invite the Right Eminent Grand Commanders from our sister jurisdictions into the Asylum.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, these are the Right Eminent Grand Commanders of our sister jurisdictions, who will now be introduced.

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, I have the honor of introducing Sir Knight John Wiseman Simmons, II, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee; Sir Knight Jay Kennedy, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Michigan; Sir Knight Randy J. Darling, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana; Sir Knight Richard L. Ganion, KCT, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, it's indeed a pleasure to have you with us here this morning. I'm going to invite Sir Knight Kennedy to respond on behalf of the visiting Grand Commanders. (unintelligible words followed).

REGC Kennedy: Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knights, guests, Thank you very much for the wonderful introduction. It's always great to be back here in Illinois – wonderful reception and wonderful location, great Sir Knights. On behalf of my counterparts, we thank you very much for all the hospitality you've extended to us and wish you a very wonderful sessions. Congratulations on a very good and successful year. It's been great seeing you across the year and working with you. Ours are the 2 closest jurisdictions so it's been great to sync up. I wish you all the best on your second retirement – don't know if there's a third one coming, but who knows? Congratulations to all the officers who will be elected and installed today. We look forward to working with you as well. And so, Sir Knight Richard, I'll have a seat. Thank you.

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Jay.
Eminent Grand Warder, you will invite the Grand Lodge Officers of Illinois into the Asylum.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Present Swords! Carry Swords!

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, these are the officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois, who will now be introduced by our Grand Generalissimo.

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, I have the honor of introducing Patrick Grubbs, Junior Grand Deacon of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois; Franklin E. Cline, Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois; James D. Williams, Junior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois; Anthony R. Cracco, Grand Treasurer of the State of Illinois, Auston Eugene Smith, Senior Grand Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois; Joseph B. Ferrell, Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois.

REGC Carnell: Sir Knights, please rise and join me in welcoming these representatives of our Grand Lodge. (applause) It's certainly great to have you with us and you're welcome to have a seat in the Asylum.

VEDGC Emery: Eminent Grand Warder, invite the representatives of the Grand Encampment into our Asylum. Sir Knights, attention!

Captain of Escort: Escort, Form arch of steel! Sir Knights, Cross swords! Carry Swords!

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, I have the honor of introducing Sir Knight Bob Cronk, Right Eminent Past Department Commander of the North Central Department of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America and, of course, the Right Eminent Past Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. Join me in welcoming him to our Asylum.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, be seated.

VEDGC Emery: Eminent Grand Warder, invite the remaining representatives of the Grand Encampment into our Asylum.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Form arch of steel! Sir Knights, Cross swords!

VEDGC Emery: Sir Knights, Attention.

REGC Carnall: (from floor without microphone) Sir Knights, I have the honor of introducing Sir Knight Martin R. Trent, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander of the East Central Department of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America. Please join me in according him a hearty welcome to the Grand Commandery of Illinois! Sir Knights, be seated.

VEDGC Emery: Sir Knights, Attention!

Captain of Escort: Escort, Form arch of steel! Sir Knights, Cross swords!

REGC Carnall: (from floor without microphone) Sir Knights, I have the honor of introducing Sir Knight Lawrence E. Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, representing our Most Eminent Grand Master, Sir Knight David Joseph Kussman. Join me in according him a hearty welcome to the Grand Commandery of Illinois! (applause)

VEDGC Emery: Eminent Grand Warder, invite the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois into our Asylum. Sir Knights, Attention!

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, I have the distinct honor of introducing Brother and Sir Knight David P. Lynch, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois. You may join me in according him a most hearty welcome. Grand Master, if you'd join me in the east I would be honored. Sir Knights, be seated. Most Worshipful Grand Master, you're always in charge, would you like to say something now or save your comments for later?

MWGM Lynch: I won't say nothing now because I'm the only thing between you guys and lunch if I wait, which means I don't have to say much.

REGC Carnall: I'd like to thank all of our visitors today for taking time out from their busy schedules to join us. I would like to thank the escort for their work this morning and I invite you to retire.

Captain of Escort: Escort, Right and Left Face! Close Ranks, Forward March! (applause)

REGC Carnall: We're now about to convene the 168th Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, and therefore at this time I will ask anyone who is not a Knight Templar to please retire from the Asylum. And again, thank you for joining us this morning. Eminent Grand Recorder, you will call the roll call of the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois. The officers will stand and remain standing until the roll call is complete.

EGR Keagle:

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Richard T. Carnall	Here
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Jamie A. Emery	Present
Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Sean P. McBride	Here
Eminent Grand Captain General, Don J. Cowart	Here
Eminent Grand Senior Warden, Christopher J. Whitney	Here
Eminent Grand Junior Warden, Derrick S. Helfer	Here
Eminent Grand Prelate, Gary W. Sheets	Here
Eminent Grand Treasurer, John M. Sansone	Here
Eminent Grand Recorder, Mark A. Keagle	Here
Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, Reno Reguya	Here
Eminent Grand Sword Bearer, Kevin Wheeler	Here
Eminent Grand Warder, Michael Millette	Present
Eminent Grand Sentinel, Randy Zaerr	Here
Eminent Grand Color Bearer, Joseph L. Pieron	Here
Eminent Grand Organist, Thomas R. Osborne	Here

Right Eminent Grand Commander, these are your officers.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery, these are your Grand Commandery officers. Sir Knights, you may be seated. Eminent Grand Senior Warden, are all present Knights Templar?

EGSW Whitney: Sir Knight Junior Warden, are all in the North Knights Templar?

EGJW Helfer: Sir Knight Senior Warden, all in the North are Knights Templar?

EGSW Whitney: Right Eminent Grand Commander, all present are Knights Templar.

REGC Carnall: Eminent Grand Warder, Post the Eminent Grand Sentinel and inform him that the 168th Annual Enclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois is about to be convened, and direct him to guard accordingly.

EGW Millette: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Eminent Grand Sentinel is posted and the Asylum is duly guarded.

REGC Carnall: Commandery, Attention. Sir Knights, join me in pledging allegiance to the flag of our country. Hand salute!

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, Uncover. Eminent Grand Prelate, you will lead us in our devotions.

EGP Sheets: Gracious Father, we thank you for Jesus Christ, the great captain of our salvation; the keeper of our souls; the guide of our path. Father, we thank you for the ministry, the lessons, and what has been invested in this state into the lives of good men to help them understand who you really are. Guide us in our proceedings today. Help us not to just be proper in the following of rules, but help us to be proper in the intent of our hearts. Father, we love you. We find it incredible that you've asked us to stand for you, and so Father we stand in the gap in a world that so desperately needs you in times of greater darkness. Help us to be your lights. Help us not to hide our light. We pray in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

All: Amen.

REGC Carnall: Recover. Waiving further ceremony, I now declare the 168th Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois convened in due form. Eminent Grand Warder, inform the Grand Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly.

EGW Millette: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Eminent Grand Sentinel is informed and the Asylum is duly guarded.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, Be seated. The Eminent Grand Recorder is going to retire briefly and call on the Chairman of our Credentials Committee for initial report. In fact, I understand that the Chairman of our Credentials Committee actually broke some ribs and is not with us today, so I believe instead of Gary Reichert we have Bob Wright. But, we'll find out in just a moment.

EGR Keagle: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I'm directed to inform you that the Credentials Committee has decided that there is a constitutional quorum, and requests more time to give you their final report.

REGC Carnell: Well, it's been established that a constitutional quorum is present. I declare this to be a lawful assembly of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, and more time is granted to the committee for their final report. Our Parliamentarian for this session will be Sir Knight Charles E. Hileman, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Chairman of our Jurisprudence Committee. Also, the judges for the elections, should they be needed will be present members of the Jurisprudence Committee. If we have a ballot, it will be collected by our five Division Commanders.

VEDGC Emery: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move that all Sir Knights in good standing be permitted to attend this Conclave.

EKG McBride: Second.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights It has been moved and seconded that all Sir Knights in good standing be permitted to attend this conclave. Is there any discussion? All in favor extend the Sword Arm. Down arms. All Opposed, the Bridle Arm. The motion passes.

EKG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move that the election of officers be held at 10 AM, and that the annual meeting of the Illinois Knight Templar Home Corporation be held during the recess immediately thereafter.

EKG Cowart: Second.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, It's been moved and seconded that the election of officers be held at 10 AM, and the annual meeting of the Illinois Knights Templar Home Corporation be held during a recess immediately thereafter. Is there any discussion? All in favor, extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed, the Bridle Arm. And the motion passes.

VEDGC Emery: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move that all committee reports published as the preliminary proceedings be accepted and approved as written, except those called for by the Grand Commander.

EKG McBride: Second.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, It's been moved and seconded that all committee reports published in the preliminary proceedings be accepted and approved, except for those called by me. Any discussion? All in favor extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed the Bridle Arm. And the motion passes.

EGR Keagle: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move that the minutes of the 167th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois be approved as printed in the proceedings that have been distributed.

Maryland – Grant O. Koontz	
Massachusetts and Rhode Island – James W. Patton	
Michigan – William E. Jegen	
Minnesota – Robert G. Minton	
Mississippi – Gregory R. Klemm	
Missouri – Mark A. Keagle	Present
Montana – Jamie Emery	Present
Nebraska – John M. Sansone	Present
Nevada – H. Wayne Hoffman	Present
New Hampshire – William H. Poole, Jr.	Present
New Jersey – Wayne Clark	Present
New Mexico – Richard T. Carnall	Present
New York – Russell L. Schlosser	Present
North Carolina – Bruce W. Rhinehart	
North Dakota – Charles E. Hileman, Jr.	Present
Ohio – William J. Farris	Present
Oklahoma – Wendell E. Walch	
Oregon – Sean P. McBride	Present
Pennsylvania – Don Cowart	Present
Phillipines – Rolando T. Gange	
South Carolina – Danny L. Gaddis, Jr.	Present
South Dakota – Enrique Unanue	Present
Tennessee – Jesse L. Johns, Sr.	Present
Texas – Steven T. Adamson	Present
Utah – Orville E. Shumaker	Present
Vermont – William J. Smith	Here
Virginia – Kevin Wheeler	Present
Washington – Joseph W. Lucas	
West Virginia – Jonathon E. Barnes	
Wisconsin – Stanley P. Boyd	
Wyoming – Robert K. Cronk	Present

Right Eminent Grand Commander (salute).

REGC Carnall: I thank each of these representatives for their service to our Grand Commandery. I urge you to attend the conclaves in your respective states and territories, and to keep in touch with the representatives of those states and territories. Sir Knights, these are the Sir Knights who keep us in contact with our sister jurisdictions. Let's give them a hearty thank-you. (applause) Sir Knights, you may be seated. At this point we will have a few committee reports until it's time for our election at 10:00, and I believe we'll start with our Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Keagle, for the report on Templar Dead.

EGR Keagle: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the report of the Templar Dead.

James Morris Ward, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

1997-2000. Biography followed – See Preliminary Reports

This is the report of Past Commanders of Illinois who have laid down their sword in the last year:

Elmer Doyle Keys, Tancred Commandery #2, 4/18/2024

Robert Eldon Otterstein, Dixon Commandery #21, 11/8/2023

Theodore Ernest Shanks, Calvary Commandery #25, 11/21/2023

David William Jones, St. Omer Commandery #30, 2/15/2024

Ralph John Palmer, Bethel Commandery #36, 8/9/2023

Ronald Edward Ericksen, Bethel Commandery #36, 2/15/2024

John Robert Jorgenson, Bethel Commandery #36, 1/17/2024

Dale Hollis Satorius, St. Aldemar Commandery #47, 12/22/2023

Gabriel Frank Spataro, St. Elmo Commandery #64, 12/9/2023

Michael David Staley, Patton Commandery #69, 10/15/2023

Robert Hammon Pierce, Gil W. Barnard Commandery #74, 5/31/2024

Right Eminent Grand Commander, those are the deceased members.

REGC Carnall: Commandery, Attention. Uncover. Sir Knights, let us observe a few moments of silence in memory of these departed Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. (respectful pause) Recover. Sir Knights, be seated. Thank you, Eminent Grand Recorder.

REGR Tucker: Right Eminent Grand Commander, could I offer an addendum, perhaps, to this report?

REGC Carnall: Please

REGR Tucker: Sir Knight Thurmond Cleveland Pace passed away in January at the age of 99. He was an Honorary Past Grand Master of this Grand Encampment, which was granted in 2006 at the 63rd Triennial in Houston.

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Sir Knight Tucker. I'd like to now call on a report from the Finance Committee. Our Chairman is Bill Jegen, I don't think he's in the room. Oh, he's right there, OK, he's not raised up high enough for me to see him. Bill, do you have a report to give?

REPGC Jegen: The report is the expenditures and the actual budget that is to be presented that was distributed.

REGC Carnall: So it's in the Preliminary Proceedings, and actually it was the other couple of loose sheets that were out there? There were a couple of other loose sheets there besides the proceedings that were the budget.

REPGC Jegen: Right, and it is a proposed budget.

REGC Carnall: Well, if you don't have any... actually, do you have any comments on the proposed budget? I might ask our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander if he has any comments to make. It's your budget, right?

VEDGC Emery: We have a balanced budget.

REGC Carnall: OK, we have a balanced budget. If nobody has anything to say about the budget, then perhaps someone would like to move the acceptance of the budget as presented.

REPGC Jegen: I would make that motion.

REGC Carnall: Is there a second?

VEDGC Emery: Second

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, you have heard a motion to approve the budget for the coming Templar year. Any other discussion? If not, all in favor extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed the Bridle Arm. And the budget is approved. Do we have an Investment Committee report?

EGR Keagle: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Investment Committee report is in the preliminary reports, and I regret to inform you that Chairman Joseph Lucas is unable to attend the Conclave today.

REGC Carnall: Well, Sir Knights, unless anybody has any questions about the Investment Committee report, we'll deem it approved according to the original motion. Sir Knight Herman, (discussion with REPGC Hermann from floor) how about at this microphone?

REPGC Herman: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I'm Gary Dean Herman, Past Commander of Joliet Commandery #4. In reviewing that report, it appears there are fees for investments of about 9 – 10%. I'd like to draw attention of the people who are handling this asset that the Grand Encampment has approximately \$15 or \$16 million dollars in that same firm. Also, the Educational Fund of the Grand Encampment has about \$3 or \$4 million there, if I remember right – isn't it? So, we're getting close to \$20 million dollars. You've got the Grand Commandery of Illinois, which is actually part of the Grand Encampment, since they are our mother jurisdiction and I feel that whoever is handling the investments should contact Adam Hawk, or I know the Past Commander of Blaney #5 can draw it to his attention that these funds are also supported by the Grand Encampment's funds and I'm sure we can get that fee reduced to a lot less than 9 or 10%.

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Sir Knight Herman. So noted. What time do we have here? Let's have a report from the Knight Templar Eye Foundation Chairman, Sir Knight Don Cowart.

EGCG Cowart: Welcome, Sir Knights. Once again it is my honor to present the Knights Templar Eye Foundation report of activity for the year ending December 31, 2023. Overall, the Grand Encampment rankings for Illinois was #3 overall with cumulative contributions plus will and trusts. This is the same

ranking as last year, although Illinois' total donation amount was higher – a good testament toward the generosity of the Illinois Knight Templar, and this includes all 50 states and international jurisdictions. The rankings of the individual commanderies in Illinois; the number 1 overall contributor in terms of donations was Bethel Commandery #36 in Palatine. The number 1 active per capita was Urbana #16 in Urbana, Illinois. The number 1 contributor plus wills and trusts was Elwood #6 in Springfield, Illinois. Congratulations to these outstanding Commanderies for their generous donations!

However, every Commandery and every Sir Knight that donates even a single penny is a valiant and noble warrior in the battle against the loss of a child's eyesight. God Bless all those good works to all, (signed) Sir Knight Don Cowart and Sir Knight Steve Adamson.

And, we have a new over \$10 per member average that's could I have a representative from Urbana Commandery? I'm getting a lot of fingers pointed (laughter). Here he is. Thank you. This is a plaque with a certificate enclosed, and we thank you for being one of the new Commanderies that has a \$10 or above donation. Thank you very much. (applause)

And, for those Commanderies that have continued to give over a \$10 average per member, we have the seals that you put on the plaque that you were previously awarded: (Converted to a list in lieu of full transcription)

Apollo-Trinity Commandery
Tancred Commandery
Joliet Commandery
Elwood Commandery
Crusader Commandery
Rock Island Commandery
Dixon Commandery
St. Omer Commandery
Bethel Commandery
Melita Commandery
St. Aldemar Commandery
Patton Commandery
Silangan Commandery

And for those Commanderies with a greater than \$5 average, we have certificates for you if you could come up: (Converted to a list in lieu of full transcription)

Galesburg Commandery
Aurora Commandery
DeMolay Commandery
Calvary Commandery
Palestine Commandery
St. Bernard Commandery
Constantine Commandery
Mitzpah Commandery
Macomb Commandery

St. Elmo Commandery
Quincy Commandery
Beausseant Commandery

Sir Knights, we are a family and we want to endorse all family activities that we can do, and we know that the eyesight of a child is as precious a commodity as we can give our families. At least 60-70% of a child's development comes through their eyesight and is such a precious commodity, and that's what we're here for – our charity – is to help prevent childhood blindness, and we do that through the Grand Encampment Eye Foundation. So, this year please find it in your hearts and budgets to provide some money for the Eye Foundation. Thank you. (applause)

REGC Carnall: Let's see, who could give us a quick report here? How about...nope...how about a report from the Jurisprudence Committee? Sir Knight Hileman, would you like to make the report for the Jurisprudence Committee? I believe that's fairly short.

REPGC Hileman: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, your committee on jurisprudence is pleased to make this report. We have reviewed the appointments, General Orders and circulars issued by the Grand Commander and find them to have proper within his authority and in conformity with all applicable Templar law. Each of the 5 dispensations issued was granted for the good of Templary and within the authority of the Grand Commander. One proposal to amend the statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois was submitted timely. We find it to be in proper form and ready for consideration at this Grand Conclave. Respectfully submitted by Charles E. Hileman, Jr., Henry J. DeHeer, John T. Riedas, H. Wayne Hoffman, and Enrique J. Unanue, all KCT and Past Grand Commanders. Thank you. I move for the adoption of the report.

REGC Carnall: Is there a second?

(from the floor): Second

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, you've heard the motion to approve the report of the Jurisprudence Committee. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor will extend the Sword Arm. Down Hands. All opposed the Bridle Arm. And, the report is approved. Sir Knights, my phone now shows it's 10:00 on the dot so it is time for our annual election of officers. We will conduct the...yeah, the election for the ensuing term.

Eminent Grand Warder...(off mic reminder to get final report of the Credentials Committee) yeah, we'll get that but as long as I'm already addressing the Eminent Grand Warder...oh, now I lost my place. You will instruct the Eminent Grand Sentinel to permit no one to leave or enter the Asylum while voting is in progress, which will begin after the report of the Credentials Committee, which will now be given. I believe we have our final report with Sir Knight Bob Wright.

EPC Wright: Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers and Sir Knights all, the Credentials Committee has issued 106 ballots this morning. They are comprised of 24 Eminent Commanders, 4 of whom are proxies; 11 Generalissimos, 3 of whom are proxies; and 7 Captain Generals, 4 of whom are

proxies. We have present today 15 Grand Officers, 17 Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders, and 51 Eminent Past Commanders. There are 26 Commanderies represented by either a dais officer or a proxy, and additional 4 represented by just and Eminent Past Commander. There are 2 Commanderies this year who have been listed as ineligible to vote. There are 6 Commanderies who have no representation at this Conclave. A full copy of this report will be provided to the Grand Recorder for including in the minutes. I move the acceptance of this report.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, is there a second?

(from the floor): Second.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, it's been moved and seconded that the report of the Credentials Committee be approved. Is there any discussion? All in favor extend the Sword Arm. Hands down. All opposed the Bridle Arm. The motion is approved, the report is approved and we will proceed with the election. Thank you, Sir Knight Wright. Is there a suggestion for the office of Grand Commander?

EPC Vice: Right Eminent Grand Commander, we've been waiting for this for a long time.

REGC Carnall: And who might you be?

EPC Vice: I am Tim Vice, Past Commander of the Illustrious Galesburg Commandery #8, and I would like to suggest the name of Sir Knight Jamie Emery for the office of Eminent Grand Commander for the state of Illinois.

REGC Carnall: Thank you. Are there any other suggestions? Are there any other suggestions? Are there any other suggestions? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed and Sir Knight Jamie Emery

VEDGC Emery: I accept

REGC Carnall: You know, I was just about to declare you elected by acclamation. I'm glad to know in advance that you accept. (laughter) Congratulations, Sir Knight Emery. It's always a pleasure to know that someone is willing to take your office as you are to relinquish it.

(as an aside) Do you have a motion?

VEDGC Emery: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move that all elected line officers advance one position, and the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder remain in their stations.

REGC Carnall: Is there a second?

(from the floor): Second.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, a motion to advance each of the line officers one station and retain the Grand Treasurer and Recorder in their current stations has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

If there's discussion, let's have it.

EPC Waters: Nyle Waters, St. Aldemar Commandery #47 Past Commander, I second the motion.

REGC Carnall: OK. If that's the discussion we were going to have, then all in favor will extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed the Bridle Arm. The motion is approved.

So, let us take a roll here:

Sir Knight Sean McBride, do you accept the election?

EGG McBride: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I do.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight Don Cowart, do you accept?

EGCG Cowart: I do.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight Christopher Whitney, do you accept?

EGSW Whitney: I accept.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight Derrick Helfer, do you accept?

EGJW Helfer: I accept.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight John Sansone, I won't forget you up here this time. Do you accept?

EGT Sansone: I do.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight Mark Keagle, do you accept?

EGR Keagle: I accept.

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Sir Knights. (applause)

Suggestions are now open for the office of Eminent Grand Junior Warden. Are there any?

EC Alfaro: Right Eminent Commander, I am Rommel Alfaro, Commander of Silangan Commandery #93. I nominate Sir Knight Reno Reguya for the Grand Eminent Junior Warden.

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Sir Knight. Are there any further suggestions?

REPGC Smith: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, my name is William Smith, Past Commander of St. Elmo #64, and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. I suggest the name of Kevin Wheeler for the bottom of the line.

REGC Carnall: Thank you. (pause) Are there any other further suggestions? Are there any further suggestions? Are there any further suggestions? I believe that's 3 times.

Will Sir Knights Reno Reguya and Kevin Wheeler please approach the dais and face the west?

Sir Knights, on my right and your left is Sir Knight Reno Reguya. On my left and your right is Sir Knight Kevin Wheeler. We'll use ballot #1 and I'll ask you to vote for either "Kevin" K-e-v-i-n, or "Reno" R-e-n-o. The Division Commanders will collect the ballots. Sir Knights, you may be seated.

Sir Knights, we will now proceed with the annual meeting of the Illinois Knight Templar Home Corporation, under the direction of Sir Knight Mark Keagle who is the President of our Board of Directors.

EGR Keagle: Good morning, Sir Knights. I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Knight Templar Assistance Outreach, which is the Grand Commandery of Illinois's charity. Some of you may recognize it because most of you voted to accept \$2000 from the charity for you to give away. That's what this charity is – and you are currently electing another Board of Director for this. The Board of Directors are your elected grand officers of the Grand Commandery, with the exception of the Junior Warden and Senior Warden, who serve as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. What we're going to do now is elect a Board of Managers. The Board of Managers are the people that actually run the charity. They're the ones that you're sending your distribution requests to for your charity distributions. They're the ones that set-up the programs. They are the workers of this charity and every year we have an election to elect one member from a constituent Commandery in a Division throughout the state of Illinois who will serve a 5-year term, every year one of them dropping off. This year, the member of the 1st Division will be replaced so we'll be replacing Sir Knight Jegen, who has served this board tremendously. I can't tell you how thankful I am to have you as a friend, and also a mentor and somebody that I can go to with any question and usually has an answer. It may not be the answer that I want but it's an answer. So, I'll turn it over to the nominating committee to nominate a person to fill the 1st Division role on the Board of Managers.

REPGC Jegen: Right Eminent Past Commander Keagle, I recognize that the incoming Grand Commander-elect generally makes the nomination, but I would like to have the honor of suggesting Mike Millette of Trinity-Apollo Commandery #1 as the replacement for myself in the 1st Division.

EGR Keagle: Sir Knights, you've heard the name of Mike Millette, suggested to fill the vacancy in the 1st Division for the next 5 years. Now, are there any suggestions from the floor? Are there any other suggestions? Are there any other suggestions? Are there any other suggestions? I declare the ballot closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Sir Knight Mike Millette to serve for the 1st Division for the Board of Managers for the next 5 years. Sir Knight Millette, do you accept?

SK Millette: I do

EGR Keagle: Thank you, and we look forward to working with you. (applause)

Now, your Board of Managers have a hierarchy and actually I'm going to do 1 more thing. This charity likes to honor for service to the charity, 1 member with the service award from this charity, and this service award is actually the Andrew E. Michyeta award. It's named after Drew. Many of you know Drew. I'm not sure if I've seen him here today, but Drew was very passionate about this charity and he served this charity not only as a member of the Boards, which he served as the Executive Director for several years, but he still is involved in this charity. We can't give it to him again because we named the award after him and gave it to him the 1st time. So what we're going to do is award this year's recipient the Andrew E. Michyeta Service Award for 2023-24 from the Illinois Knight Templar Assistance Outreach Board of Directors, we wish to honor Enrique Unanue. (applause)

REPGC Unanue: What a surprise! Thank you very much – I'm honored.

EGR Keagle: Pretty soon you're going to hear from Enrique. He's going to handle most of the business here. I get to do the good stuff and hand out plaques. Many of you may remember, you know this charity sprang up from our old Illinois Knight Templar nursing home in Paxton, Illinois. We sold the home, and this is what this charity has turned into. One of the things that the home used to do was honor a Commandery for donating the highest amount of money to the charity, per Commandery. We're going to bring this award back. I can't remember the last time it was awarded was, Jeff, but there's a plaque hanging in the office, which is in Normal, Illinois. Some of you may know it. You're more than welcome to visit it. Jeff is working in the office, who's a fantastic guy and is helping us straighten out some old records. We've got boxes of records from the old home and we're trying to determine what we still need and what we don't. But anyway, I'll go back to the award, I'm sorry. This award is the Forrest Calvin McDaniel Award, and it's given to the Commandery that contributes the most amount of money to this charity. This year the award is, and I don't know how this happened, this year the award is going to Trinity-Apollo Commandery #1, and how convenient that that is the home Commandery of our Right Eminent Grand Commander. (applause)

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, I might mention to those of you who don't go back more than 30 years, Forrest Calvin McDaniel was a Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, and the longtime treasurer of our Knight Templar Home. He and a number of other people we really devoted servants. I forgot to mention his name in my Allocution but he was a longtime member of Austin Commandery Drill Corps and one of several Captains. Some of us remember him but he's been gone quite a while now. Thank you. (applause)

EGR Keagle: With that being said, I'd like to thank all you Sir Knights for all you've done for this charity this year. There's cups out there. The charity has donated the coffee as a thank you for all you have done for the charity this year, so there's complimentary coffee. Now, we have complimentary coffee, but we're trying to snag a few bucks by selling a couple coffee cups. You're more than welcome to fill your own cup up with that coffee, but we prefer you purchase a cup from the charity, and that money will go to the charity.

With that being said, I'll turn it over to the President of our Board of Managers, Enrique Unanue, to discuss the activities of the charity in this last year.

REPGC Unanue: (no microphone)

REGC Carnall: Enrique. Microphone.

REPGC Unanue: They said, "Enrique, they're talking to you" so I raised my face and here was the Grand Commander and he says "Do you accept?" I had no idea what he was saying because I was counting votes. And then I looked at the Sir Knights and they were all looking at me, so I thought I'd be kind and I said "yes, I accept." So for 3 years I've been president of the charity – the Home Board. And believe me, it has been a pleasure and an honor. We do a lot of good. (offline conversation away from the mic)

The Board of Managers is composed of the following gentlemen:

David Hutt, please stand up.

Bill Jegen

Bill Farris, please stand up.

And Max Guthrie.

These 3 gentlemen have put up with me for about 3 years, and between all of us we work very hard to find worthy recipients for the funds that the Home Board provide us. Our goals, the first thing we did when we got together was to come up with a series of goals. And basically, they're up here (referring to PowerPoint presentation in the room) – to engage in fundraising to enhance the quality of life of our members, to maintain our membership in form, to recognize members and constituent commanderies, and to disseminate educational materials. Those are our lofty goals. The Home Board provides us with a certain amount of dollars every year. This year we received a reduction in the goals – from \$440,000 we ended up having about \$330,000. This fluctuates over the year so hopefully next year we'll have a higher amount. And these are where the expenses are. The subtotal for Administration is \$47,000. When I first came in we had an empty office with no furniture, so we had to furnish it. A lot of the efforts on the first year, besides providing charity, was to get set up as a charity. We now have an administrative assistant who's an independent contractor, and he's one of the Brothers – do you want me to mention your name? Jeff Estes. Stand up so they can see you. (applause) He is manning our office and he's doing a super job of looking at our paper files, and organizing them and digitizing them. He's been a great asset to us. We're looking to the potential later on to have a student intern from one of the universities at Normal to assist Jeff in running the office. We're looking at developing our own Grand Commandery website. We have looked at a budget of \$15,000 to develop a website – a professional one that could be maintained. So, the subtotal for our Administrative expenses is \$47,160. For personnel is \$28,000. The expenses for managing the charity and the Home Board is \$75,000 even.

Our distributions for last year were larger than our distributions for this year, so we had to cut some of our recipients. The major ones was the Illinois Masonic Outreach Services, and we had a slide show while you were coming in that showed all the different things that we've given funds to. The Illinois Masonic Outreach Services is in partnership with the Grand Lodge – thank you, Grand Master – and they

have been very helpful with us in providing assistance to our Sir Knights and their families. The largest expenses that we had was during COVID, when we had many emergency cases that they were requesting help. Every year we donate \$50,000 to distribute among our members. We had, uh, I believe, I don't have the slide with me here, 40 or 50 members...families...that we have been able to assist in the 3 years. The 2nd one is Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. I instituted that. We donate to them every year \$50,000. We have committed that amount of money and Dr. Lopez and his staff provide free medical care as a volunteer service. We were there – when was it, Richard? About 3 weeks ago? We went to Advocate Illinois Masonic 3 weeks ago and we met the board and Dr. Lopez and the staff, and they also brought us a couple of individuals, brother actually, that were treated for eye disease. They were very similar. They are adult age and they struggle over the years with their vision problems, and Dr. Lopez was able to assist them. They have full vision now and they are flourishing, which is very rewarding. Also, we donate to the Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program. I believe that is through the Grand Lodge as well, and that is to provide funds for students that are going to school – to college. Also, and we believe it's important, we give each constituent Commandery if they contact us and tell us how they're going to spend that money, \$2000 per Commandery. And then we have the Illinois Knights Templar Home grant. That is the old Paxton home. We do provide them with funds for activities for the seniors as part of our long term commitment. And the Masonic youth groups, they were here, you same them receive a check today, we give them \$5000 each per year. And then other charitable distributions as they come up, as they're requested, we have set aside \$20,000.

Our budget for this year, for our charitable distributions is \$215,000. It used to be much higher, and hopefully with your donations and your assistance we may be able to go back to a higher amount. Our budget summary – Administrative Expenses \$47,000, Website and personnel \$28,000, Charitable Distributions \$219,000. Total expense is \$294,000, and the revenue they gave us was \$330,000 this year. We do have a review of our expenses so we have a bit of cushion there for additional donations.

We have some goals and we think that part of what we need to do is to develop a program that will keep you informed of what we're doing, what our charities are doing, and be able to market the charity a little bit. We are planning to review our legacy and endowment and fundraising programs, and develop and update publications and marketing strategies for the community. Also, part of our goal is to work like the Grand Lodge has done and develop with a marketing consultant a membership recruitment program that we can share with the Commanderies and be able to go out in their communities and recruit additional members. One thing that we're considering and we're studying right now is the development of a trade scholarship, which would be for individuals that are not going to the university, but they are seeking knowledge in trades like being electricians, plumbers, and we're hoping to have that on board by next year.

Alright, our fundraising. Our goal last year was to raise at least \$10,000 in fundraising. We did not succeed. Our coin challenge – we had \$100 coins and \$50 coins, and we also had some Malta pins at \$10. They're still available. Our total fundraising through donations and the purchase of the coins and all that was only \$4270. So, we're not getting too many donations from our own membership. I'm sorry to say that.

Now, one thing that we're going to do and Mark has the checks, we're going to recognize those Commanderies that took the trouble of reporting to us how they were going to distribute the \$2000 in their communities, and here they are. Mark? Oh, OK Sir, that's even better. First, Trinity-Apollo, and I'm going to ask that the Commander please step up we can get a picture, and we're going to distribute the checks here now. (Converted to a list in lieu of full transcription)

Trinity-Apollo Commandery
Tancred Commandery
Joliet Commandery
Elwood Commandery
Galesburg Commandery
Beaumanoir Commandery
Ottawa Commandery
Gorin Commandery
Crusader Commandery
St. Elmo Commandery
Rock Island Commandery
Dixon Commandery
DeMolay Commandery
St. Omer Commandery
Bethel Commandery
Melita Commandery
Mt. Olivet Commandery
St. Aldemar Commandery
Constantine Commandery
Mizpah Commandery
Macomb Commandery
Evanston Commandery
Clinton Commandery
Beausseant Commandery
Silangan Commandery

Now, with our commitment, we are taking the funds that were not expended by the Commanderies that did not submit their request, and we're dividing it among each one of these commanderies. Each one is receiving a \$500 check right now for charitable purposes.

If you're interested in the ones that had no response, it was: (Converted to a list in lieu of full transcription)

Peoria Commandery
Blaney Commandery
Urbana Commandery
Aurora Commandery
Calvary Commandery
Palestine Commandery
St. Bernard Commandery

Patton Commandery
Gil Barnard Commandery
Quincy Commandery

Maybe next year you'll be a little more responsive. Let's have a round of applause for these gentlemen, please. (pause for a photo).

Thank you all very much. Basically, by the time we're done we'll do the slide presentation again that shows you our activities. Please do keep in mind that we are your charity and your generosity would help us expand our charitable work. Thank you all for participating. (applause)

EGR Keagle: Thank you, Enrique, and I want to remind you that, all you have to do to participate in this \$2000 – it's free money – all you have to do is respond. Send in the place that you're going to donate this money to and it's \$2000 that are free. Those \$500 checks would have gone to those Commanderies that didn't participate. But, they didn't participate so you have their money to do charitable purposes with, right? So, May 1st is the deadline to get your paperwork in. All you've got to do is send it to Jeff, and all you have to say is "I'm going to give \$1000 to this food bank." Great! Here you go! And I'm going to give \$500 to this other food bank. But, first of all, take care of your members and then look out in your community for other purposes.

With that being said, I'd like to thank all of you Sir Knights for all you do for this charity. It's very important to me, and it's important that we take care of each other first, and that's what this charity does in partnership with IMOS and the hospital, and I don't know if Enrique mentioned that, but the waiting room is named after us at that hospital now. So if you walk in there, it's the Illinois Knight Templar reception area. It's on the wall. We're getting recognized for all those people that go into there. That's some of what your charity is doing, so with that being said I'll close the annual meeting and thank you all for your support. (applause)

REGC Carnall: I will now ask the Jurisprudence Committee if we have an election.

REPGC Hileman: Right Eminent Grand Commander, we do not.

REGC Carnall: My goodness.

REPGC Hileman: I just realized that this is my 50th attendance as a registered member of the Grand Conclave, and in 50 years we've never had a tie vote, to my recollection. But we had 94 ballots submitted, 2 of those were deemed spoiled, and Reno and Kevin each received 46 of those ballots. And so we will have to vote again.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights. In ballot #2, R-E-N-O or K-E-V-I-N. Please make out your ballots. The spoiled ballots could be the difference in the election if we don't have a repeat.

REPGC Hileman: Can we throw these away?

REGC Carnall: The Jurisprudence Committee can destroy the initial ballot, and the Division Commanders will collect ballot #2. (pause for balloting)

Looks like we're about done. Does anybody need more time to vote? If not, I will declare the ballot closed and I will call our Eminent Grand Recorder before he gets away for his report.

EGR Keagle: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I'm not going to fill as much time as you want me to for this report, but I'll give my report. My report is in the preliminary reports, and I'm just going to hit the highlights.

We started the year with 35 working Commanderies and ended with 35 working Commanderies. We started the year with 2678 members. We knighted 60, we affiliated 18, and reinstated 20 for a total gain of 98. We had, unfortunately, 40 demits, 50 suspended, and 129 deaths for a total loss of 219, which gave the Commandery a total loss of 121, so our current membership is 2557. That, unfortunately, with the suspensions and demits we would have been pretty close to being even.

Right Eminent Grand Commander, I'd like to thank all the Grand Recorders uh, thank all the Recorders, for all the work they do. If you remember, we voted to have a \$30 charge to their per capita for the Life Sponsorships for the Eye Foundation to keep Illinois at 100%, so we are 100% Life Sponsors in the Eye Foundation and that's thanks to all of you, and the charity as well, who got us there to begin with.

I'll report that there are 2 outstanding Commanderies that haven't filed their annual return this year, but I'm working with them to get that done and we're making progress.

Right Eminent Grand Commander, that is my report, unfortunately for you.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, you've heard the Grand Recorder's report. Is there any discussion? Do you move the adoption of your report?

EGR Keagle: I move that the report be accepted as presented.

REGC Carnall: Is there a second?

(from the floor): Second.

REGC Carnall: All right, Sir Knights, there is a motion and a second to approve the report of the Grand Recorder. Any discussion? All in favor extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed, the Bridle Arm, and the report is approved.

I think we'll go with the report on Inspections from our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander next.

VEDGC Emery: Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights, the 2023-2024 Inspection scores and the schedule of Inspections for 2024-2025 are printed in the Preliminary Reports. There was a misprint in the original report so there was a supplemental page out there for the scores. This year the Grand

Commander tasked all of the Commanderies to do their own Inspections, with no joint Inspections. Of the 35 Commanderies, 31 Commanderies completed an Inspection with a full-form opening, closing, and Order of the Temple. 3 Commanderies had an Inspection and did an opening and closing with a school of instruction, and 1 Commandery only had a book Inspection. This year we scored Commanderies in 8 categories, which are listed in the report. There were points for records and activities of the Commandery, Ritual & Tactics during the Inspection, and points for equipment which included paraphernalia for the 3 Orders and how the equipment was set up in the Order of the Temple. We also had points for attendance at Grand Commandery schools, including a bonus of 10 pts per Sir Knight for any Commandery that had over 3 Sir Knights at a school. This year there were no schools held in the 2nd or 3rd Division. We also had bonus points of 100 points if you had a ladies program at your Inspection, and another 100 points if you did an official reception of the Inspecting Officer or Grand Commander, if he was there, following the Order of the Temple. We also gave points for visitation. This was for taking part in Inspections in other Commanderies, of which the Sir Knight was not a member. And, this year there was an additional 100 points if there was an increase in membership on your annual report. Unfortunately, this question was not answered by most of our Inspecting Officers, so I ran a report off of MMS to get those scores to be fair to everybody. Unfortunately, I think some of the Recorders are lacking on getting that filled out, so you may have gotten 100 points had it been filled out and everybody entered in. For some Divisions, that 100 points was actually what decided the winner.

It is now my pleasure to announce the Division winners. Please have a representative come up and receive your ribbon. You will also need to pickup your Division banner before you leave today. As it happens, the highest grade in the state again this year is also the 1st Division winner, which is Trinity-Apollo #1 with 1949 points. (applause)

For the 2nd Division, I almost took points off for this score because I don't think that my Commandery deserves it. I'd rather give it to somebody else, but the 2nd Division winner is Galesburg Commandery #8 with 904 points. That is one of the Commanderies where the 100 points in membership put them over the top. (applause)

The 3rd Division winner is St. Aldemar Commandery #47 with 1158 points. (applause)

The 4th Division is Clinton #66 with 1242 points. (applause)

And finally, the 5th Division winner is Gorin #14 with 1000 points. (applause)

Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move for the acceptance of this report.

REGC Carnall: Is there a second?

(from the floor): Second

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, you've heard the motion that the report of Inspections be approved. Is there any discussion? I had nothing to do with Apollo Commandery #1's score. All in favor of accepting the

report extend the Sword Arm. Down hands. All opposed, the Bridle Arm. The report is approved, and you may now officially keep your ribbons. Thank you, Sir Knights.

Sir Knights, you'll note there were some additional categories and I'll mention that briefly in my report later on in the meeting. We completely revised the Inspection reports and greatly expanded them so that they now essentially represent what would be the Commandery version of an Award of Excellence, because we look at your books, we look at your activities, we are looking at everything that's going on all year long – not just the Inspection. And, because of the way we grade this, it elevates the importance of record-keeping in the Commandery. If your Recorder doesn't record what you do and doesn't make proper reports to MMS, for example reporting your knightings, then you don't get credit for them.

Next, let's see, (unintelligible comment from Jurisprudence Committee) oh yes, there's an election pending, isn't there?

REPGC Hileman: Right Eminent Grand Commander, we do have an election with 99 ballots cast this time. We didn't have any spoiled ballots, and Sir Knight Reno received the majority with 51. (applause)

REGC Carnall: Sir Knight Reno, Congratulations on your election as Eminent Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. (applause)

REPGC Hileman: Permission to destroy?

REGC Carnall: The Jurisprudence Committee has permission to destroy the ballot. I should probably ask Reno – you ran for office so I probably don't need to ask if you accept.

SK Reguya: I most humbly accept Right Eminent Grand Commander.

REGC Carnall: All right. Wonderful. (applause)

As long as we were calling on the Jurisprudence Committee, let's have a report on proposed legislation.

REPGC Hileman: Let's see. I have to find it. Ah, here it is. This was submitted by Sir Knight Russell Schlosser.

Be it resolved that Section 405A of the statutes, et cetera, be amended by deleting Section 1 of (unintelligible word) per capita dues of \$10 to reword "per capita dues of \$20." So, Section 405A would read "For each member in good standing, excepting 50-year members, exempt by provision of Section 460A, a per capita dues of \$20 starting in 2025." Members in good standing in this section shall include all members whose membership (unintelligible) has not been terminated. And, it's ready for discussion.

REGC Carnall: All right, Sir Knights. Again, the motion is to amend Section 405A to increase the Grand Commandery per capita from \$10 to \$20. Is there any discussion?

REPGC Schlosser: Sir Knights, my name is Russell Schlosser, I am a Past Commander from Genessee Valley Commandery from Michigan. It happens now and then. By the way, if any of you are confused, I drank the water. I'm also a member of Bethel Commandery #32 and a Past Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery, and again we are here to address the same issue we have addressed over the years. The question that was asked of me after the proposal was disseminated was, "Is the Grand Commandery running out of money?" And the answer is "no," they've got plenty of money. We're just running out of members. It's pathetic. I ran against Jerry Sparks just 10 years ago. It took more votes to elect me than you have in this entire room. I don't know why, but Jerry Sparks has thanked me continuously for the last 10 years that I actually won. I have no idea what he was talking about. The Grand Commandery has \$300,000. Last year they budgeted \$7000 worth of income, made \$82,000 [transcriber note – he may have meant \$8200, but he said \$82,000]. This year they're budgeting about \$9000 in income. They also show you that you lost 150 members. Last year we had 26 almost 2700. Today we only have 25 ½ [hundred]. Why? Because we're not initiating new people. Are we running out of money? Yes, because we're running out of members. But more importantly than that, we're not getting new members and we're not keeping old members. The Grand Master, if he gets a chance to talk, like he did at ICOD, will tell you that the Grand Lodge website, because of the energy and effort and money they have done to redesign that, has now generated an unusual amount of interest in our fraternity. The 1st Division has received over 1000 inquiries for membership that have been vetted and are available to us. The membership committee of the Grand Commandery put together a 2-page report with an immense amount of suggestions and have done an excellent job, and the Grand Commandery took the membership budget from \$2000 to \$1000. You approved it. Do we need an increase in per capita? No, we really don't. But we do need an increase in presence in the web, in the internet, in the future that we don't have money to delegate to. We do need money for membership that apparently we don't have the money to devote to. Let me answer those of you who are all ready to stand up and say "oh but our members will quit if we charge them that much." They already quit. We've got to make it happen, gentlemen. Sir Knights, we can't do anything but commit ourselves to fill up this room, take down that wall, and fill up the room next to it like we did years ago. How do we do that? We invest our time, our effort, our energy and our money in the future. We can't keep doing the same thing differently and expect different results. We have to be more than an Inspection that doesn't work. Oh yeah we have great Inspections. We have wonderful points. But after the Inspection the lights go off and it goes right back to what it was. We can't get 5-7 members to even do a full opening, when I proposed a 10-man which they don't even allow. Do we need to increase the per capita to gain that? No. But if we increase the per capita, you as a member get to point to these people and say "do something." Don't show up one day a year, look at me and say you did a wonderful job, and then go back home and never show your face again. Shame on you. You're officers. You're supposed to lead. Let's do it this way. Let's increase the per capita. Yeah, most of you are life members that don't affect you anyways. And then let's come back here and say (knocking sound) what are you going to with all those recruits that the Grand Lodge is giving us? You can't do it on one day. Ya' gotta do it 365 days a year, and to do that, we say yes. We increase the per capita because, guess what, in 5 years there's only gonna be 2000 of us and we're going to need the money so we might as well start putting it in today.

But yet, in 5 years we can start seeing the numbers go opposite. If they can do it in (unintelligible town) god, we should be able to do it in Chicago – we actually have people that live there. Say yes. Make a

decision for the future. Not for today, not for tomorrow, but for the future because that's the fraternity. That's the Knights Templars we want to be.

REGC Carnall: Is there any further discussion?

SK Sedghi: Grand Eminent Commander, Your Graces, dignitaries, Sir Knights all. I'm Sir Sam Earl Sedghi, Past Eminent Commander of Peoria Commandery #3. I'll make this as short as possible, just to give you reflection. We have fraternal brothers all around the world. The average dues payment in the UK for Preceptory, which is a Commandery, is about \$250 a year. The average American GDP is over \$20,000 more than the average Brit. You are extremely blessed to just pay \$10 per capita. There are people in this room, including myself, that pay far more for our apps and subscriptions. We're here because we love Commandery. We're here because we love Freemasonry. Let's support these guys. Let's support our Sir Knights, and let's give something more back for as much as for ourselves, but for generations to come. So, in a more relaxed tone than my impassioned Sir Knight who I love, by the way, let's do this. You know, it is a bit more money, but come on – it's \$20. Thank you.

REGC Carnall: We've had 2 apparently in favor. Is there any further discussion?

SK Perkins: Eminent Commander, William Perkins, Past Commander of the former Belvidere Commandery #2. We have the money. At the current time we don't need an increase. What was spoken about the increase in activity – yes, I wholeheartedly agree we need to be more visual. But an investment in something that is not there physically is not an investment in the future. The mindset has to change in person to show a need for an increase in the finances. Thank you.

REGC Carnall: Any further discussion? If not, I will declare the discussion closed and I will call for all in favor of this...first of all, Jurisprudence what's the requirement to pass this legislation?

REPGC Hileman: I just wanted to point out that under Templar law it will take 54 positive ballots or votes to pass this legislation. With 106 ballots distributed, that would be 53 plus 1 equals 54. I also was told that there might be some, or at least one amendment to this and I just want to point out that if this fails you cannot amend it. They'll have to re-propose it next year.

REGC Carnall: Well, then we're back to the question. All in favor, extend the Sword Arm. Let's ask you to extend the Sword Arm with your ballot in it because I can't really see, in this sea of colors. My goodness. OK, down hands. All opposed, the Bridle Arm. I think that's a very clear majority.

REPGC Hileman: Yes, yes, but did you have 54 ballots, Sir?

REGC Carnall: I believe there were more than 54 in favor there. Sir Knights, you have approved this increase in your per capita from \$10 to \$20 per person. So I guess, based on the proposer's remarks, it's now a challenge to the Grand Commandery to find an appropriate use for this money to advance our membership. (applause)

At this point, I would like to...we have a couple of awards here, and I would like to start out with our G. Wilbur Bell Award. I mentioned last night at our Awards Banquet that our recipient was not present. I gave you a couple of little hints about who it might be – first of all that it was someone from north of I-80, and that it was a Sir Knight who had conferred the Order of the Temple as Commander at an Inspection at his Commandery. Now I might mention that he is actually a Grand Lecturer in our Grand Lodge. I would further mention, perhaps, well anything else I mention is probably going to give it away. He is a member of our newest Commandery in Illinois, Silangan #93, and his name is Reno Reguya, the recipient of this year's G. Wilbur Bell Award! Reno, please advance to the podium. (applause)

Here is your certificate, if you'd hold that right there, and the medal that goes with it. Reno, I looked around and I was looking for someone who'd been an inspiration to his Commandery and set a good example. I don't think anyone else in Silangan Commandery has learned the Commander's part in the Order of the Temple yet, so you're setting a great example for your Commandery. You're the first and I hope your Commandery fratres will follow your example, but I wanted to recognize your contributions. Silangan does a lot of other wonderful activities, and I don't think I could think of anyone more deserving, so here you are!

SK Reguya: Thank you

REGC Carnall: If you'd like to make a few remarks we'd like to hear from you.

SK Reguya: Sir Knights, thank you for this award. I am not expecting, of course. It's an honor to receive this award thank you for all the Sir Knights, especially the Silangan Commandery to join with me today in this award, especially to our Eminent Commander. Thank you so much, and the rest of the Sir Knights, thank you for this award. I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. (applause)

REGC Carnall: Let me actually read what it says. "To all Sir Knights of our order who shall see these presents, Greetings. This is to certify that Sir Knight Reno Reguya, Perigo? Ok, a member of Silangan Commandery #93, Knights Templar, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois has been awarded the G. Wilbur Bell Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, beyond the call of duty and service usually expected of an officer or member. In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the Grand Commandery to be affixed. Given under my hand at Rock City, Illinois (I didn't realize I was there today). However, the important thing is – it's well deserved and wherever I awarded this, it's going to the right person. Congratulations again, Reno. (applause)

One of us is having a very good day! The other one will in, hopefully no more than, 33 minutes. Now...

It's now time for the presentation of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor award for which, of course, I would like to invite our Grand Encampment representatives to the podium because this is in fact a Grand Encampment award. As I mentioned last night, we solicited nominations for this award from our Commanderies. I also mentioned that this recipient is also from north of I-80 because, for one thing, we didn't receive any nominations from south of I-80. Anyway, suggestions are made to the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander selects and individual and recommends that person to the Grand

Master, and if the Grand Master approves, the Knight Templar Cross of Honor is awarded by our Grand Encampment. So, if our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander can locate the appropriate Sir Knight and bring him to the East...

REGR Tucker: It is my pleasure on behalf of the Grand Encampment to make the following presentation. To all to whom these presents may come, Greetings. This is to certify that Sir Knight Orville Eugene Shoemaker, Jr., a member of Dixon #21 of the Grand Commandery of Illinois has been awarded the Knights Templar Cross of Honor in recognition of his exceptional and meritorious service rendered by him to the Order of Knights Templar far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected by a Sir Knight. It is signed by our Grand Master, Sir Knight David J. Kussman and attested to by me, and it is my pleasure on behalf of our Grand Master to present this to you.

Right Eminent Grand Commander, would you like to do something at this point?

Would the other recipients of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor please rise, and will you join me in welcoming the newest member to your ranks? (applause)

SK Shoemaker: Thank you very much, Sir Knights! Certainly others are more deserving than I am, but I appreciate this honor very, very much. It's very, very humbling. Thank you. (applause)

REGC Carnall: And I was actually remiss in not mentioning, because I did last night but many of you weren't there, in case any of you don't know, G. Wilbur Bell, who is the namesake of our Grand Commandery award, was a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois, and also Past Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States. Long associated with the Eye Foundation, so we created an award in his name a number of years ago because we felt that there was probably more than one Sir Knight annually who was worthy of recognition, and we're only allotted one Knight Templar Cross of Honor. Originally we were able to award three of the G. Wilbur Bells, but in our infinite wisdom we put a membership requirement on that award, and our membership has declined to the point where we're only allowing ourselves one. So we might revisit that if we can actually find that written rule and make an appropriate motion to make an amendment in the future. Anyway, would all the G. Wilbur Bell recipients please rise? Again, that you Sir Knights for all your service. (applause)

Now we have one more award, and I've been looking through my program here, but I'm not sure what it was supposed to fall under. I was thinking maybe it was the Grand Recorder's report, but it's our trophy that was initiated last year by Sir Knight Wayne Clark to the Commandery that has the most Knightings during the year. At this point, I would ask our Grand Recorder to make that presentation, and as soon as he announces the recipient you'll know why.

EGR Keagle: Well I'd be honored to present this award. I figured the Grand Commander would be a better person to present this award, but I would love to do it. This award was started last year. It's a trophy that you can take home with you, [and] bring back. We will put your name on the trophy for the most Knightings in a year, and your name will move down as the new recipients are put on here. I guess

now you'll understand why I'm presenting this and not the Grand Commander, because the winner for the most Knightings in this Templar year is Trinity-Apollo #1. (applause)

REGC Carnall: With that, Sir Knights, I'm looking around and I seem to have run out of ways to delay giving my allocution, so I will ask our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander if he will take over the podium and I will go down to the floor here.

So, I'm...uh...Should've made this bigger. Sir Knights, I'm going to try your patience a little bit. I'm actually going to read most of this.

Distinguished Guests, visiting Sir Knights, and Sir Knights of Illinois, it is my privilege as Grand Commander to welcome you to the 168th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois. I hope you've all been able to enjoy the hospitality and fellowship offered this week by our Grand Commandery, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and our Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

We're particularly honored with the presence of Brother David Lynch, our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Sir Knight Lawrence Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, and Sir Knight Martin Trent, East Central Department Commander. As always, we're also happy to welcome our own Past Department Commander, Sir Knight Robert Cronk, Past Grand Commander of Illinois.

For me, today marks the culmination of a 45-year career as a Knight Templar and I want to take a few minutes to reminisce about a few experiences I've been fortunate enough to have along the way, some of which are no longer readily available as our membership continues to decline.

I was knighted in Trinity Commandery #80 in 1979 by Sir Knight Edward Frank Wilgocke. Trinity went through a long slow period in the 1960's and 70's, recycling officers as often happens today. Ed was a multi-talented dynamo who reinvigorated the Commandery with his election as Commander in 1978. As his term came to an end, he took it upon himself to recruit an entirely new line of officers from recently knighted Sir Knights of Trinity from Generalissimo through Warder, somehow settling on me, one of Trinity's newest Sir Knights as Generalissimo, even though we had not met before I was knighted and weren't even members of the same Royal Arch Chapter. It's worth noting that this entire line of officers, which he recruited, regularly advanced through the stations, learning the work along the way, [including] each one conferring the Order of the Temple as Commander.

Our instructors back then were Alfred A. McCook, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Charles Kingsley McCann, Knight Templar Cross of Honor – tough task masters, who I was often assured had actually mellowed considerably by the time I met them. I jumped in as Generalissimo, attending 20 Inspections that year from September 1979, right into May of 1980, and including the Illinois-sponsored bus trip to the Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service at Arlington National Cemetery that year.

Back then, active participation in all 4 York Rite bodies in LaGrange meant attending 7 stated meetings a month, as well as the Lodge meeting almost every Tuesday and Commandery most Fridays. By the time I became Commander in June, 1980, I'd seen so many Orders of the Temple that I practically had the Commander's work memorized. What I had to work at was just keeping all the ritual in the proper order.

We often hear complaints today about how long a Commandery Inspection day can be, especially if we formally receive the Inspecting Officer, which we usually refer to as “doing the Evening Work.” I want to briefly summarize my first Inspection day as Commander in 1981. The Inspecting Officer arrived at the usual time, which was then 8:30, to inspect the Asylum and records. We had lunch at the Temple in LaGrange and the Opening commenced at 1:30 pm as was then usual. We closed the Commandery about 4:45, cleared the floor, and then gathered in the East for the usual critique of our work by the Inspecting Officer. Dinner commenced about 6 pm with 212 Sir Knights and ladies in attendance, and the officers marched into their places while singing Onward Christian Soldiers as was then our custom. We observed the usual ceremonies at dinner with introductions, presentations, and a discourse from the Inspecting Officer on a subject of his choice, after which we reconvened in the Asylum upstairs for the Evening Work about 7:00 pm. Following the entrance of the Commander, 7 or 8 Commanderies paid their respects, after which the Grand Commander was received, and the introductions of Grand Officers, visiting Past Commanders and dais officers commenced. With 120 Knights in uniform present, the work was not completed until about 9:15 pm, after which everyone was invited to an Afterglow, in this case at the new home of the Commander, which was only 2 blocks away from the Temple. An Afterglow, usually at someone’s home, was fairly common back then, at least in the 2nd Division, which at that time included the Chicago-area suburban Commanderies. The 1st Division back then consisted almost entirely of Commanderies within the city of Chicago. While the number of Sir Knights in attendance was unusual, the schedule for the Inspection day was standard throughout the state, and everyone did the reception after dinner. And I will say, that one welcome change as time went by, was doing the work before dinner, because it was never a pleasure to go down and have a nice dinner, and go back upstairs and have another hour or 2 of work.

Now it was made clear to me, and by the way the Afterglow went into the wee morning hours. It was made clear to me that I was the successor to our long-time Recorder at the conclusion of my year as Commander. But not willing to make that a lifetime commitment at age 27, I was able to induce Trinity Commandery to adopt a bylaw limiting the service of the Recorder to 5 consecutive years without at least a 1-year break – the argument being that anything can happen and more than one person should be made thoroughly familiar with all the record keeping practices of the Commandery on a regular basis. I served 2 full 5-year terms as Recorder, but after 3 years of my 3rd term, a kind and generous soul by the name of Randall Becker saw fit to relieve me. It was, however, a very valuable experience which, among other things, made me very familiar with the Inspection rating system then in use by the Grand Commandery.

Now, getting back to Sir Knight Wilcocke, he was also responsible for Trinity Commandery becoming one of the very few Illinois Commanderies that confer the full-form Red Cross and Malta Orders. A year or two after completing my first year as Commander, he suggested that he would learn Prior in Malta and High Priest in Red Cross if I would learn Marshal in Malta and Sovereign Master in Red Cross. He recruited Sir Knight Jeff Barnes, who followed me in line as Commander, as Master of Infantry in Red Cross, which is the conductor of the candidate, and with the major parts in both Orders covered, Trinity got into the full-form conferral business, which continues to this day.

I recount some of these events as a reminder of how much difference one dedicated individual can make, and as a memorial of sorts to Sir Knight Wilgocke, who died in July, 1986, after a brief illness, while serving this Grand Commandery as Grand Generalissimo.

There are basically 3 facets to the conferral of our Commandery Orders. Two of them we share in common with other Masonic bodies, ritual and floor work. Learning ritual is largely an individual exercise. Individual members must take it upon themselves to learn the words we use to teach the many lessons we have to offer, especially when it comes to lectures and to the longer parts, such as are usually required to sit in the East in the main of our degrees and Orders. Learning the floor work, as well as many of our shorter ritual parts which coordinate with floor work, is very much a group exercise which requires the extra effort of getting together to practice in person. The 3rd facet, which is pretty much unique to the Commandery, is drill work, or learning to march in formation. As far as Illinois is concerned, this is largely a lost art. The last time we had actual drill competitions within the state was in the late 1980's, under the leadership of Sir Knight Richard Lee Graff, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander.

Several teams competed, beginning in 1986, around the state, but the only real competition was between a couple of Commanderies within the Chicago area, that included members of Austin Commandery #84's Drill Team. As it happens, I was recruited by the Drill Team in 1988, and became the Drill Captain and Instructor, starting in 1994. I was privileged to be the Drill Captain in Triennial Competition from 1994, when we still had a 'Class B' team, requiring 21 Sir Knights, until I had to give it up in 2009, by which time we had shrunk down to a 'Class D' team, which only required 7 Sir Knights.

Because of a conflict that prevented my attendance at the Triennial Conclave that year, in fact that conflict was that I was involved with Job's Daughters. I was Associate Grand Guardian and there was an important event for Job's Daughters so I couldn't make the Triennial.

Sir Knight Brad Baker took over in 2009 and continued as Captain through 2018. The important detail here is that our official Asylum Tactics Manual provides very little information about Drilling, which basically involves the movements of certain formations like the Prelate's Escort in the Order of the Temple and the escort for the Inspecting Officer in his reception. At this point the best instructional reference for our Illinois Tactics, other than a former Drill Captain, is the detailed information provided on the Grand Encampment website for 'Class D' Drill Teams.

My past experiences gave me a lot of ideas this past year for things I wanted to do this last year to help improve a variety of activities of our Commanderies and Grand Commandery. I didn't want to reinvent the wheel, but rather make available resources and instructions that already existed but had fallen out of use or were hard to find. A brief survey at the beginning of the year showed, for example, that most of our Recorders were unaware of the existence of a Recorder's Guide, which includes detailed instructions for taking minutes and other Recorder duties. That information should be readily available on our website, but needs to be updated into a more user-friendly format.

Ultimately, the focus of this past year was narrowed down to 2 primary issues – getting each one of our Commanderies to host it's own Inspection, and revising the Inspection Report Form to make it a more

useful tool, not only for evaluating Commandery activities and the conferral of the Order of the Temple, but also to remind the officers of the types of activities and record keeping which should be part of the Commandery program. In essence, the Inspection Report amounts to a Commandery version of the Award of Excellence used by many other Masonic bodies, both encouraging and potentially rewarding a well-rounded Commandery program for the entire year – not just the day of the Inspection.

The one other thing I focused on this past year was in visiting as many Commanderies as I could. I didn't manage to make it to all 35, but there were only a handful that I missed and they were all Commanderies that I visited several times before as a Grand Officer. I want to thank everyone for their hospitality and for making my travel so enjoyable.

As I've found before, being active in the Commandery makes it particularly difficult to get to meetings or special events of our youth groups, which are also mostly on weekends when there are Inspections. I want to especially thank our Most Illustrious Grand Master, Companion and Sir Knight Tom – "Tom Pod" for representing me at so many of these youth events and keeping me abreast of their activities. I did make it to each of their Grand Sessions, to bring them best wishes of our Sir Knights and financial assistance from Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach. I would remind everyone that they often appreciate our attendance and personal participation even more than our money. Always keep that in mind.

I'm not going to make a lot of recommendations for the future. I do hope the Inspection Report form will be posted on the website – at least the pages related to activities and record keeping, as a reminder and encouragement for what a Commandery can and should be doing. I ask each of you to think about what you can personally do to help improve your Commandery and this Grand Commandery. Think about the fact that a Commandery is chartered with the purpose of conferring the Orders of Knights Templary. Most candidates tell us that the Order of the Temple is the most impressive degree or order that they have experienced in their Masonic careers. So, what can we do to share that experience with most members of our Fraternity? First and foremost, we need to learn the work. We enjoy doing things that we're good at. Let's be good at doing our work!

There are a lot of Sir Knights I need to thank for their assistance and patience this past year, including our Grand Recorder Mark Keagle, Grand Treasurer John Sansone, and the other Grand Commandery officers – elected and appointed, including the Division Commanders. I thank my Aide Stephen Adamson for his work in communication, which I particularly neglected, and the officers and Sir Knights of Trinity-Apollo Commandery #1, who I'm particularly proud of. To my lady Becky, I offer my love and gratitude for her unbelievable patience, tolerance, and assistance during all the many years we've been married and I've been active in the fraternity. I was raised in LaGrange Lodge #770 just 11 days before our first anniversary in 1977. Little did anyone know what that would lead to. I'm also grateful to my daughters, Kathy and Tory, for their patience, love and support.

Finally, I was an active Boy Scout before I joined the Order of DeMolay. I found that I really enjoyed doing ritual as a DeMolay and I was pretty confident – even winning the state Ritual Competition in parts like the Orator and Chaplain for a couple of years. When I joined the fraternity, I saw some very good work, and some work that was not as good as it could be. I remember thinking that I might be able to help make some of the work a little better, and that's all I really hoped to do on my journey through the

fraternity. I look forward to getting back to my natural habitat – staying in the background except when conferring degrees and instructing.

Three simple ideas have stuck in my mind since I was a Boy Scout and DeMolay, and I can no longer remember just exactly where or what ritual they were part of, but they're simply as follows:

- All work is honorable and worthy of faithful performance.
- If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well. And finally,
- Always try to leave things a little better than you found them.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Carnall, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, I move the acceptance of this report.

(from the floor): Second

VEDGC Emery: A motion has been made and properly seconded to accept the report of the Grand Commander. Any discussion? Hearing none, all of those in favor extend the Sword Arm. Opposed, Bridle Arm. Motion passed. (applause)

REGC Carnall: Thank you, Sir Knights.

Thank you for your patience, Sir Knights. You won't often hear a full report then.

At this time, I would like to call upon Sir Knight Martin Trent, our East Central Department Commander for his remarks.

REDC Trent: Thank you, Right Eminent Grand Commander. Before I make remarks I would like to make a presentation. This is to certify that Sir Knight Richard Thomas Carnall was elected, installed, and completed his term of office as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois for the Templar Year 2024, and is entitled to the rank, distinction and privileges of a Past Grand Commander. It is signed and witnessed by our Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Lawrence Tucker and our Grand Master, Sir Knight David Kussman. Thank you for your service and congratulations!

REGC Carnall: Thank you. (applause)

REDC Trent: Well good morning, Sir Knights. I'll make this quick. I'm sure you have some other people you'd like to hear from, especially your Grand Master. My lady Benita and I have visited Illinois many times. She was unable to be with me today due to an unexpected commitment that she had to help her mother with some medical issues that are going on there, but on behalf of my lady Benita and I, I just want to thank everybody for the friendships that we've made over the years and the Grand Commandery of Illinois, the visit here, has always been a great pleasure as has this one this year. I thank you for the hospitality and the privileges that you've shown to me this year. Thank you, Right Eminent Grand Commander. I cannot add anything that has not already been said. We had talked about charity.

This Grand Commandery has an exemplary set of charitable projects and the way that they support our charities and philanthropies. And you know that should tie right into membership. We've talked about membership also. I think a lot of our members – people that come to the fraternity into our Lodges and then into our York Rite – I think they're seeking ways that they can be of help to their community, to be part of philanthropies and to be part of charitable endeavors. Leverage that. You have so many opportunities with what you do in this Grand Commandery as far as supporting charity and philanthropy. Leverage that and it will leverage your membership activities. Be sure to remember that we will have our East Central Department Conference again in March. Again it will be in Fort Wayne. I will be stepping down in about a month from being your Department Commander, which I have enjoyed and it's been a privilege to serve in that office for the greatest Department in the Grand Encampment, and I will be succeeded by Sir Knight Jay Kennedy of Michigan. (applause) I am confident that he is going to do a better job as Department Commander than I have and please show him the support that you've shown me and the friendship you've shown me. It's been an honor to serve you and the other jurisdictions of this Department, and I wish you all the best in the coming years. Congratulations to the incoming officers and best wishes. Let's keep Templary growing, getting better, getting more members. We love this fraternity – this Christian Order. Let's keep it going, Sir Knights. Thank you very much. (applause)

REGC Carnall: It's now my privilege to call on Sir Knight Lawrence Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, representing our Most Eminent Grand Master.

REGR Tucker: Thank you, Sir Knights. Please be seated. Right Eminent Grand Commander, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Eminent Department Commander and Sir Knights, it's always a pleasure to attend a Grand Commandery, and I get to do so as your Grand Recorder. This is a responsibility that I don't take lightly and I do enjoy serving you and the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment. It's great to be back in Illinois, and I want to compliment you – earlier today, so often you'll come into a Grand Commandery and you'll be giving, for example your Grand Master public Grand Honors or the Honors of Freemasonry or something (cell phone rings) I think that's you. Templar Honors are the crossed swords as they're received. That's Templar Grand Honors. The 3 times 3 is not a Templar Grand Honor, so I do compliment you on not violating Templar protocol in that manner, and so many Grand Commanderies do. So, thank you for that.

Your Department Commander has shared with you his compliments on your charitable endeavors. I want to add mine as well. The Eye Foundation – your support of our Eye Foundation is great, you're 100%. One of the great things that we are doing with the Eye Foundation is research, and I think that one of the things that really impresses me with that is the research that we're doing on, uh, it just left me as to what it's called, it's predictive medicine, and I think that is a remarkable aspect of our research. At this point in time, children when they are born, or prior to their birth, the doctors are able to determine what they're predisposed to medically, and I think that that's a remarkable progress that we have made, and thank you for your support of the Eye Foundation.

The Educational Foundation is another animal unto itself. I know we're all struggling with how that particular system operates, but you guys have done so good in giving out scholarships to deserving youth.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage, I'm sorry to say that we're sort of having a little issue in the Holy Land right now and I hope that we get back on track. Maybe our President will be successful in his endeavors to bring peace to that region, and we can start the Holy Land Pilgrimage back up again.

As I said, it's great to be in Illinois. 20 years ago when I came to Chicago to work in the Grand Encampment office, I visited many times in your various bodies in the Chicago area, but what I remember was my drives to Paxton and to the Illinois Home. Your picnics were great with the residents, and my visits to Chuck Neumann in the Paxton Home were really memorable events.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Lois Jones about a month ago. We were expecting her to be able to come to Triennial as she has a presentation to make to the Grand Master. Bill Jones' Past Grand Master's Jewel will be awarded to our Grand Master and she wanted to make that presentation, but her back is just not good enough for her to travel at this time, but she is doing well. And, so any of you that would have the occasion to keep her in your thoughts and prayers and visit, I know she would appreciate that.

Would the Past Grand Commanders of Illinois please stand? Would the elected dais officers please stand? In not so many weeks we're going to be having a session in Salt Lake City. These are your voting delegates to the Grand Encampment. Anything that you wish to have considered by the Grand Encampment, these are the guys you need to go to and voice your displeasure, your pleasure, whatever, these are your representatives and I hope to see many of you in Salt Lake City in a few weeks, if I can get my desk cleared and get there. So, these are your representatives and we look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City very shortly. Thank you.

The final thing I want to do is tell you that at Triennial there's very light legislation, and hopefully it won't be too cumbersome. The venue is great and I think you will enjoy the Little America Hotel where we will be meeting. I know our Grand Master and others are excited about the upcoming session, and I think you will be pleased with both the venue and the outcome of whatever happens. We have 3 races which are contested, the first being the Deputy Grand Master, Art Hebbeler of Maryland is running against the Deputy Grand Master. We have 2 candidates for Grand Captain General, and then we have 2 candidates for Grand Treasurer. So I urge you to give some thought as to who you might be supporting.

With that, I want to conclude by saying thank you for your hospitality, Grand Commander. Thank you, Sir Knights. It's great to be back. I've known many of you for so many years and it's just great to be back in Illinois. Thank you, Sir Knights! (applause)

REGC Carnall: As long as you're already on your feet, let me invite our Most Worshipful Grand Master to the podium, although I will say one last thing, which is to remind you that our Conclave next year is on Saturday, July 19, 2025 in the same location.

MWGM Lynch: Please be seated. First of all, I want to thank Richard. You did a fantastic job this year. I've known you for a long time. You've always had my back and I've had yours and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with you. If there's anything I can do, even though you're stepping down, please don't hesitate to ask.

REGC Carnall: Thank you.

MWGM Lynch: Jamie, same goes. Grand Lodge will assist in any way we can. Please know that. Since I can see all 3 bodies here, I want to tell you this – Tom Pod can talk, you all know that. (laughter) I'm standing between you and lunch, but lunch is at 12 so I've got 5 minutes. Tom Pod ran way over so I didn't say anything yesterday, right Tom? I want to thank all 3 bodies for the hospitality shown to myself and my Grand Lodge officers by the York Rite bodies here. The amazing thing about Masonry, and I see this, is that how many people would you not know if you'd not joined this organization? It's just amazing. The friendship and the people we meet, no matter what state we go to, we find people that are Masons and we have fun, and we meet. But I'm going to tell you a quick story. I am proud of the Knights Templar with your charities. As a Grand Lodge officer going up the grand line, when you become Junior Grand Warden you work on our IMSAP committee. In other words, you're on that Board of Managers. Jim Williams is on there now. You get to know what the committee does, and many of you know that our terms are 2 1-year terms, so you serve 2 years. So for 2 years you're on that charity. When you go to Senior Grand Warden you go to the IMOS committee – Illinois Masonic Outreach Service which, Knights Templar, I want to thank you immensely for the donations that you give to our charity in assisting people. And when you get to be Deputy Grand Master you go to IMCAP, which is the Children's Assistance Program. So, I think, I believe I was the first grand officer, I'm not sure if Mike was, but I know I was, to sit on all 3 of these charitable boards and what you see – the assistance given to people that Masons and their families are in need – it'll break your heart. But I want to thank the Knights Templar for the charity that you give to our Grand Lodge charities. It's immense, and I applaud you for that. (applause)

I'm not going to be long here, but I wanted to tell you about Illinois Masonic Medical Center – a great institution. A few of you know that, because I've told this before, I worked at Illinois Masonic from 1980 to 2000. I was a construction carpenter there, they did our own in-house construction and I was in on the ground floor of that. Somebody brought me in that knew me because I did stuff for him, so I got to build a lot of that hospital. I built the Eye Center, you were talking about the Eye Center. I build the Eye Center twice. It was on the fifth floor of the Center Court building. We built it once, tore it down and remodeled it and expanded it, and it's quite, well when I left it was top of the line. Dr. Lopez is a great eye surgeon – top of the line.

Also, the Grotto, I want to tell a Grotto story. We all know why we belong to the Grotto. The dentistry for the handicapped kids, I'll never forget when I worked there, how every Thursday the dentists would donate their time to fix the teeth of the handicapped kids. They'd come in their wheelchairs, they'd come however, free dentistry. The dental department shut down in the afternoon and that's all you saw.

What remarkable work that we as Masons do, and I thank each and every one of you. Not only for dipping into your pocketbooks, but for giving time. So, they always say the Grand Master is the last one to speak. I tried that at home after I got this position, I told that to my wife, and you know what she said to me – you're not Grand Master in this house! (laughter) So what does every good husband say to his wife? Yes Dear.

Thank you for everything you guys do. I love every one of you. (applause) Now you can eat!

REGC Carnall: I believe, well I will ask, does anyone present know of any other business that we need to bring before this Grand Commandery before we proceed to lunch?

The Divine Service will be – is it in this room? In this room at 3:00, followed by the Installation of Officers at 3:45. So we hope to see you all again here.

REPGC Schlosser: Just a quick announcement here that the Order of Preceptory, which is the Past Commander's Degree here in Illinois, will be in the Presentation Room.

REGC Carnall: Presentation Room? Oh, ok you mean the Freeport Room – 2nd floor on the east end.

(discussion about officer photos was held away from microphone).

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, photos in the Mary Todd room across from the Registration Desk. First floor.

Well, I've been saying all week that I was ready for one thing, and this is it. Eminent Grand Captain General, I am about to adjourn this 168th Annual Conclave. See that the Grand Sentinel is informed and that he guard accordingly.

EGCG Cowart: Eminent Grand Warder, inform the Eminent Grand Sentinel that the Right Eminent Grand Commander is about to close this annual Conclave, and see that he guard accordingly.

EGW Millette: Eminent Grand Captain General, the Eminent Grand Sentinel is informed.

EGCG Cowart: Right Eminent Grand Commander, your order has been obeyed.

REGC Carnall: Grand Commandery, Attention! Uncover. Eminent Grand Prelate, pronounce the benediction.

EGP Sheets: Heavenly Father, We thank you that everything was done decent and in order, that unity prevails, and we know that that comes from you. We thank you in Jesus' name. Amen

Grand Commandery: Amen

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, Recover. By virtue of the power vested in me as Grand Commander, I declare the 168th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois adjourned. (pause for attending at altar) Eminent Grand Warder, inform the Eminent Grand Sentinel that the 168th Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of Illinois is now adjourned. And while he does that I want to extend a special thanks to our Eminent Grand Organist for his music today. (applause)

EGW Millette: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Eminent Grand Sentinel is informed.

REGC Carnall: Sir Knights, is it Noon? You are dismissed.

**GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
Of the
State of Illinois**

**PRELIMINARY REPORTS
OF THE
168TH. ANNUAL CONCLAVE**



SIR KNIGHT RICHARD T. CARNALL
Right Eminent Grand Commander
2023-2024
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS
JULY 26, 2024

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEADQUARTERS OF**

**Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander**

**5333 7th Avenue
Countryside, IL 60525**

August 1, 2023

GENERAL ORDER No 1 (Carnall)

To the Officers and Members of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois:

ANNUAL CONCLAVE

A Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois was held in the City of Springfield, Illinois on Thursday, July 27, 2023, A.O. 905.

GRAND OFFICERS INSTALLED

Richard T. Carnall, KTCH	Right Eminent Grand Commander
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH	Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Sean P. McBride, GWB	Eminent Grand Generalissimo
Donald J. Cowart	Eminent Grand Captain General
Christopher J. Whitney	Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Derrick S. Helfer	Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Gary Sheets	Eminent Grand Prelate
John M. Sansone, REPGC	Eminent Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC	Eminent Grand Recorder
Reno Reguya	Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
Kevin Wheeler	Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Michael Millette	Eminent Grand Warder
Randy M Zaerr, GWB	Eminent Grand Sentinel
Joseph L. Pieron	Eminent Grand Color Bearer
Thomas R. Osborne	Eminent Grand Organist

COMMISSIONED AIDE TO THE GRAND COMMANDER

Stephen T. Adamson, KTCH, GWB, EPC

No. 04

COMMITTEE APOINTMENTS

JURISPRUDENCE

Charles E. Hileman Jr., KCT, REPGC	Chairman	No. 02
Henry J. DeHeer, KCT, REPDC, REPGC		No. 38
John T. Riedas, KCT, REPGC		No. 53
H. Wayne Hoffman, KCT, REPGC		No. 03
Enrique J. Unanue, REPGC		No. 06

FINANCE COMMITTEE

William E. Jegen, REPGC	Chairman	No. 01
Enrique J. Unanue, REPGC		No. 06
Max E. Guthrie, KTCH, EPC		No. 38

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Joseph W. Lucas, KCT, KTCH, REPGC	Chairman	No. 51
William E. Jegen, REPGC		No. 01
Max E. Guthrie, KTCH, EPC		No. 38
John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT		Ex-Officio No. 53
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR		Ex-Officio No. 66

ELOISE H. PHILLIPS CHARITY FUND

Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG	Chairman	No. 16
Don J. Cowart, EGCG		No. 01
Christopher J. Whitney, EGSW		No. 09
John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT	Treasurer	No. 53
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR	Recorder	No. 66

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Donald J. Cowart, EGCG	Chairman	No. 01
H. Gary Reichert, EPC		No. 51
Stephen T. Adamson, KTCH, GWB, EPC		No. 04

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jeff L. Estes, GWB, EPC	Chairman	No. 24
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR		No. 66
Douglas W. Niewald, EPC		No. 38
William J. Smith, REPGC		No. 64
William J. Farris, REPGC		No. 17

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Gary W. Sheets, KTCH, EGP	Chairman	No. 06
Donald J. Cowart, EGCG		No. 01
Charles Hileman, KCT, REPGC		No. 02
William J. Farris, REPGC		No. 17
Douglas W. Niewald, EPC		No. 38

BYLAWS

Charles Hileman, KCT, REPGC	Chairman	No. 02
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC		No. 08
Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG		No. 16
Enrique J. Unanue, REPGC		No. 06

CREDENTIALS

H. Gary Reichert, EPC	Chairman	No. 51
Paul J. Dillow, EPC		No. 24
Verne LaGesse, EPC		No. 47

MEMBERSHIP

Kevin Wheeler, EPC	Co-Chairman	No. 64
Andrew F. Michyeta, GWB, EPC	Co-Chairman	No. 36
Gregorio Godoy, EPC		No. 53
Nyle G. Waters, KTCH, EPC		No. 47

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG	Chairman	No. 16
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC		No. 08
Stephen T. Adamson, KTCH, EPC		No. 04

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATION

Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC	Chairman	No. 08
Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG		No. 16
Don J. Cowart, EGCG		No. 01

RITUAL AND TACTICS

Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR	Chairman	No. 66
Robert H. Wright, EPC		No. 24
Richard T. Carnall, KTCH, REGC		No. 01
Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG		No. 16

WEBMASTER

John M. Sansone, REGC, EGT	Chairman	No. 53
Timothy J. Ward, EPC		No. 01

TRIENNIAL

Richard T. Carnall, KTCH, REGC	Chairman	No. 01
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR		No. 66
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC		No. 08

PROTOCOL

Charles E. Hileman Jr., KCT, REPGC	Chairman	No. 02
Henry J. DeHeer, KCT, REPDC, REPGC		No. 38
John T. Riedas, KCT, REPGC		No. 53
Jesse L. Johns, KCT, REPGC		No. 66
Russel L. Schlosser, REPGC		No. 36

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR MAGAZINE EDITOR

John T. Riedas, KCT, REPGC		No. 53
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FISCAL OFFICERS FUND

Jamie A Emery, KTCH, VEDGC	Chairman	No. 08
Sean P. McBride. GWB, EGG		No. 16
Don J. Cowart, EGCG		No. 01
John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT		No. 53

TEMPLAR DEAD

Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR	Chairman	No. 66
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SESSIONS COMMITTEE

Richard T. Carnall, KTCH, REGC	Chairman	No. 01
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC		No. 08
Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG		No. 16
Enrique J. Unanue, REPGC		No. 06

INSPECTIONS

An Officer of the Grand Commandery has been assigned to each Inspection Division to conduct an Annual Inspection of the Commanderies in that Division in accordance with Sections 471 and 472 of the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. It is a requirement that a report of Inspection from the Inspecting Officer is received at the Office of the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander within three weeks of the Inspection date. The Inspection will consist of an examination of monthly and permanent records of the Recorder and Treasurer, including special funds of the Commandery. All equipment and paraphernalia and their arrangements as used in the Order of the Temple will be inspected.

It is the responsibility of the Eminent Commander to see that the Ritual and Tactics of the Order are performed in an impressive manner. Each Commandery is required to Open and Close in Full Form as specified in the Illinois Tactics, available from The Grand Recorders Office.

Uniform requirements, as covered in the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Chapter XIX, will be followed.

RECEPTION OF THE GRAND OFFICER

The Outline of Open Inspections as described in the official Asylum Tactics of the Grand Commandery is the only proper ceremony for the Reception of Grand Officers at the annual Commandery Inspection. Full credit will be given to a Commandery that organizes and conducts the Reception without regard to who actually fills the officer stations in the ceremony.

STARTING TIME FOR INSPECTION

Starting time for all Inspections will be **10:00 A.M.** unless otherwise determined by the Inspecting Officer. The Full Form Opening will begin promptly at **1:00 P.M.** followed immediately by the Order of the Temple.

INSPECTION ASSIGNMENTS

The Inspection Assignments for The Templar Year 2023 -2024 are as follows:

	<u>Inspecting Officer</u>	<u>Division Commander</u>
1 st Division	Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC	Michael Millette, EGW
2 nd Division	Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG	Timothy J. Ward, EPC
3 rd Division	Don J. Cowart, EGCG	Randy M. Zaerr, GWB, EGS
4 th Division	Christopher J. Whitney, EGSW	To Be Determined
5 th Division	Derrick S. Helfer, EGJW	Joseph L. Pieron, EGCB

The Division Commander will report to the Inspecting Office as his aide and will assist the Inspecting Officer in the discharge of his duties.

DIVISIONS

The Divisions for the Templar Year 2023 – 2024 are as follows:

1st Division

Apollo No. 1, at Naperville	Mizpah No. 53, at Oak Lawn
Joliet No. 4, at Joliet	Evanston No. 58, at Glenview
Calvary No. 25, at Cary	St. Elmo No. 64, at Riverside
St. Bernard No. 35, at Chicago	Silangan No. 93, at Chicago
Bethel No. 36, at Palatine	

2nd Division

Galesburg No. 8, at Monmouth	Rock Island No. 18, at Milan
Ottawa No. 10, at Ottawa	Dixon No. 21, at Dixon
Crusader No. 17, at Rockford	Aurora No. 22, at Aurora

3rd Division

Peoria No. 3 at Peoria
Blaney No. 5, at Tremont
Elwood No. 6, at Springfield
DeMolay No. 24, at Bloomington

St. Aldemar No. 47, at Petersburg
Macomb No. 56, at Macomb
Quincy No. 77, at Quincy

4th Division

Baumanoir No. 9 at Decatur
Urbana No. 16, at Champaign
Melita No. 37, at Tuscola
Mt. Olivet No. 38, at Paxton

Constantine No. 51, at Lincoln
Clinton No. 66, at Clinton
Gil W. Barnard No. 74, at Sullivan

5th Division

Tancred No. 2, at Belleville
Gorin No. 14, at Bridgeport
Palestine No. 27, at Paris

St. Omer No.30, at Hillsboro
Patton No. 69, at Mt. Vernon
Beauseant No. 86, at Murphysboro

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, VISITS AND ESCORTS

Dispensation is hereby granted to all Commanderies to appear in public, in full Templar uniform and in suitable numbers to present a proper appearance within this jurisdiction, for attendance at Divine Services, Funerals, Escort Duties to other Masonic Bodies, Scottish Rite Reunions, and Public Parades. **In all cases, all Sir Knights must be dressed uniformly. In the case of a parade, each Commandery marching as a separate unit must be dressed uniformly.**

DEBITS AND SUSPENSIONS

DEBITS

All requests for debits are to be reviewed by the Eminent Commander. He should appoint a Committee to make a personal contact with the Sir Knight requesting the debit. After being contacted by the Committee, the debit will then be issued providing the Sir Knight is clear on the books of the Commandery. No dues are to be collected after the date of the debit.

SUSPENSIONS

Suspensions of members of a Commandery due to being in arrears for dues and/or other indebtedness are to be made in compliance with Sections 460 and 460B of the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois. At the first Stated Conclave of the Commandery in October the Recorder shall report to the Commandery the names of all Sir Knights subject to suspension. The Commandery has the right to remit the dues of those Sir Knights in arrears when the Sir Knight is judged unable to comply due to illness, infirmity, or financial inability. Those instances of compassion demonstrate pure Templar benevolence. The Eminent Commander will appoint a Committee to make a personal contact with the Sir Knight in question to determine how his membership can be continued. The Recorder will also complete the "Report to the Grand Commandery on Members subject to Suspension" sending copies to the Grand Commander. All proceedings are to be made a part of the minutes of the Stated Conclave in October. If no report is received back from the Headquarters of the Grand Commandery in 30 days, you may proceed with the actions required prior to suspending the Sir Knight from the Commandery. **Note that based on the requirements of Section 460B, a Sir Knight may NOT be suspended for indebtedness to the Commandery prior to the second stated conclave following the "first Stated Conclave in October".** The actions required of the Commandery prior to suspension for an arrearage cannot be completed at the October or next subsequent stated conclave.

DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations may be issued upon request as authorized by the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois. The Eminent Commander shall make such request, over his signature and bearing the Seal of the Commandery. All requests shall specify the date of the action and provide all pertinent information necessary for evaluation. The request must be forwarded to the Grand Commander with an appropriate time interval for his review and reply. After issuance, the original copy of the dispensation will be promptly returned to the Grand Commander with a full report of the action taken. The actions of the Commandery will be regularly recorded in the minutes of the Commandery.

FIFTY YEAR PRESENTATIONS

Every Knight Templar who has been in good standing for a period of fifty years will be recognized with a fifty-year membership card and pin and shall not be required to pay any further dues to his Commandery. It is the responsibility of the Recorder of each Commandery to notify the Grand Recorder who will forward the card and pin to the Commandery for presentation on or about the anniversary date. The Grand Commander will be notified by the Grand Recorder and will make the presentation if circumstances and time permit; otherwise, it is suggested that the presentation be made at a suitable public or Fraternal function.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor for exceptional and meritorious service to the order was established by Section 237(b) of the Grand Encampment Statutes. This award can be awarded to only one Sir Knight in this jurisdiction and previous nominations shall be resubmitted during the current year. All nominations shall be submitted to the Grand Commander no later than April 1, 2024.

G. WILBUR BELL EXCALIBUR AWARD

This award can be awarded to one Sir Knight in this jurisdiction and previous nominations shall be resubmitted during the current year. All nominations shall be submitted to the Grand Commander no later than April 1, 2024.

PAST COMMANDER CROSS & CROWN SERVICE AWARD

This award sets forth leadership criteria for immediate Past Commanders worthy of such recognition. This award was designed mainly to prompt greater overall efficiency in a Commandery's operation. While the newly elected Commander is the only one qualified to apply for and receive the award, he cannot do so alone. The requirements can only be met through the combined efforts of the entire Commandery. It is the Commander, however, who must provide the leadership and incentives which will stimulate and inspire the Commandery to success. The Commander must have served his Commandery on all three Dais Chairs to receive this award.

To qualify:

1. Hold four meetings with nine members present in uniform.
 - a. Two of the four meeting must be:
 - i. Annual Inspection with installed officers in uniform doing the full form opening, closing and reception of Inspecting Officer.
 - ii. Christmas Libation with members in uniform attending together with family members in the Commandery's asylum.
2. Within 40 miles: create a project that will cloth the naked, feed the hungry, bind up the wounds of the afflicted, or assist widows and orphans. The project should involve Sir Knights and their families.
3. Within 40 miles: make personal contact with all Commandery members and invite them to attend the meetings and dinners.
4. Appoint at least one Commandery Mentor who must attend training at the Schools of Instruction
5. Submit the 2024 annual report to the Grand Recorder on time.
6. At the close of the term, the applicant must submit a second letter to the Inspecting Officer summarizing achievements during his term.
7. A Past Commander Pin and Certificate will be issued to the recipients by the Grand Commandery. The Pin may be displayed only on the Suit Jacket and not worn as part of the uniform.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE MINISTER PROPOSALS

The minister's applications must be submitted by September 14, 2023, to the Office of the Grand Recorder. The committee will be selecting the minister prior to November 1, 2023. The goal of the Grand Commandery is to have at least one minister per year participate in this memorable program if the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund has enough money to send a minister.

MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

From our Masonic youth organizations of today will come our future leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, it is requested that each constituent Commandery lend its support by attending their meetings, both initiatory and stated and by providing them with financial support according to the ability of the Commandery. Our youth groups are more than willing to support our Commanderies in their activities and should be called upon whenever it is appropriate. We should also give them our support by providing escorts or whatever service they may require.

KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE

The Knight Templar magazine published by the Grand Encampment is mailed to and available electronically to each Sir Knight in the State of Illinois, provided the Recorders of the constituent Commanderies promptly and correctly post information about Knighting's, Suspensions, Affiliation's, Demits, Deaths, and Top Line Signers on the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS). This system is the only address source for the monthly mailing by the Grand Encampment. The Knight Templar magazine is the primary news source of Templary coverage for the United States of America. The State of Illinois supplement will not be printed in the magazine after the August 2021 issue but will be available online and can be found either on the Grand Encampment website or through a link in the Illinois Grand Commandery website. All Commanderies are encouraged to submit pictures and information about Commandery activities and accomplishments of interest to other Sir Knights in the State. Send this information to the Illinois Editor of the Knight Templar magazine at john-olvr@att.net.

TEMPLAR MEMORIALS

Upon the death of any member of a constituent Commandery in the State of Illinois, the Recorder of the deceased Member's Commandery is requested to send to the Grand Recorders office a notification regarding the deceased member's name, including his address, next of kin's address, his date of birth and any other information pertaining to the Sir Knight. The Grand Recorder will respond with appropriate condolences to the bereaved family. The Recorder must also report the death in his MMS record. The Sir Knights are expected to participate in any Masonic Services if requested by the Family. Remember Knights Templar have a role in the Illinois Masonic funeral service along with a Templar Funeral Service available from the Grand Recorder's Office.

MEMBERSHIP

Every Knight Templar knows that the lifeblood of any organization is membership, and it remains the obligation of each and every Sir Knight in the State to promote membership at all times. The Grand Commandery encourages every Knight Templar to go back and work in and support his local lodge. The Chapters of Royal Arch Masons and Councils of Cryptic Masons also need our assistance. You cannot expect someone to join a Commandery of Knights Templar if they know nothing about the organization or do not recognize the Templar members. Recognition that the members of the Commandery are supporting the Lodge, Chapter and Council goes a long way in encouraging a Blue Lodge Mason to continue his search for Masonic Light in the YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY.

DECORUM

Sir Knights who are witnessing and are not performing ritual and tactics during the conferral of the Orders of Templary will refrain from unnecessary conversations and movement about the Asylum. It is disturbing and distracts from the solemnity and dramatic nature of the Templar experience. There are appropriate times during the conferring of the Orders that conversations and movements can be made without distracting from the work being performed.

KYCH JEWEL

The award of the KYCH JEWEL is a York Rite Honor. The only items that may be worn on the Templar Uniform are ones that have been authorized by the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery uniform code. Therefore, the KYCH Jewel should NEVER be worn with your Commandery Uniform. (Decision. 1955, William C. Gordon)

APPROPRIATE TEMPLAR JEWELS

Templar Jewels are to be worn from the left shoulder to the left lapel of the standard uniform coat beginning at the left shoulder seam, the Red Cross or Malta Jewel as preferred, honorary jewels ending with the highest jewel of office, present office jewel being designated as highest office. The Malta Jewel must be worn on the uniform coat even if other jewels

are not worn." Jewels will be placed in a single straight line even with the breast pocket and WILL NOT exceed the number that can be placed in the specified area of the uniform coat. The Military Service Ribbon is worn above the line of jewels by those qualified to wear it. Only jewels that fit into the area described are to be worn. No jewels other than Grand Encampment authorized jewels and a name badge are worn on the right side of the uniform. Sir Knights wearing jewels in any other manner will be considered out of uniform.

This Order is to be read IN FULL at the first Stated Conclave following receipt and a record of its reading will be made in the minutes of the Stated Conclave.

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEADQUARTERS OF**

**Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander**

**5333 7th Ave.
Countryside, IL 60525**

June 3, 2024

GENERAL ORDER NO.2- Carnall

To the Officers and Members of the Grand and the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois.

168th ANNUAL CONCLAVE

The 168th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois will be held in the City of Springfield, Illinois on Friday, July 26, 2024. The Grand Commandery will convene at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, at 8:30 A.M. for the opening session and will continue until business is concluded with a recess for lunch. The Election of Officers will be called for on this day at an hour to be set by vote of the Grand Commandry immediately after it is convened,

HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters for the Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder, and all Committees will be the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. The Credentials Committee will be open on Friday, July 26, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. for the registration of Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Commander, Generalissimos, Captain Generals, Past Commanders, and all Sir Knights of Constituent Commanderies, Any Sir Knight holding a proxy shall present it at the time of registration. All Illinois Sir Knights will be required to show their current Dues Card at the time of registration. *REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AT 10:00 A.M. SHARP.*

ATTENDANCE AT CONCLAVE

It is the duty of the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery to be present at the Grand Conclave and such attendance is required by Section 67 of the Grand Encampment Code. Sir Knight Jamie A. Emery, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, is the Attendance Officer for this Grand Conclave and as such will report on attendance of all Dais Officers of Constituent Commanderies.

PROXIES

In the event the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of a Constituent Commandery is unable to attend the Grand Commandery Conclave in person, each may appoint as their proxy, a member in good standing of the same Constituent Commandery. Such proxy does not by virtue of the appointment become a member of this Grand Commandery. The Grand Recorder has mailed three proxy forms to each Commandery, which must be filled out, signed by the officer appointing the proxy and bear the seal of the Commandery, and thus, the proxy should be prepared before you leave home. Note that each Sir Knight may cast only one ballot: a Sir Knight already entitled to a ballot may not vote more than once by virtue of being assigned a proxy as shown below under VOTING. The proxy must be filed with the Credentials Committee at the time of registration.

ROLL CALL

There will be a roll call by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Representatives from Illinois to other Grand Jurisdictions.

VOTING

All Grand Commandery members in good standing, present in person or by proxy SHALL HAVE ONLY ONE VOTE. A current member of the Grand Commandery holding a proxy for another member of the Grand Commandery shall have only one vote. For a Sir Knight to be eligible to vote, the Sir Knight shall be a member of at least one Constituent Commandery that is not in arrears in payments due to the Grand Commandery.

UNIFORMS

Full Templar Uniform as described in Section 477 of the Grand Commandery Statutes, including black shoes, socks, white gloves, and either Chapeau or Military Style Naval Dress Cap with a class A uniform coat, or a Cap and Mantel, shall be worn at the convening of the Grand Conclave. Swords will only be required by Grand Officers and those participating as escorts. Summer Uniforms are permitted for any session after lunch.

HOST COMMANDERY

The Host Commandery for this 168th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois will be Trinity Apollo Commandery No. 1. Trinity Apollo Commandery No. 1, and the Conclave Committee have planned many activities for the visiting Sir Knights and their Ladies; we hope everyone will take advantage and have a memorable time.

HOUSING AND GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

All requests for room reservations must be made direct to the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, the Grand Commandery Website: www.kt-il.org will have all details on how to make your reservations when available. Meal reservations will also be made online at: www.kt-il.org PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH THE FORM. ALL MEALS WILL REQUIRE A TICKET.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

All Committee Chairman shall submit their report to the Grand Recorder, 1700 E. Washington St., Clinton, IL. 61727 no later than JUNE 26, 2024. A Preliminary Report of Proceedings will be printed. The Annual Meeting of the Illinois Knights Templar Home will be held on Friday, July 26, 2024, during the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 405 (A) of the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois be amended by Deleting Section (1) and changing "per capita dues of ten dollars (\$10.00)" to read "per capita dues of twenty dollars (\$20.00)".

Section 405 (A) currently reads:

For each member in good standing, excepting (1) those members whose dues have been remitted by the Commandery because of inability to pay same, (2) fifty-year members exempt by provision of Sec. 460A; a per capita dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). Starting in 2017 (Members in Good Standing in this section shall include all members whose membership (in abeyance) has not been terminated.) (Passed on floor 2014)

If Amended Section 405 (A) would read:

For each member in good standing, excepting fifty-year members exempt by provision of Sec. 460A; a per capita dues of twenty dollars (\$20.00). Starting in 2025 (Members in Good Standing in this section shall include all members whose membership (in abeyance) has not been terminated.)

Proposed by SK Russell L. Schlosser PGC

GRAND SESSIONS

This year the York Rite Sessions will again include all three bodies: The Grand Chapter, The Grand Council, and the Grand Commandery of Illinois. The sessions will start with the Grand Council on Thursday July 25th, followed by the Grand Commandery on Friday July 26th, and ending with the Grand Chapter on Saturday 27th. For further information about sessions and schedules go to the Grand Commandery Web-site at kt-il.org click on the 2024 Sessions, there you will find all the information required.

This Order shall be read at the head of the lines at the first Stated Conclave after its receipt and a record made in the Minutes.

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEADQUARTERS
OF**

**Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander**

**5333 7th Ave.
Countryside, Illinois 60525**

**CIRCULAR NO. 1 (Carnall)
GRAND COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Dear Sir Knights of Illinois:

As the Christmas Season approaches our thoughts are drawn out and away from ourselves and our daily trials and tribulations to the Good Tidings of Great Joy brought to us by the Angel of the Lord some two millenniums ago. Our reverence for our Blessed Redeemer inspires in us a spirit of love, hope, and generosity that's reflected in the words of one of my favorite hymns:

**O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, ... Christ the Lord.**

As Masonic Knights Templar, we are privileged to be joined together in a truly ecumenical association described in our ritual (Order of Malta) as a "Peaceful Christian Society". Our Orders teach many valuable lessons, but we ask for only one true affirmation of faith: "... do you believe that the Saviour died on the Cross for the remission of sin?" Sadly, many of our members have not answered this question as it appears only in the full ceremonial for the Order of Malta.

I'm going to borrow some words from two of the Four Chaplains who perished together on February 3, 1943 (World War II), with the sinking of an army transport ship, The Dorchester, in the cold waters of the North Atlantic. Rabbi Alexander Goode said "The things that unite us (in our faith) are far more fundamental than those that divide us. We can never hope to have absolute uniformity in what we believe. Men will always differ as long as men think. These differences need not lead to hatred or ill will or even the shedding of blood. Let us respect each other, enrich each other, look for the best in each other. Let Christians be truly Christian, and Jews truly Jewish, and let the good and noble of both faiths unite for the realization of common ideals and aspirations, for the glory of God and the redemption of humanity."

Father John Washington, a Catholic priest, added "We have many great fundamental common beliefs. We believe in one God; in God as a personal God; in God as a moral, good God. We believe in social justice and world peace and goodwill. We believe in the future, that the Kingdom of God shall come, and that righteousness shall cover the earth. We also have a common mission, to bring all the people of the world to God, the God and Father of us all. That has been the compelling task of Judaism as well as Christianity.

As Christian Masons may we concentrate on imitating our Lord's gentle and loving example. Let our "militancy" be directed toward our own exercise of the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, remembering that in His Kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love. May loving and learning be our purpose for living.

My Lady Becky and I wish you all the joy and warmth of the Season. May your travels be safe, and may the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be and remain with each of you throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander



**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



STATE OF ILLINOIS

Grand Prelates Christmas Message 2023

John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in darkness but the darkness has not understood it." That, my dear Fraters is the true and real beginning of the Christmas Story.

We have a great God who created us, wanted a relationship with us, and we rejected him because we felt that He was **NOT ENOUGH!!** *He created us and lost us because we rejected Him. The Old Testament is a history of punishment for that rejection, the destruction of the whole world, the creation and destruction of the Kingdom of Israel, and temples that never really fix the rejection. God had no plan B, He only has plan A. The Birth of Jesus is the beginning of that final act of God's redemptive love planned from the beginning before creation. God always meant for us to have a choice in loving Him.*

*We are not mere puppets but created beings with the full choice to **LOVE THE ONE** who created us.*

*A Christmas Song that I learned as a child is, "**WISE MEN STILL ADORE HIM!**"! It depicts Magi, Kings, Wise men, we're not sure who they really were. They came from somewhere east of Jerusalem. God allowed them to see a great star appear in the East. With the knowledge of the ancients who knew to study the skies, they knew that they were to search for **THE KING OF THE JEWS**. At great cost, danger, and Herod's court of intrigue they persevered on until they reached their destination. They found the Child with His Mother in a house in Bethlehem. They bowed, gave homage, and presented gifts of enormous wealth that God would use to preserve this Holy Family in their escape to Egypt from evil King Herod.*

*Are you among the **WISE?** Do you seek the great **KING?** When you find Him, will you worship Him? At what cost would you search and when found what will you present to your great **KING, SAVIOR, LORD, & LOVER OF YOUR SOUL?** The only gift HE wants is you and your love!!*

**WISE MEN STILL ADORE HIM! DO
YOU?**

Gary W. Sheets, EPC KTCH

Grand Prelate

**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEADQUARTERS
OF**

**Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander**

**5333 7th Ave.
Countryside, Illinois 60525**

**CIRCULAR NO. 2 (Carnall)
GRAND COMMANDER'S EASTER MESSAGE**

To the Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Illinois:

As far back as we can see in the history of our valiant and magnanimous Order, we have looked on Easter, our commemoration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the holiest day in the Christian calendar. The scriptures inform us that when Jesus was arrested to be taken before Caiaphas, the High Priest, *"all the disciples deserted Him and fled."* It was only His Resurrection that renewed within them that faith which gave them the strength to go forth and preach the Gospel which has been handed down to us today.

The renewal of life through faith is the great theme of the Resurrection. In **1 Peter 1:3,4** we read that *"In His great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and unto an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade."*

We live in the hope of a great inheritance, and our Masonic traditions and teachings are a constant reminder of the path we should follow to become worthy of that inheritance. Far from conflicting with Christian teachings, our Masonic lessons always remind us first of our dependence upon God's grace, then proceed upon the basis of principles which we believe that all men of good will may recognize as fundamental to human existence. Our goal is the improvement of the life of each brother or Sir Knight, in the hope that he may be the better prepared to exert the talents wherewith God has blessed him, as well to His glory as to the welfare of all mankind.

No man, and no organization of men, can guarantee us that we will be fit for that inheritance in the world to come. We may hope and believe that our actions are a true reflection of our souls, but we know and understand that: *"Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven."* (**Matthew 7:21**) *"The Lord does not look at the things that man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* (**1 Samuel 16:7**).

May the blessings of our Lord and Saviour be and abide with each of you at Easter and throughout the year.



Fraternally and sincerely,

Richard T. Carnall
Grand commander

EASTER MESSAGE 2024

FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND PRELATE OF ILLINOIS, GARY W. SHEETS

TO SK RICHARD CARNELL

AND COMMANDERIES OF ILLINOIS WHERESOEVER DISPERSED

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Messiah), the Great Captain of our Salvation:

REMEMBER:

His humanity: from birth in Bethlehem, by way of Egypt, Nazareth, and Galilee.

His Ministry: From the declaration of John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!" His teachings, His Parables, His sermons, His miracles.

His Humility: He bent down to wash their feet.

His institution of the Last Supper, The Great Banquet, The Holy Eucharist.

His Agony: Gethsemane, the Betrayal, the Denial, the Great Desertion.

His Passion: The trials, The scourging, The Via Delarosa, The Crucifixion, The 7 Words of the Cross, His Death.

His Glorious Resurrection: Appearing to Mary, The Upper Room, The Road to Emmaus.

By His Stripes we are Healed! By His Example as we follow the World finds Peace and Hope.

Blessings to you as you continue your Pilgrimage to the poor and weary pilgrim, widows and orphans and other soldiers of the Cross.

Grace and Peace be yours in this Glorious Season of Faith and Opportunity!

SK Gary W. Sheets, Grand Prelate of Illinois

3/1/2024

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No. **2023-2024-1**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

DATE: **10/01/2023**

To the Commander of **Beaumanoir** Commandery No. **9**, K.T.

By the virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, believing that the welfare of Christian Knighthood may be thereby advanced, I do hereby grant my dispensation:

Authorizing Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9 located at 221 W. Williams St, Decatur, Illinois to move the Location of the Charter to 1650 Huston Dr. Decatur, Illinois.

Authorizing Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9 to move the Stated meetings to the same location.

Due and proper return of the action taken under this dispensation will be made on the back hereof and will be returned to the Grand Commander.

Given under my hand and seal, this October 1, 2023

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall

Grand Commander



GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No. **2023-2024-2**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

DATE: **11/08/2023**

To the Commander of **Rock Island** Commandery No. **18**, K.T.

By the virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, believing that the welfare of Christian Knighthood may be thereby advanced, I do hereby grant my dispensation:

Authorizing Rock Island Commandery No. 18 located at 404 W. 1st Ave, Milan, Illinois to move the Location of the Annual Inspection to 409 2nd Ave. Milan, Illinois.

Due and proper return of the action taken under this dispensation will be made on the back hereof and will be returned to the Grand Commander.

Given under my hand and seal, this November 8, 2023

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall

Grand Commander



RECORDERS NOTICE: this dispensation MUST be returned to the Grand Commander immediately after the authorizing date, giving full details on the reverse side of the action had under this authority.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No. **2023-2024-3**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

DATE: **8/1/2023**

To the Commander of Calvary Commandery No. 25, K.T.

By the virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, believing that the welfare of Christian Knighthood may be thereby advanced, I do hereby grant my dispensation:

Authorizing Calvary Commandery No. 25 located at 28 South Northwest Highway, Cary, Illinois to temporarily move their Stated Meetings for the Templar Year 8/2023 - 7/2024, to meet quarterly and on the second Saturday of the month.

Due and proper return of the action taken under this dispensation will be made on the back hereof and will be returned to the Grand Commander.

Given under my hand and seal, this August 1, 2023

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander



RECORDERS NOTICE: this dispensation MUST be returned to the Grand Commander immediately after the authorizing date, giving full details on the reverse side of the action had under this authority.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No. **2023-2024-4**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

DATE: **4/19/2024**

To the Commander of **Elwood** Commandery No.6, K.T.

By the virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, believing that the welfare of Christian Knighthood may be thereby advanced, I do hereby grant my dispensation:

Authorizing Elwood Commandery No. 6 located at 1020 Rickard Rd., Springfield, Illinois to move the Location of the Annual Inspection to 125 S. 5th St., Petersburg, Illinois.

Due and proper return of the action taken under this dispensation will be made on the back hereof and will be returned to the Grand Commander.

Given under my hand and seal, this April 19, 2024

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall

Grand Commander



RECORDERS NOTICE: this dispensation **MUST** be returned to the Grand Commander immediately after the authorizing date, giving full details on the reverse side of the action had under this authority.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

No. **2023-2024-5**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

DATE: **6/5/2024**

To the Commander of Urbana Commandery No. 16, K.T.

By the virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, believing that the welfare of Christian Knighthood may be thereby advanced, I do hereby grant my dispensation:

Authorizing Urban Commandery No. 16 located at 14 Bel Aire Court, Champaign, Illinois to hold a special election and installation for the position of Recorder and any other position created by this action.

Due and proper return of the action taken under this dispensation will be made on the back hereof and will be returned to the Grand Commander.

Given under my hand and seal, this June 5th A.D. 2024, A.O. 906

Richard T. Carnall

Richard T. Carnall
Grand Commander



RECORDERS NOTICE: this dispensation MUST be returned to the Grand Commander immediately after the authorizing date, giving full details on the reverse side of the action had under this authority.

Report of the Grand Recorder

As your Grand Recorder I submit the following report for the transactions of the Grand Recorder's Office from 1 June 2023 – 31 May 2024.

The Annual Returns are still currently being collected. It is very important that the Constituent Commandery Recorder update the MMS system in a timely manner to ensure that correct membership information is available. Currently seven Commanderies have not returned the Per Capita payment to this office for the year.

The Grand Commandery is currently maintaining the 100% Life Sponsorship status with the Knight Templar Eye Foundation on a quarterly basis. The Commanderies are billed for the Life Sponsorships on the Annual returns. Please do not send Life Sponsor payments to GEKT, this will avoid double billing.

I would like to thank all the Recorders for all the hard work they do. You are the engine that keeps the Commandery running.

Annual Statistical Report - Start: 6/1/2023 End: 5/31/2024
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar
Grand Commandery of Illinois
Stationed at Clinton, IL

Total Working Commanderies = 35

The following is a recapitulation of membership activity during the specified reporting period.

Total number members on last return =		<u>2,678</u>
Total number KNIGHTED =	<u>60</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>18</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>20</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)		<u>98</u>
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>40</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>50</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>129</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)		<u>219</u>
	Net Gain (Net Loss) =	<u>(121)</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>2,557</u>

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Living/Active Life Sponsors =	<u>2,536</u>	
Living/Active Associate Patrons =	<u>0</u>	
Living/Active Patrons =	<u>0</u>	
Total Deductions		<u>2,536</u>

Note: A "Living/Active" member may be counted only once for an Eye Foundation deduction even if the member has purchased multiples within a level or across levels.

Example: If member has 2 Life Sponsors, 1 Associate Patron and 3 Patrons he is counted as 1 in Life Sponsor or if member has 2 Associate Patrons and 1 Patron he is counted as 1 in Associate Patron.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF ILLINOIS 2023-2024

R. E. Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Sir Knights of the State of Illinois.

The following is a list of the Grand Representatives.

ALABAMA	DARYL W. SELOCK	PALATINE
ARIZONA	PRESSLY A. LAIRD	GRIGGSVILLE
ARKANSAS	EARL F. WYS	PEORIA
CALIFORNIA	WALTER A. DEMENT	DIXON
COLORADO	CRAIG C. STIMPERT	MORRIS
CONNECTICUT	CHRISTOPHER J. WHITNEY	DECATUR
DELAWARE		LAKE-IN-THE-HILLS
DIST OF COLUMBIA	DAVID HUTT	MARYVILLE
FLORIDA	D. MARC WILSON	SPRINGFIELD
GEORGIA	BERNARD A. NORTH	CLINTON
HAWAII	DERRIK HELFER	DECATUR
IDAHO	WILLIAM P. RAKES	OAK PARK
INDIANA	JOHN T. RIEDAS, SR	OAK FOREST
IOWA	MARVIN L. SELOCK	PALATINE
KANSAS		
KENTUCKY	CHARLES M. MILLS	KELL
LOUISIANA	GARY D. HERMANN	TREMONT
MAINE		WINDSOR
MARYLAND	GRANT O. KOENTZ	COLLINSVILLE
MASS. & RHODE ISLAND	JAMES W. PATTON	DOWNERS GROVE
MICHIGAN	WILLIAM E. JEGEN	WHEATON
MINNESOTA	ROBERT G. MINTON	CHAMPAIGN
MISSISSIPPI	GREGORY R. KLEMM	OLIVE BRANCH, MS
MISSOURI	MARK A. KEAGLE	CLINTON
MONTANA	JAMIE EMERY	OQUAWKA
NEBRASKA	JOHN M. SANSONE	OAK LAWN
NEVADA	H. WAYNE HOFFMAN	DELAVAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE	WILLIAM H. POOLE, JR.	JOLIET
NEW JERSEY	WAYNE CLARK	SPRINGFIELD
NEW MEXICO	RICHARD T. CARNALL	COUNTRYSIDE
NEW YORK	RUSSELL L. SCHLOSSER	ROLING MEADOWS
NORTH CAROLINA	BRUCE W. RHINEHART	BRIDGEPORT
NORTH DAKOTA	CHARLES E. HILEMAN, JR.	COLLINSVILLE
OHIO	WILLIAM J. FARRIS	ROCKFORD
OKLAHOMA	WENDELL E. WALCH	SPRINGFIELD
OREGON	SEAN MCBRIDE	DANVILLE
PENNSYLVANIA	DON COWART	NAPERVILLE
PHILIPPINES	ROLANDO V. GANGE	ADDISON
SOUTH CAROLINA	DANNY L. GADDIS, JR.	JOLIET
SOUTH DAKOTA	ENRIQUE UNANUE	SPRINGFIELD
TENNESSEE	JESSE L. JOHNS, SR.	CLINTON
TEXAS	STEPHAN T. ADAMSON	ROMEOVILLE
UTAH	ORVILLE SHOEMAKER	DIXON
VERMONT	WILLIAM J. SMITH	CHICAGO
VIRGINIA	FRANK H. WELTER, SR.	CHICAGO
WASHINGTON	JOSEPH W. LUCAS	MT. PULASKI
WEST VIRGINIA	JOHNATHAN E. BARNES	CHICAGO
WISCONSIN	STANLEY P. BOYD	WHEATON
WYOMING	ROBERT K. CRONK	ROCK CITY

That is the roll call of the Grand Representatives to other States.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, PGC, Grand Recorder**

REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers and Sir Knights of Illinois

The Grand Commandery Investment Committee met on June 18th, 2024, to review the Grand Commandery's investments accounts with our Broker, Raymond James. EGT John Sansone and Adam Hawk, our investment advisor, reviewed the portfolio performance of the Grand Commandery investment accounts and the Performance by Account Summary included in this and the Treasurer's Report.

The Grand Commandery Investment Funds include:

- General Account
- Fiscal Officers Fund
- Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund
- Graff Memorial Fund
- Jones Permanent Fund
- Phillips Fund
- Life Membership Fund

The Grand Commandery investment accounts are subject to current market fluctuations. Given the uncertainty caused by the unknown actions of the Federal Reserve and the Economy in general, the Committee chose to authorize our investment advisor to make minor adjustments to our portfolio. This Committee recommends that the next Committee meet in or about September of 2024 to review the status of our investments, investment policy statements and make any adjustments deemed necessary at that time.

The Performance by Account Summaries are provided in the Treasurer's Report and lists the Beginning and Ending Market Values and Annualized Returns for each fund since their inception. A fiscal year end report from Raymond James is attached and included with this Committee report. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for additional details.

Right Eminent Grand Commander, I move for the approval of the Investment Committee Report

Respectfully Submitted,

Investment Committee Members

Joseph W. Lucas, REPGC Chairman

William E. Jegen, REPGC

Max E. Guthrie, KTCH, EPC



Financial Strategy Meeting

Prepared for **Grand Commandery Knights**

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

(Toll-free) 866.420.6694

HilltopWealthManagement.com

Agenda

- Life Changes and Planning Goals
- Investor Access Aggregation/Vault Update
- Net Worth Statement Review
- Portfolio Review/Market Update
- Taxes/RMDs/Charitable Intentions/529 Contributions/Concentrated Positions
- Insurance/Estate Planning
- Next Meeting/Introductions

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Report Listing

Report Name	Page
Hilltop Custom Report Prev Day	4
Asset Allocation	6
Performance by Account	8
Projected Cash Flow	9
Performance By Period	10
Additional Information	11

Account Listing

Raymond James	Account Number	Account Type	Market Value (\$)
Fiscal Officers Fund	xxxxx685	Company	111,821.92
General Account - Dividend & Income	xxxxx355	Company	248,777.10
Graff Memorial Fund	xxxxx280	Company	38,522.23
Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund	xxxxx805	Company	10,469.12
Jones Permanent Fund	xxxxx077	Company	70,284.39
Life Membership RJ Equity Inc AEQIT	xxxxx731	Company	342,404.32
Phillips Fund Hilltop Div & Income	xxxxx993	Company	133,946.22
Total Market Value			\$956,225.30
Total Portfolio			\$956,225.30

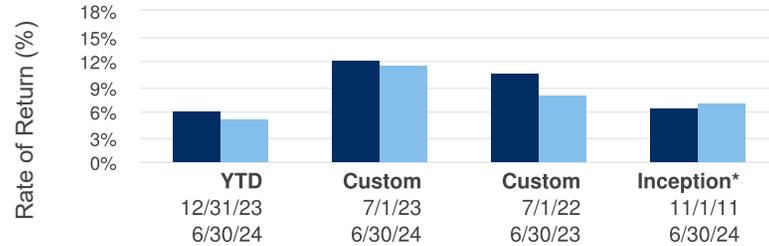
Hilltop Custom Report Prev Day as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Portfolio Performance

Time-Weighted (Net of Fees)

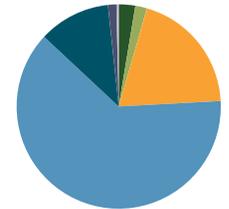


	12/31/23 6/30/24	7/1/23 6/30/24	7/1/22 6/30/23	11/1/11 6/30/24
Grand Commandery Knights	6.38%	12.43%	10.84%	6.61%
Custom Blended Benchmark 1^	5.37%	11.55%	8.26%	7.14%
S&P 500 Total Return Indx	15.29%	24.56%	18.34%	14.75%
Bloomberg U.S. Agg Bd	(0.71%)	2.63%	(1.53%)	1.57%

*Returns are annualized. ^See Additional Information for benchmark details.

Asset Allocation

	Market Value (\$)	% of Portfolio
Cash & Cash Alternatives	42,755.46	4.47%
Cash*	25,021.66	2.62%
Cash Alternatives	17,733.80	1.85%
Fixed Income	188,127.09	19.67%
Equity	721,993.50	75.50%
U.S. Equity	600,534.10	62.80%
Non U.S. Equity	108,851.55	11.38%
Real Estate	12,519.31	1.31%
Equity Other	88.54	0.01%
Alternative Investments	1,498.79	0.16%
Allocation Strategies	0.00	0.00%
Non-Classified	1,850.46	0.19%
Total Portfolio	\$956,225.30	100%



Packaged products may be represented across multiple asset classes.

*\$14,863.65 is held in cash and cash sweep products

Asset Growth

	YTD 12/31/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/22 6/30/23	Inception 11/1/11 6/30/24
Beginning Market Value	\$931,167.40	\$877,954.92	\$829,624.59	\$57,047.15
Contributions/ Withdrawals	(\$33,605.18)	(\$30,605.18)	(\$39,334.44)	\$343,960.98
Income	\$13,506.11	\$37,151.30	\$37,898.45	\$394,255.38
Change in Market Value	\$45,156.99	\$71,724.27	\$49,766.33	\$160,961.81
Ending Market Value	\$956,225.31	\$956,225.31	\$877,954.92	\$956,225.31
Investment Results	\$58,663.10	\$108,875.57	\$87,664.78	\$555,217.18

Value Over Time

12/31/11 - 6/30/24



Hilltop Custom Report Prev Day as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Asset Class Performance Summary

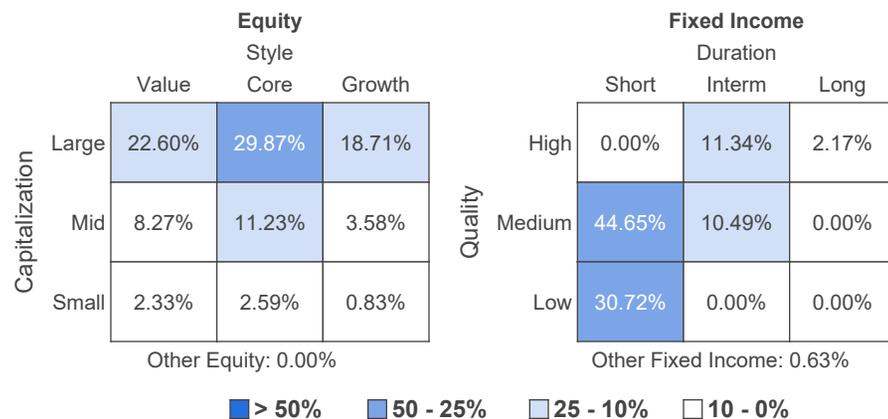
	Start Date	Current Market Value	YTD 12/31/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/22 6/30/23	Inception* Inception 6/30/24
Cash & Cash Alternatives	12/31/15	\$14,863.65	1.31%	2.13%	1.11%	(0.35%)
Fixed Income	12/31/15	\$156,886.69	2.48%	8.48%	3.63%	3.38%
Equity	12/31/15	\$686,376.95	8.36%	15.38%	15.15%	10.71%
Alternative Investments	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Allocation Strategies	12/31/15	\$98,098.02	4.58%	10.73%	6.43%	6.07%
Non-Classified	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Returns are annualized for periods greater than one year.
The inception date on the report may be different than the actual account inception date.

Top 10 Holdings

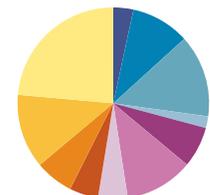
	Symbol/ CUSIP	Market Value (\$)	% of Portfolio
VANGUARD DIVIDEND GROWTH INV	VDIGX	42,485.50	4.45%
MICROSOFT CORP	MSFT	39,521.92	4.14%
BLACKROCK MULTI-ASSET INCOME	BIICX	38,741.85	4.06%
CARILLON EAGLE GROWTH & INCOME I	HIGJX	34,980.74	3.66%
VANGUARD DIVIDEND APPRECIATION	VIG	31,033.50	3.25%
AMERICAN FUNDS CAPITAL INCOME	CAIFX	30,909.30	3.24%
VANGUARD S&P 500 ETF	VOO	29,007.54	3.04%
PRINCIPAL SPECTRUM PREF&CPTL	PPSIX	28,604.09	3.00%
AMERICAN FUNDS INTL GR AND INC F2	IGFFX	27,053.61	2.83%
APPLE INC	AAPL	25,983.67	2.72%

Style Analysis



Equity Sector Allocation

	Market Value (\$)	% of Equity
Basic Materials	24,597.88	3.41%
Consumer Cyclical	71,258.21	9.87%
Financial Services	100,446.16	13.91%
Real Estate	14,163.37	1.96%
Consumer Defensive	49,819.09	6.90%
Healthcare	83,338.45	11.54%
Utilities	35,940.12	4.98%
Communication Services	35,172.58	4.87%
Energy	46,702.43	6.47%
Industrials	90,396.98	12.52%
Technology	170,149.11	23.57%
Other	0.00	0.00%



Total Portfolio **\$721,984.38** **100%**

Packaged products may be represented across multiple equity sectors.

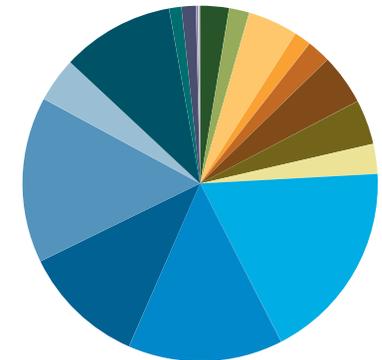
Asset Allocation as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Asset Allocation Summary

	Market Value (\$)	% of Portfolio
Cash & Cash Alternatives	42,755.46	4.47%
■ Cash*	25,021.66	2.62%
■ Cash Alternatives	17,733.80	1.85%
Fixed Income	188,127.08	19.67%
■ Investment Grade Long Maturity Fixed Income	43,504.84	4.55%
■ Investment Grade Intermediate Maturity Fixed Income	14,956.36	1.56%
■ Investment Grade Short Maturity Fixed Income	20,530.49	2.15%
■ Non-Investment Grade Fixed Income	44,215.99	4.62%
■ Non-U.S. Fixed Income	38,929.39	4.07%
■ Multi-Sector Fixed Income Strategies	1.57	0.00%
■ Fixed Income Other	25,988.44	2.72%
Equity	721,993.50	75.50%
■ U.S. Large Cap Blend	175,120.53	18.31%
■ U.S. Large Cap Value	134,841.10	14.10%
■ U.S. Large Cap Growth	107,450.40	11.24%
■ U.S. Mid Cap Equity	144,479.55	15.11%
■ U.S. Small Cap Equity	38,524.60	4.03%
■ Non-U.S. Developed Market Equity	98,239.23	10.27%
■ Non-U.S. Emerging Market Equity	10,612.31	1.11%
■ Real Estate	12,519.31	1.31%
■ Equity Other	206.47	0.02%
Alternative Investments	1,498.79	0.16%
■ Alternative Strategies	1,498.79	0.16%



* \$14,863.65 is held in cash and cash sweep products

Asset Allocation as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Asset Allocation Summary *(continued)*

	Market Value (\$)	% of Portfolio
Allocation Strategies	0.00	0.00%
■ Non-Classified	1,850.46	0.19%
Total Portfolio	\$956,225.30	100%

Packaged products may be represented across multiple asset classes.

Performance by Account as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Performance by Account Summary

Time-Weighted (Net of Fees)

	Open Date / (Close Date)	Market Value	YTD 12/31/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/23 6/30/24	Custom 7/1/22 6/30/23	2023 12/31/22 12/31/23	Since Inception* Inception 6/30/24
Fiscal Officers Fund // xxxxx685	7/6/12	\$111,821.92	10.23%	16.49%	22.71%	30.56%	9.08%
General Account - Dividend & Income // xxxxx355	11/1/11	\$248,777.10	6.69%	13.61%	13.07%	14.49%	6.31%
Graff Memorial Fund // xxxxx280	10/24/19	\$38,522.23	6.79%	13.08%	10.73%	16.24%	7.76%
Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund // xxxxx805	7/6/12	\$10,469.12	8.81%	13.97%	7.28%	12.60%	5.55%
Jones Permanent Fund // xxxxx077	10/25/19	\$70,284.40	6.86%	13.03%	10.33%	15.68%	7.52%
Life Membership RJ Equity Inc AEQIT // xxxxx731	8/16/13	\$342,404.32	4.59%	9.67%	5.46%	7.63%	5.99%
Phillips Fund Hilltop Div & Income // xxxxx993	7/6/12	\$133,946.23	6.68%	13.43%	13.67%	14.18%	6.99%
Total Portfolio	11/1/11	\$956,225.31	6.38%	12.43%	10.84%	13.42%	6.61%

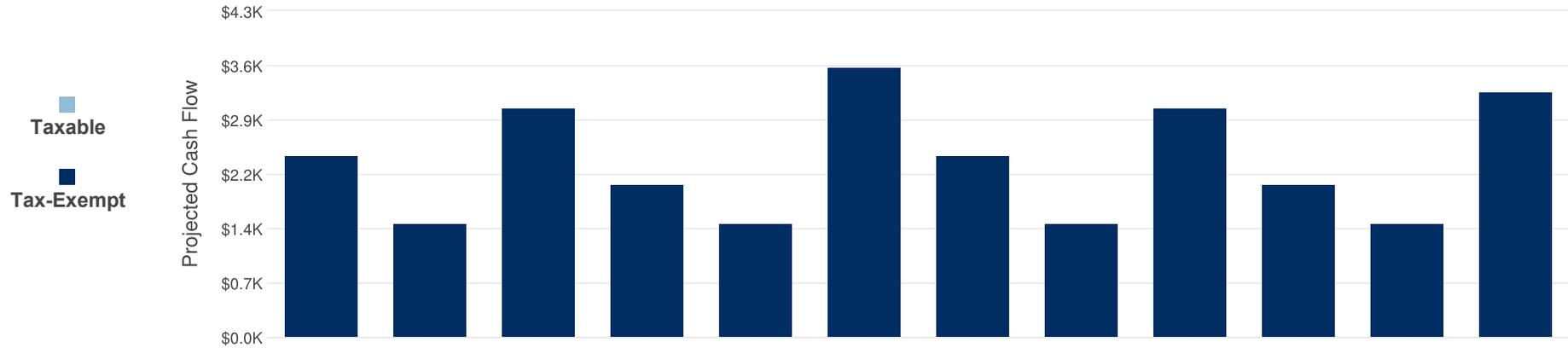
*Returns are annualized for periods greater than one year.

Projected Cash Flow as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Projected Cash Flow Summary



	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Projected Total
Tax-Exempt: Dividend	2,428	1,524	3,074	2,053	1,524	3,610	2,428	1,524	3,074	2,053	1,524	3,294	\$28,110
Tax-Exempt: Interest	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$37
Total Portfolio	\$2,431	\$1,527	\$3,077	\$2,056	\$1,527	\$3,613	\$2,431	\$1,527	\$3,077	\$2,056	\$1,527	\$3,297	\$28,147

Annual Yield calculation is inclusive of all client holdings.

Performance by Year as of Jun 30, 2024

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

	Beginning Market Value	Contributions/ Withdrawals	Income	Change in Market Value	Ending Market Value	Investment Results	Time-Weighted (Net of Fees) Performance	Annualized* Performance
Total Portfolio	\$101,895.65	\$300,224.84	\$393,220.77	\$160,884.06	\$956,225.31	\$554,104.82		6.61%
Year to Date (12/31/2023 - 6/30/2024)	\$931,167.40	(\$33,605.18)	\$13,506.11	\$45,156.99	\$956,225.31	\$58,663.10	6.38%	6.61%
2023	\$856,828.79	(\$36,334.44)	\$35,059.91	\$75,613.14	\$931,167.40	\$110,673.05	13.42%	6.34%
2022	\$942,257.12	\$2,194.98	\$38,901.25	(\$126,524.57)	\$856,828.79	(\$87,623.32)	(9.29%)	5.72%
2021	\$797,801.17	\$3,000.00	\$42,777.67	\$98,678.29	\$942,257.12	\$141,455.96	17.42%	7.35%
2020	\$782,990.02	(\$22,980.70)	\$25,867.72	\$11,924.13	\$797,801.17	\$37,791.85	5.15%	6.29%
2019	\$666,040.03	(\$16,527.41)	\$35,579.23	\$97,898.17	\$782,990.02	\$133,477.40	20.23%	6.43%
2018	\$740,041.83	(\$21,701.34)	\$46,840.07	(\$99,140.54)	\$666,040.03	(\$52,300.47)	(7.23%)	4.59%
2017	\$665,670.61	(\$14,331.62)	\$32,703.03	\$55,999.82	\$740,041.83	\$88,702.84	13.53%	6.71%
2016	\$612,147.70	(\$8,696.37)	\$27,257.50	\$34,961.78	\$665,670.61	\$62,219.28	10.33%	5.39%
2015	\$654,420.64	(\$6,007.98)	\$32,694.60	(\$68,959.56)	\$612,147.70	(\$36,264.96)	(5.59%)	4.20%
2014	\$621,582.95	(\$5,853.84)	\$34,159.72	\$4,531.81	\$654,420.64	\$38,691.53	6.28%	7.67%
2013	\$262,581.20	\$305,603.90	\$20,570.95	\$32,826.90	\$621,582.95	\$53,397.85	12.40%	8.37%
2012 (12/31/2011 - 12/31/2012)	\$101,895.65	\$155,464.84	\$7,303.01	(\$2,082.30)	\$262,581.20	\$5,220.71	4.52%	4.50%

*Returns are annualized for periods greater than one year.

Additional Information Regarding This Report

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

This report should not be used as a substitute for your monthly statement, 1099 or to determine taxability. Changes in tax laws may occur at any time and could have a substantial impact upon each person's situation. While we are familiar with the tax provisions of the issues presented herein, we are not qualified to render advice on tax or legal matters. The information in this report has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed.

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Alex.Brown a division of Raymond James.

The account listing may or may not include all of your accounts with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. This report is comprised of data from the following accounts: xxxxx685, xxxxx355, xxxxx280, xxxxx805, xxxxx077, xxxxx731, xxxxx993

Some reports have been excluded from this package due to no data available.

Report ID: a_303315_1719806400000_1719860077651000_00001of00001-CBM

Performance

The performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Performance is depicted using the Time-Weighted method for the entire period.

Time-Weighted - The geometric (compounded) return measured on the basis of periodic market valuations of assets. If applicable, the return includes the effects of leverage. Unlike the dollar-weighted method, it minimizes the impact of cash flows on the rate of return; however, in principle it requires valuations to be made on the occasion of each cash flow. Approximation to this measure can be obtained by prorating cash flows to successive valuation points or by computing internal rates of return between valuation points. If there are no interim cash flows, the time-weighted return, compounded annually determines the entire value of an investment.

Returns are calculated net of fees.

Annualized refers to the annualized return from the inception date of the account, or the selected beginning date when using the date-to-date functionality.

If the program date was chosen and not available then the account inception date will be shown.

Managed Account Performance- In order for managers to track real time cash in managed AMS accounts, certain activity may not reflect the actual transaction dates and market values may differ from what is reported on client statements. The Time-Weighted Total Equity and Time-Weighted All Cash returns are the same for these accounts.

Partial time period returns have been included in the performance calculations displayed. For time

periods where the return is not inclusive of the full date range, the timeframe has been adjusted.

All performance figures exclude unpriced securities (including securities of indeterminate value), limited partnerships (other than limited partnerships classified as Alternative Investments and appearing in that section of your statement).

Dividends are not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

The CFA Institute has not been involved with the preparation or review of this statement.

Accounts that have been closed may be included in the consolidated performance report. When closed accounts are included in the consolidated report, the performance report will only include information for the time period the account was active during the consolidated performance reporting time period.

Accounts with Real Time Cash may have cash values updated throughout the day, note that this may cause a difference in account values between performance and holdings reports.

Securities Information

Non-proprietary annuity values will show as contributions on the date they became available to the Portfolio Performance system. They are included through the selected calculation ending date. Prior inclusion of these values in the rate of return calculation is not available.

Raymond James Certificates of Deposit values will show as contributions on the date they became available to the Portfolio Performance system. They are included through the selected calculation ending date. Prior inclusion of these values in the rate of return calculation is not available.

Values include accrued income. Values are based on trade date accounting method.

Additional Information Regarding This Report

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Morningstar equity information as of (June 28, 2024)

Morningstar mutual fund and annuity information as of (June 11, 2024)

Morningstar 529 information as of (June 20, 2024)

Raymond James and Morningstar data are subject to the availability of the fund filings as well as internal analysis and may not represent real-time allocations.

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This analysis is for informational purposes only and is intended to be used as part of a complete portfolio review with your financial advisor. The data provided in the asset allocation analysis is subject to inherent limitations and is not guaranteed to represent actual asset class exposure(s) within your account(s) at the time of calculation. See raymondjames.com/asset-allocation/faq to learn more. Raymond James and Morningstar data are subject to the availability of fund filings as well as internal analysis and may not represent real-time allocations.

Amounts are projected over the next 12 months and do not reflect actual cash flows.

Positions that do not produce income are not included on this report; however, they are included as part of the total estimated annual yield calculation.

Projected income amounts are estimated using current positions, rates and market values. Variable rate income projection is based on the current coupon or rate available and may change without notice. Any change in coupon or rate will affect the estimate and cannot be guaranteed.

The sum of the income values may not equal total value due to rounding.

Factored securities are separated into principal and interest amounts. Both are displayed whether or not they have projected income.

Due to missing payment dates, payment frequency, or both, actual payments may appear on months other than the ones represented on this report.

The values quoted represents past values and do not guarantee future results, there is no assurance these trends will continue.

An investment in a money market fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Although these funds seek to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in them.

Short positions and negative cash values are not included in the allocation.

Clients should not rely on this information in making purchase or sell decisions, for tax purposes or otherwise. Rely only on year-end tax forms when preparing your tax return.

While sources used for pricing publicly traded securities are considered reliable, the prices displayed on your statement may be based on actual trades, bid/ask information or vendor evaluations. As such, the prices displayed on your statement may or may not reflect actual trade prices you would receive in the current market. Pricing for non-publicly traded securities is obtained from a variety of sources, which may include issuer-provided information. Raymond James does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability, completeness or attainability of this information. Investment decisions should be made only after contacting your Financial Advisor.

The Estimated Annual Income (EAI) and Estimated Income Yield (EIY) provided on this report are an estimate of the income a security will distribute during the year. These figures should not be confused with actual cash flows, investment yields or investment returns. Actual income or yield may be lower or higher than the estimated amounts. A number of factors may influence the actual income or yield that is received. The amount or frequency of an issuers dividend may fluctuate or cease, which may cause the income and or yield of the security to fluctuate. EIY reflects only the income generated by an investment. It does not reflect changes in its price, which may fluctuate. EAI and EIY for certain types of securities could include a return of principal or capital gains which could overstate the EAI and EIY. Information used to calculate Estimated Annual Income and or Estimated Income Yield may be obtained from third party sources and Raymond James cannot guarantee the accuracy of such information. Estimated Annual Income and or Estimated Income Yield amounts should not be used as a financial planning tool.

Within certain packaged products (for example, open-ended mutual funds, closed-ended mutual funds and exchange traded funds), any fixed income security held in the product portfolio is affected by several risks, including, without limitation, interest rate, prepayment, and credit related risks. Any rise (fall) in interest rates may reduce (increase) the value of the investment. An overview of these and other risks is available at raymondjames.com, finra.org, emma.msrb.org, and investigatingbonds.com.

Packaged products may be represented across multiple asset classes.

Fixed Income

Fixed income securities, including brokered CDs, are priced using evaluations, which may be matrix- or model-based, and do not necessarily reflect actual trades. These price evaluations suggest current estimated market values, which may be significantly higher or lower than the amount you would pay (receive) in an actual purchase (sale) of the security. These estimates, which are obtained from various sources, assume normal market conditions and are based on large volume transactions. Market prices of fixed income securities may be affected by several risks, including without limitation: interest rate risk - a rise (fall) in interest rates may reduce (increase) the value of your investment, default or credit risk - the issuers ability to make interest

Additional Information Regarding This Report

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

and principal payments, and illiquidity risk - the inability to sell bonds promptly prior to maturity with minimal loss of principal. An overview of these and other risks is available at raymondjames.com, finra.org, emma.msrb.org, and investinginbonds.com.

Investors interested in regular updates about individual municipal securities can sign up on EMMA (emma.msrb.org) to receive e-mail alerts when disclosure documents are posted on the website. Investors who track particular bonds identified by their unique "CUSIP" numbers can receive an e-mail notification from EMMA every time a new disclosure document is posted for that security. These documents can include annual and other periodic financial filings, operating data and other types of material events. To sign up for an alert, enter a nine-digit CUSIP number into the "Muni Search" function of EMMA.

Securities ratings, provided by independent nationally recognized statistical organizations, also called Ratings Agencies, are appraisals of the financial stability of a particular issuer and its ability to pay income and return principal on your investment. Although they can assist investors in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer, ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold a security, nor do ratings remove market risk. In addition, ratings are subject to review, revision, suspension, reduction or withdrawal at any time, and any of these changes in ratings may affect the current market value of your investment. A Rating Agency may also place an issuer under review or credit watch which may be another indicator of a future rating change. Generally, higher yields and/or lower ratings reflect higher perceived credit risk. News events relating to a particular issuer may generally impact the market price, and consequently the yield, of that issuer's securities, even if their rating has not yet changed. Securities with the same rating can actually trade at significantly different prices. The absence of a rating may indicate that the issuer has not requested a rating evaluation, insufficient data exists on the issuer to derive a rating, or that a rating request was denied or removed. Non-rated securities are speculative in nature and are less liquid. Raymond James trade confirmations, online accounts and monthly statements display only the ratings of those Rating Agencies to which Raymond James subscribes. For more information on ratings, please visit moody.com, standardandpoors.com and fitchratings.com. Individual investors may request Moody's and/or S&P credit reports from their financial advisors. Additionally, Fitch reports are available for municipal bonds.

Certificates of Deposit (CDs) purchased through a securities broker and held in a brokerage account are considered deposits with the issuing institution and are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company (FDIC), an independent agency of the U.S. government. FDIC insurance covers up to \$250,000 (including principal and interest) for deposits held in different ownership categories, including single accounts, joint accounts, trust accounts, IRAs, and certain other retirement accounts, per issuer. If you purchased this CD at a premium to par, the premium is not FDIC insured. Certificate of Deposit Disclosure Statement is available at raymondjames.com/liquid.htm. For more information, please visit fdic.gov.

Mortgage-backed securities and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs) are priced based on average life. The actual maturity date may be shorter than stated. For more information, please review FINRA's Investor's Guide to Mortgage Securities and CMOs at finra.org.

Foreign bonds are subject to additional risks, including without limitation, currency fluctuations, differing accounting standards, political and economic instability, and changes in tax laws. The cost basis for Original Issue Discount (OID) bonds and municipal bonds purchased at a premium may or may not have been adjusted using the constant yield method, providing an approximation of the adjusted cost basis and unrealized gains or losses. Cost basis information is displayed for your information only and should not be relied upon for tax reporting purposes. You should consult your tax advisor to ensure proper tax reporting.

Additional Information Regarding This Report

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Benchmark Information

Bloomberg U.S. Agg Bd - The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond index is a measure of the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable bond market of roughly 6,000 SEC-registered securities with intermediate maturities averaging approximately 10 years. The index includes bonds from the Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, MBS, ABS, and CMBS sectors.

S&P 500 Total Return Indx - The S&P 500 Index Total Return is a broad-based measurement of changes in stock market conditions based on the average performance of 500 widely held common stocks. It consists of 400 industrial, 40 utility, 20 transportation, and 40 financial companies listed on U.S. market exchanges. This is a capitalization-weighted calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The S&P represents about 75% of the NYSE market capitalization.

Custom Blended Benchmark 1

S&P 500 Total Return Indx 25%, Russell 2000 (TR) Indx 10%, MSCI Emerging Mkts (Net Div) 5%, MSCI EAFE (Net Div) 15%, Bloomberg Commodity Indx (TR) 5%, Bloomberg U.S. CP HY Bd 5%, Bloomberg U.S. Agg Bd 25%, Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT 5%, Bloomberg U.S. Gov 1-3 Yr 5% - The S&P 500 Index Total Return is a broad-based measurement of changes in stock market conditions based on the average performance of 500 widely held common stocks. It consists of 400 industrial, 40 utility, 20 transportation, and 40 financial companies listed on U.S. market exchanges. This is a capitalization-weighted calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The S&P represents about 75% of the NYSE market capitalization.

The Russell 2000 Index covers 2000 of the smallest companies in the Russell 3000 index, which ranks the 3000 largest U.S. companies by market capitalization. The Russell 2000 represents approximately 10% of the Russell 3000 total market capitalization. This Index includes the effects of reinvested dividends.

MSCI Emerging Markets Net Dividend is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. As of December 31, 2010, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index consists of the following 21 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey. **MSCI Total Return Index:** Measures the price performance of markets with the income from constituent dividend payments. The MSCI Daily Total Return (DTR) Methodology reinvests an index constituent's dividends at the close of trading on the day the security is quoted ex-dividend (the ex-date). With Gross Dividends and With Net Dividends are the two variant calculations of MSCI Total Return Indices.

MSCI EAFE Net Dividend is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets, excluding the United States & Canada. As of June 2007 the MSCI EAFE Index consisted of the following 21 developed market countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. (Total Return Index) - With Net Dividends: Approximates the minimum possible dividend reinvestment. The dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax, applying the rate to non-resident individuals who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. MSCI Barra uses withholding tax rates applicable to Luxembourg holding companies, as Luxembourg applies the highest rates.

The Bloomberg Commodity Index tracks prices of futures contracts on physical commodities on the commodity markets. The index is designed to minimize concentration in any one commodity or sector. It currently has 22 commodity futures in seven sectors. No one commodity can compose less than 2% or more than 15% of the index, and no sector can represent more than 33% of the index (as of the annual weightings of the components). The weightings for each commodity included in Bloomberg Commodity Index are calculated in accordance with rules that ensure that the relative proportion of each of the underlying individual commodities reflects its global economic significance and market liquidity. Annual rebalancing and reweighting ensure that diversity is maintained over time.

The Bloomberg US CP High Yld Bond index covers all fixed rate, non-investment grade debt, including corporate (both US and non-US Industrial, Utility, and Finance), and non-corporate sectors. Also included, Canadian and Global Bonds-(SEC registered, and issuers in non-emerging market countries), original issue zeroes, step-up coupon structures, and 144-As. Exclusions are Pay-in-kind bonds, Eurobonds, debt issues from emerging market countries, structured notes with embedded swaps or other special features, private placements, and floating rate securities. Must be publicly issued, dollar denominated, non-convertible, rated high-yield or lower by at least two of the following: Moody's, S&P, or Fitch. Unrated bonds, although a small number, are included but must have previously held a high yield rating or been associated with a high yield issuer, and must trade accordingly. As well, there must be at least 1 year left to maturity, and an outstanding par value of at least \$150 million.

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond index is a measure of the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable bond market of roughly 6,000 SEC-registered securities with intermediate maturities averaging approximately 10 years. The index includes bonds from the Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, MBS, ABS, and CMBS sectors.

Additional Information Regarding This Report

Grand Commandery Knights

HILLTOP WEALTH MANAGEMENT

A measurement of equity REITs and Real Estate Operating Companies. No special-purpose or health care REITs are included. It is weighted by full float-adjusted market capitalization for which returns are calculated monthly using buy and hold methodology; it is re-balanced monthly.

The Bloomberg U.S. Government 1-3 Year index is composed of agency and Treasury securities with maturities of one to three years and includes the reinvestment of dividends.

2024 Grand Commandery of Illinois
Public Relations Report

June 28, 2024

Sir Knights,

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois', Phillips Charity Fund Committee have unanimously approved the following charitable donations from said fund for this fiscal year.

Illinois DeMolay...\$4000.00
Illinois Rainbow for Girls...\$4000.00
Illinois Job's Daughter's...\$4000.00
Illinois Knights Templar Outreach Assistance...\$4000.00

Total...\$16,000.00

Fraternally,

Sean P. McBride, EGG
Phillips Charity Fund Chairman

Members:

Don J. Cowart, EGCG
Christopher J. Whitney, EGSW
John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT (Ex-Officio)
Mark A. Keagle, REPGC, EGR (Ex-Officio)

Knight Templar Eye Foundation

Sir Knights,

It is my honor to once again submit Knight Templar Eye Foundation activity report for the year ending December 31, 2023.

Overall Grand Encampment Ranking - #3 for Overall Cumulative Contributions + Trusts + Wills

This is the same ranking as last year, although Illinois' total donation amount was higher.

A true testament to the generosity of Illinois Knight Templars. This includes all 50 States and International Jurisdictions.

Rankings of Individual Commanderies in Illinois

#1 Overall Cumulative Donations - Bethel #36 in Palatine, Illinois

#1 Active Per Capita Member Average - Urbana #16 in Urbana, Illinois

#1 Cumulative Contributions + Wills + Trusts - Elwood #6 in Springfield, Illinois

Congratulations to these outstanding Commanderies for their generous donations!

However, every Commandery and every Sir Knight that donates even a single penny, is a valiant and noble

warrior in the battle against the loss of a Childs eyesight.

God Bless and good work to all...

S.K. Don Cowart, GCG

State Chairman, KTEF

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Knight Templar Scholarship Fund Committee met to review the applications for scholarships this year. The Committee reviewed ten (10) applications and approved (9) nine.

The nine (9) recipients for this year are:

Sadie Newton

Susan Pickett (2nd year)

William Henderson (2nd year)

Laura Kriehauser

Allie Percy

Nina Hernandez

Kathryn Eisenmenger (2nd year)

Stephanie Green

Canden Hemrich (2nd year)

I wish to thank all of the Committee members for their time and effort.

Illinois Knights Templar Education Foundation Committee

Jeff Estes, GWB, EPC Chairman

Mark Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR

Douglas Niewold, EPC

William J. Smith, KCT, REPGC

William J. Farris, KCT, REPGC

Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee

Greetings Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois from your Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee.

The trip for this year was cancelled. We now have more time to truly get prepared for the next pilgrimage. I recommend that each division select and turn in one pilgrim application. I also recommend that we create a challenge coin to use as a fund raiser and increase our exposure!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Sheets, KTCH, EPC Chairman

Don J. Cowart, EGCG

Charles Hileman, KCT, REPGC

William J. Farris, KCT, REPGC

Douglas Niewald, EPC

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS

To the Grand Commander, Other Officers, and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, your committee is pleased to make the following report.

Two constituent commanderies have submitted amendments to their existing bylaws for approval. They are as follows:

1. Mizpah, No. 53, voted to amend its bylaws by changing the time of its conclaves from the second and fourth Friday to only the second Friday of each month. Your committee notes that this Section 1 of Article II includes some verbiage that is superfluous in that only one of the possible holiday conflicts (Good Friday) recited could possibly ever occur on a second Friday. We would hope that another section would dispose of that scenario with either the selection of a contingent date or cancellation of the April conclave. This commandery also voted to amend Section 2 of Article II by changing its annual conclave to the second Friday of May. Your committee recommends that these changes be approved.

2. Beauseant, No. 86, voted to amend Section 3 of its bylaws by changing the date of its stated conclaves to the third Wednesday of March, June, September, and December and the date of its annual conclave to the third Wednesday of May. This commandery also voted to amend Section 14 by setting its fees for the orders at \$110.00 and at \$90.00 for candidates joining three York Rite bodies at the same time, both fee amounts including the \$30.00 to become a Life Sponsor in the Eye Foundation. Your committee recommends that these changes be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles E. Hileman, Jr., PGC, Chairman
Jamie A. Emery, DGC
Sean P. McBride, GG
Enrique J. Unanue, PGC

Membership Committee

To: The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois

Good Morning Sir Knights,

It is my honor and privilege to present this annual report on behalf of the Membership Committee. Over the past year, our committee has worked diligently to promote membership growth, enhance communication, and foster active participation within our Commanderies. As we reflect on our achievements and challenges, I wish to present several key initiatives and recommendations aimed at strengthening our Order and ensuring its continued prosperity.

1. Keeping the Membership Committee Updated on Emails of the Recorders of the Subordinate Commanderies. One of the fundamental aspects of maintaining an effective and efficient membership committee is ensuring seamless communication. Accurate and up-to-date contact information for Recorders of the subordinate Commanderies is crucial in this regard. To achieve this, we recommend implementing one or more of the following steps:

Quarterly Updates: Establish a quarterly review process where Recorders are required to confirm or update their contact details. This can be facilitated through an online form, ensuring a quick and easy process.

Centralized Database: Develop and maintain a centralized, secure database accessible to all members of the Membership Committee. This will enable us to have real-time access to the most current contact information.

Automated Notifications: Implement an automated notification system to alert committee members when changes in contact information occur. This will ensure that all members are promptly informed of any updates. By maintaining accurate and current email addresses, we can significantly improve our communication efforts, ensuring that important information and updates reach all relevant parties in a timely manner.

2. Notifying Membership Committee Members of Membership Growth, Participation, and Suspensions. To effectively monitor and manage the health of our membership, it is essential to keep the committee informed about various membership metrics. Regular updates on growth, participation, and suspensions will enable us to identify trends, address issues proactively, and celebrate our successes. The following measures are recommended:

Monthly Reports: Generate and distribute monthly reports detailing membership statistics, including new members, active participation rates, and any suspensions or demits. These reports should be concise, easy to read, and highlight key trends.

Interactive Dashboards: Develop an interactive dashboard accessible to all committee members. This dashboard should provide real-time data and visualizations, allowing for easy tracking of membership metrics over time.

Highlight Success Stories: Alongside statistical data, include success stories and case studies of Commanderies that have demonstrated exceptional growth or engagement. This will serve as motivation and provide practical insights for other Commanderies. By keeping the committee

well-informed about membership dynamics, we can better support our Commanderies in their efforts to grow and engage their members.

3. Recreating a Division-Wide and/or State-Wide Drill Team for Public Parades Public visibility and engagement are vital for the Knights Templar, both to attract new members and to reinforce our presence in the community. Reestablishing a division-wide or state-wide drill team to participate in public parades and events will serve as a powerful tool for promoting our Order. The following steps are recommended:

Formation of a Planning Committee: Establish a dedicated planning committee comprising members from various Commanderies. This committee will be responsible for coordinating efforts, scheduling practices, and organizing participation in events.

Recruitment Drive: Conduct a recruitment drive to identify and enlist members interested in joining the drill team. Emphasize the benefits of participation, such as camaraderie, skill development, and public representation of the Order.

Training and Uniforms: Organize regular training sessions to ensure that team members are well-prepared and coordinated. Additionally, standardize uniforms and equipment to present a unified and professional image.

Event Participation: Identify key public events and parades where the drill team can participate. Work with local organizers to secure spots in these events, ensuring maximum visibility and impact. The reestablishment of a drill team will not only enhance our public image but also foster a sense of pride and unity among our members. It will provide a tangible demonstration of our commitment to the community and our dedication to the principles of the Knights Templar.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Membership Committee has made significant strides over the past year in enhancing communication, monitoring membership metrics, and fostering engagement. However, there is always room for improvement, and the recommendations outlined in this report aim to build on our successes and address areas where we can do better. By keeping the Membership Committee updated on the emails of Recorders, notifying committee members of membership growth, participation, and suspensions, and recreating a division-wide or state-wide drill team, we can ensure the continued growth and vibrancy of our Order. These initiatives will strengthen our internal processes, enhance our public visibility, and foster a greater sense of community among our members. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all committee members for their dedication and hard work over the past year. Your efforts have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. I also wish to thank the Grand Commandery for its unwavering support and guidance. Let us continue to work together with renewed vigor and commitment, upholding the noble traditions of the Knights Templar and striving for excellence in all that we do.

Fraternally,

SK Kevin A. Wheeler, PEC
Grand Sword Bearer
Membership Committee Co-Chairman
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois

2024 Grand Commandery of Illinois **Public Relations Report**

Sir Knights,

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois made positive advancements in public relations by the continuation of Illinois Knights Templar Outreach Assistance (IKTOA) Program. Each Commandery under the jurisdiction of our Grand Commandery, who committed to participate was awarded a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the purposes of charitable giving in and around their local communities., with additional funds being provided for distribution to those who did participate.

Other activities that can be initiated to enhance public relations and outreach include members of the Commandery volunteering at local food banks, clothing drives, local community beautification projects, attending religious services as a group and marching in parades.

The Grand Commandery wishes to thank all constituent Commanderies and individual Sir Knights for any efforts they have made to promote and shed a positive light on Templar Masonry in their communities.

Fraternally,

Sean P. McBride, EGG
Public Relations Chairman

Report of Committee on Charters and Dispensations

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Sir Knights of Illinois,

There were no referrals to this committee with respect to dispensations to form or move Commanderies or with respect to Commandery Charters during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC – Chairman

Sean P. McBride, EGG

Don J. Cowart, EGCG

Report of Fiscal Officers Fund

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Officers, and Sir Knights of Illinois,

There were no claims filed against the Fiscal Officers Fund during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC – Chairman

Sean P. McBride, EGG

Don J. Cowart, EGCG

John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT

INSPECTION DATES FOR 2024/25

COMMANDERY DATE

1st Division

Trinity #1	1/11/2025
Joliet #4	3/29/2025
Calvary #25	2/22/2025
St. Bernard #35	3/15/2025
Bethel #36	3/1/2025
Mizpah #53	2/1/2025
Evanston #58	4/5/2025
St. Elmo #64	11/2/2024
Silangan #93	1/18/2025

2nd Division

Galesburg #8	3/22/2025	REGC Dais
Ottawa #10	10/26/2024	
Crusader #17	10/12/2024	
Rock Island #18	12/7/2024	
Dixon #21	3/15/2025	
Aurora #22	2/15/2025	

3rd Division

Peoria #3	9/28/2024
Blaney #5	11/2/2024
Elwood #6	2/1/2025

Demolay #24 10/12/2024

St. Aldemar #47 2/22/2025

Macomb #56 1/18/2025

Quincy #77 1/25/2025

4th Division

Beaumanoir #9 2/15/2025

Urbana #16 2/8/2025 VEDGC Dais

Melita #16 3/1/2025

Mt. Olivet #38 3/15/2025

Constantine #51 1/18/2025

Clinton #66 1/11/2025

Gil W. Barnard #74 9/28/2024

5th Division

Patton #69 10/12/2024

Tancred #2 4/12/2025

Beauseant #86 3/1/2025

Palestine #27 3/29/2025

St. Omer #30 11/16/2024

Gorin #14 2/22/2025

Inspection Scores 23-24

<i>Commandery</i>	<i>Records/Activities</i>	<i>Ritual/Tactics</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Division School</i>	<i>Reception</i>	<i>Ladies program</i>	<i>Gain in Membership</i>	<i>Visitor /Ritual Points</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
<i>1st Division</i>									
Trinity-Apollo #1	530	375	98	90	100	100	100	556	1949
Joliet #4	365	274	61	10	0	100	0	272	1082
Calvary #25	215	257	66	0	0	0	0	7	545
Saint Bernard #35	90	308	94	0	0	0	100	0	592
Bethel #36	310	354	75	0	100	0	0	303	1142
Mizpah #53	335	344	82	10	100	100	100	30	1101
Evanston #58	185	236	57	0	0	0	0	0	478
St. Elmo #64	165	336	70	0	0	100	100	150	921
Silangan #93	315	250	57	0	0	0	100	67	789
<i>2nd Division</i>									
Galesburg #8	310	296	55	0	0	0	100	143	904
Ottawa #10	205	261	59	0	0	0	0	41	566
Crusader #17	140	269	90	0	0	0	0	115	614
Rock Island #18	120	255	61	0	0	0	100	30	566
Dixon #21	280	306	61	0	0	0	0	179	826
Aurora #22	200	341	55	0	0	0	0	19	615
<i>3rd Division</i>									
Peoria #3	210	321	84	0	0	0	100	105	820
Blanney #5	110	262	33	0	0	100	100	60	665
Elwood #6	270	252	0	0	0	0	100	62	684
Demolay #24	410	350	49	0	0	0	0	200	1009
St. Aldemar #47	350	284	65	0	100	100	0	259	1158
Macomb #56	140	49	0	0	0	0	0	69	258
Quincy #77	205	271	66	0	0	0	0	162	704
<i>4th Division</i>									
Beaumanoir #9	395	277	92	10	0	0	100	301	1175
Urbana #16	390	279	92	0	0	0	0	0	761
Melita #37	200	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	275
Mt. Olivet #38	415	255	78	10	0	0	100	76	934
Constantine #51	340	281	90	25	100	0	0	70	906
Clinton #66	395	320	90	30	0	0	100	307	1242
Gil W. Barnard #74	20	77	71	0	0	0	0	0	168
<i>5th Division</i>									
Tancred #2	190	299	94	85	0	0	100	127	895
Gorin #14	255	377	85	10	0	0	100	173	1000
Palestine #27	160	193	80	0	0	0	0	103	536
St. Omer #30	185	306	80	0	0	0	100	309	980
Patton #69	80	267	81	10	0	100	0	39	577
Beauseant #86	240	312	64	0	0	100	0	35	751

Report of the Ritual and Tactics Committee 2023-2024

The Ritual and Tactics Committee received a total of five (5) requests for certifications.

Four (4) of the requests were for certification as Commander. The following Sir Knights successfully passed the examination and have been awarded red shoulder cords.

Certified Commanders

Jeremy R. Vinson, EPC	DeMolay #24
Michael D. Millette, EPC	Trinity Apollo #1
James M. Strong Jr., EPC	Trinity Apollo #1
Stephen T. Adamson, KTCH, GWB, EPC	Joliet #4

One (1) request for certification as Generalissimo/Captain General is currently being scheduled.

The committee would like to congratulate these Sir Knights on their accomplishment. We encourage all Sir Knights to participate in the Ritual and Tactics certification program and look forward to certifying more Sir Knights in the coming year.

The committee is continuing to review the Tactics Manual and hopes to have a new version published in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
SK Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR, Chairman
SK Robert H. Wright, EPC
SK Richard T. Carnall, KTCH, REGC
SK Sean P. McBride, GWB, EGG

Website Committee Report

To the Grand Commander, Officers, and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Illinois:

Sir Knights, this year we attempted to keep the website current and relevant, as information became available throughout the year. SK Ward endeavored to give the website a facelift as the format showed a few wrinkles and crow's feet from years of wear and tear. We hope you find the website useful in keeping current on the happenings around the realm.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Sansone, REPGC, EGT
Chairman of the Website Committee

Tim Ward, EPC
Member

Committee Report of the Triennial

To the Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois:

There was no Triennial activity during the last fiscal year. No funds were budgeted and no funds were expended for a Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment. The next Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment will run from August 17 – 21, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard T. Carnall, KTCH, GC, Chairman
Jamie A. Emery, KTCH, VEDGC
Mark A. Keagle, KCT, REPGC, EGR

Report of the Committee on Templar Dead

<u>Name</u>	<u>COMMANDERY</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Elmer Doyle Keys	Tancred #2	4/18/2024
Robert Eldon Otterstein	Dixon #21	11/8/2023
Theodore Earnest Shanks	Calvary #25	11/21/2023
David William Jones	St, Omer #30	2/15/2024
Ralph John Palmer	Bethel #36	8/9/2023
Ronald Edward Ericksen	Bethel #36	2/15/2024
John Robert Jorgenson	Bethel #36	1/17/2024
Dale Hollis Satorius	St. Aldemar #47	12/22/2023
Gabriel Frank Spataro	St. Elmo #64	12/9/2023
Miichael David Staley	Patton #69	10/15/2023
Robert Hammon Pierce	Gil W. Barnard #74	5/31/2024

The list of Eminent Past Commanders who have laid down their sword since our last Conclave.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Keagle, KCT, REPGC, Grand Recorder

JAMES MORRIS WARD

M:E: Grand Master

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

1997-2000

Sir Knight James Morris Ward was born on August 10, 1930, in Dyersburg, Tennessee. The son of Thomas Henry and Lucile Bell Ward, he obtained his early education in the public schools of Dyersburg, graduating from high school in 1948. He attended the University of Mississippi and later the University Center in Jackson where he completed courses in business administration, mathematics, and engineering. In 1965 and 1966 he completed studies in the fields of mathematics, electronics, and economics at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Sir Knight Ward was employed in 1955 by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (South Central Bell) as a lineman located in Jackson, TN. He worked on this and other jobs of increasing responsibility throughout west Tennessee until he was transferred to the engineering department in Jackson, MS, in 1961. At the time of his retirement in 1991, he was manager of district construction operations in Jackson, Mississippi.

He was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a professional engineering society. His hobbies were reading, hunting, fishing, and piddlin' with wood. He enjoyed almost all sports, especially football and baseball. Jim was a member and actively participated in the activities of Bethel Baptist Church where he served as an active deacon.

Masonically, Sir Knight Ward was Raised in Pearl Lodge No. 23, Jackson, Mississippi, on August 25, 1967. He served as Master in 1971 and then as Secretary. In 1979, he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. He was also a past presiding officer of his Chapter, Council and Commandery and served as Secretary/Recorder of those York Rite bodies. He was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of R.A.M. of Mississippi, in 1985; Grand Master of the Grand Council of R. & S.M. of Mississippi, in 1986; and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi, in 1982. He received the Knight Commander of the Temple and Knight Grand Cross of the Temple from the Grand Encampment. He was elected Grand Sovereign of the United Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine in June 1994, and is a past presiding officer of the following: the Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, 2000; the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, 1995-96; and the Grand College of Rites, 1993. He was a member and past presiding officer of Mississippi Priory No. 36, KYCH and Mississippi York Rite College No. 83. He was a member of Tara Council No. 29, Knight Masons; Mississippi College, SRICF; Royal Order of Scotland; and the Order of the Eastern Star. An active member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, and a recipient of the Honorary Legion of Honor. He was a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Jackson, Mississippi, Southern Jurisdiction, and was invested with the rank and dignity of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, and Coroneted a 33°, Inspector General Honorary. He served as presiding officer of all four bodies in the Valley of Jackson.

Sir Knight Ward served as Department Commander, Southeastern Department, 1982-85. He was elected Grand Captain General, August 9, 1988, at Lexington, Kentucky. He was elected Grand Generalissimo on August 20, 1991, at Washington, D.C. He was elected Deputy Grand Master on August 16, 1994, at Denver, Colorado. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Encampment on August 12, 1997, and installed on August 13, 1997, in St. Louis, Missouri. He became a Most Eminent Past Grand Master at the 61st Triennial Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee, in August, 2000.

Sir Knight Ward laid down his sword and entered the Supreme Asylum above on Monday, March 25, 2024.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois,

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois has the following funds, accounts, and investments:

1. General Checking Account.

This checking account is at US Bank and is used for payment of Grand Commandery Bills and as a pass-through account for other special accounts, such as the Life Membership Account and Phillips Charity Fund Account. Thus, you may see some liability from or to the General Fund and other funds. These liabilities are closed out periodically by transfers among the funds.

2. General Fund Investments.

Excess funds of the Grand Commandery are held in a managed investment account at Raymond James in Peoria, Illinois.

3. Jones Permanent Fund. This Fund was established in 2004 from funds remaining in the Fund for 2003 Triennial Expenses raised through an assessment. This is an endowment fund from which one-half of the income is available for general Grand Commandery Expenses. Contributions to this fund should be promoted to increase the fund as a permanent sustaining fund of the Grand Commandery.

4. Graff Memorial Fund.

This fund was established in about 2002 when Dottie Graff, wife of Richard L. Graff, Grand Recorder, died. The stipulation for this endowment fund is that the fund is to be increased by donations of memorials and accumulated income until the fund reaches \$20,000.00, after which the income from the fund can be used for general Grand Commandery Expenses. The fund has reached \$20,000.00 and funds are available for general Grand Commandery expenses.

5. Eloise H. Phillips Charity Fund.

This endowment fund is a separate investment account at Raymond James and was established in 1978 from a bequest to the Grand Commandery with a stipulation that the principal donated remain in the amount of \$116,114.98 and that only income be used for charitable purposes as specified in her Will.

6. Fiscal Officer's Fund.

This fund is also held in a separate investment account at Raymond James and was established to pay claims made by constituent Commanderies should a financial officer misappropriate funds. In essence this provides Commanderies with protection against malfeasance or misfeasance by financial officers. No claim has been allowed on this fund and contributions to this fund were discontinued a few years ago.

7. Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund.

This fund is held in a separate investment account at Raymond James and receives donations to pay for sending ministers to the Holy Land through the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage program. Of the fund balance, \$4,000.00 is a restricted endowment.

8. Life Membership Fund.

The Grand Commandery is considered a trustee of this fund, which represents the life memberships purchased by the constituent Commanderies for its members. This fund is held in a separate investment account at Raymond James, Hilltop Wealth Management. Before 2012, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons managed the investment and distribution from a combined life membership fund for Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery. That fund was divided in 2012 into its three separate components for investment and distribution by the individual Grand Bodies. The Investment Committee manages the investment of the funds, and the Finance Committee determines the amount of annual distributions, based upon the income and balance as of December 31 of each year. This year's distribution considered a rolling three year ending balance in determining the distribution amount to recognize investment gains, as well as income, including past capital gains. This year's distribution was \$3.50 per \$50.00 share, or a return of 7.0%. Next year's distribution may or may not be as generous, due to stock market volatility.

Audit and Tax Compliance

In April of 2023 I contacted the accounting firm who prepared our 2018 tax return to see about engaging them to audit and complete our tax returns for 2019, 2020, 2021 and now 2022, along with preparing our 501(c)10 non-beneficiary fraternal organization operating under a lodge system, application for reinstatement.

The IRS 1024 Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a) as a 501(c)10 fraternal organization. This application was submitted in February 2024. The IRS claims processing times are more than 180 days. We did not receive a response at the time of the preparation of this report. We expect to hear from the IRS in late August – early September.

A "Formal Audit" of the books for the 2023 – 2024 year cannot be accomplished prior to the conclave as the books are closed on June 30th and many records from financial institutions are not available until the first week of July. It takes time to close the books and have them ready for the Auditor. It takes several weeks for placement of permissions for the auditor to receive access to the records at financial institutions to perform a formal audit. The Audit for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year should be accomplished by October/November 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Sansone, PGC, GT

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois

Budget for 2023 – 2024

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
		<u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>2023 -2024</u>	
REVENUE				
41000	Grand Commandery Per Capita	22,500.00	22,980.00	480.00
42000	Knighting Fees /Petition Fees	3,000.00	3,390.00	390.00
43000	Eye Foundation	-		
44000	Grand Encampment Per Capita	22,750.00	23,544.00	794.00
44100	Distribution for Triennial	-	-	
44500	Other Income	100.00	209.34	109.34
45000	Income from Jones Permanent Fund	4,440.00	-	(4,440.00)
45010	Income from Graff Memorial Fund	1,410.00	-	(1,410.00)
45020	Capital Gain Distributions	1,000.00	624.50	(375.50)
45050	Other Investment Revenue	-		
45100	Dividends and Interest	7,000.00	8,837.94	1,837.94
45200	Realized Capital Gain / Loss	1,900.00	11,149.62	9,249.62
	Total Revenue	<u>64,100.00</u>	<u>70,735.40</u>	6,635.40
EXPENSE				
60100	Grand Commander Expense	4,500.00	4,500.00	-
60200	Grand Recorder Expense	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
60300	Grand Recorder Office Expense	1,200.00	415.95	(784.05)
60400	Stationary / Printing Expense	1,000.00	2,863.71	1,863.71
60600	Postage and Delivery Expense	1,000.00	126.00	(874.00)
60800	Grand Recorder Equipment Purchases	-	-	-
60900	Grand Treasurer Honorarium	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
60910	Grand Treasurer Office Expense	500.00	-	(500.00)
61100	EGR & EGT Office Bond	100.00	100.00	-
61200	Insurance (Liability and Office)	2,700.00	2,814.00	114.00
61300	Conclave Expense	5,000.00	4,828.29	(171.71)
61400	Inspecting Officers Expense	1,800.00		(1,800.00)
61500	Awards and Plaques	1,550.00	101.78	(1,448.22)
61600	Past Grand Commander's Jewel	-	5,500.00	5,500.00
61700	Transcript and Print Proceedings	2,000.00	300.00	(1,700.00)
61900	Grand Encampment Per Capita	22,750.00	23,544.00	794.00
62000	Eye Foundation Payment	3,000.00	3,150.00	150.00
62100	Miscellaneous Expense	300.00	-	(300.00)
62200	Web Site Expense	300.00	449.75	149.75
62400	Professional Fees	4,200.00	600.00	(3,600.00)
62500	Investment Expense General Fund	2,200.00	2,377.36	177.36
62600	Triennial Expense	-	-	
67000	Membership Program	2,000.00	-	(2,000.00)
	Total Expense	<u>64,100.00</u>	<u>59,670.84</u>	(4,429.16)
	Net Revenue Over (Under) Expense	0.00	11,064.56	11,064.56

Illinois Grand Commandery
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	June 30, 2024
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	34,417.15
Total Checking / Savings	34,417.15
Life Membership Payments	5,372.00
Total Current Assets	39,789.15
Accounts Recievable	
Per Capita Recievable	15,016.80
Total Accounts Receivable	15,016.80
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	102,195.06
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	145,984.19
Total Securities at Raymond James	248,179.25
Total Other Assets	248,179.25
TOTAL ASSETS	302,985.20
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	16,000.00
Liabilities to Life Membership Fund	5,372.00
Total Liabilities	21,372.00
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	281,613.20
Total Net Assets	281,613.20
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	302,985.20

ILLINOIS GRAND COMMANDERY

Statement of Activies General Fund

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income		
Investment Income		
Capital Gains Distribution		624.50
Dividends and Interest		8,839.06
Total Investment Income		<u>9,463.56</u>
Total Income		<u>9,463.56</u>
Expenses		
Investment Advisory Fees		2,377.36
Total Expenses		<u>2,377.36</u>
Net Income		<u><u>7,086.20</u></u>

Fiscal Officers Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	197.70
Total Checking / Savings	<u>197.70</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>197.70</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	39,490.61
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	72,331.31
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>111,821.92</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>111,624.22</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>111,821.92</u></u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	109,820.49
Restricted Retained Earnings	2,001.43
Total Net Assets	<u>111,821.92</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>111,821.92</u></u>

FISCAL OFFICERS FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income	
Investment Income	
Capital Gains Distribution	1,469.75
Dividends and Interest	1,101.14
Other Income	421.39
Total Investment Income	<u>2,992.28</u>
Total Income	<u>2,992.28</u>
Expenses	
Investment Advisory Fees	990.85
Total Expenses	<u>990.85</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,001.43</u></u>

Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	1,056.46
Total Checking / Savings	<u>1,056.46</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,056.46</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	5,456.02
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	3,931.11
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>9,387.13</u>
Total Other Assets	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>10,443.59</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	10,343.09
Restricted Retained Income	100.50
Total Net Assets	<u>10,443.59</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>10,443.59</u></u>

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income		
Investment Income		
Capital Gains Distribution		
Dividends and Interest		100.50
		<hr/>
Total Investment Income		100.50
		<hr/>
Total Income		100.50
		<hr/>
Expenses		
Investment Advisory Fees		-
		<hr/>
Total Expenses		-
		<hr/>
Net Income		<u>100.50</u>

Phillips Charity Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	1,409.26
Total Checking / Savings	<u>1,409.26</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,409.26</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	36,728.30
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	95,486.71
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>132,215.01</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>132,215.01</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>133,624.27</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Donations approved	
By Committee	16,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>16,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>16,000.00</u>
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	116,114.98
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,509.29
Total Net Assets	<u>117,624.27</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>133,624.27</u></u>

PHILIPS CHARITY FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income	
Investment Income	
Capital Gains Distribution	366.51
Dividends and Interest	5,321.93
	<hr/>
Total Investment Income	5,688.44
	<hr/>
Total Income	5,688.44
Expenses	
Investment Advisory Fees	2,016.17
Charitable Distributions per Committee	16,000.00
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	18,016.17
	<hr/>
Net Income	<u><u>(12,327.73)</u></u>

Jones Permanent Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	1,088.96
Total Checking / Savings	<u>1,088.96</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,088.96</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	50,520.62
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	18,578.98
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>69,099.60</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>69,099.60</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>70,188.56</u></u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	57,277.41
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	12,911.15
Total Net Assets	<u>70,188.56</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>70,188.56</u></u>

JONES PERMANENT FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income	
Investment Income	
Capital Gains Distribution	1,307.77
Dividends and Interest	1,031.54
Other Income	748.86
Total Investment Income	<u>3,088.17</u>
Total Income	<u>3,088.17</u>
Expenses	
Investment Advisory Fees	644.09
Total Expenses	<u>644.09</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,444.08</u></u>

Graff Memorial Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	947.78
Total Checking / Savings	<u>947.78</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>947.78</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	27,150.45
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	<u>10,372.93</u>
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>37,523.38</u>
Total Other Assets	37,523.38
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>38,471.16</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	20,000.00
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	18,471.16
Total Net Assets	<u>38,471.16</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>38,471.16</u></u>

GRAFF MEMORIAL FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income		
Investment Income		
Capital Gains Distribution		765.83
Dividends and Interest		559.72
Total Investment Income		<hr/> 1,325.55
Total Income		<hr/> 1,325.55
Expenses		
Investment Advisory Fees		353.03
Total Expenses		<hr/> 353.03
Net Income		<hr/> <hr/> 972.52

Life Membership Fund
Statement of Financial Position
as of June 30, 2024

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Raymond James	7,539.64
Total Checking / Savings	<u>7,539.64</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>7,539.64</u>
Other Assets	
Securities at Raymond James	
Securities at Cost	314,210.00
Unrealized Gain / (Loss)	20,019.02
Total Securities at Raymond James	<u>334,229.02</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>334,229.02</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>341,768.66</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net Assets	
Restricted Net Assets	304,474.00
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	37,294.66
Total Net Assets	<u>341,768.66</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>341,768.66</u></u>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Statement of Activies

July 2023 through Jun 2024

Income	
Purchased Shares (Par \$50)	4,500.00
Total Purchases	<u>4,500.00</u>
Investment Income	
Capital Gains Distribution	4,782.30
Dividends and Interest	10,460.30
Total Investment Income	<u>15,242.60</u>
Total Income	<u>19,742.60</u>
Expenses	
Life Membership Distributions	21,705.18
Investment Advisory Fees	3,278.56
Total Expenses	<u>24,983.74</u>
Net Income	<u><u>(5,241.14)</u></u>