



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Thomas C. Helm
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May 22, 2023

TO: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER ONE

ORGANIZATION

Sir Knights:

I am truly privileged and honored to serve as your Grand Commander this Templar year. There is no greater honor than to serve God and mankind. My Theme for this Templar year is "Living through God to SERVE Mankind". As such, we will continue to serve in our Commanderies and communities by helping to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. What can you do? Serve by conducting food and clothing drives, support a homeless shelter, serve at soup kitchens or your church, veterans, and our youth. There are so many ways we as Knights Templar can SERVE and support others. Take action, be seen, serve and show Christ's love in action. Every Commandery should have a clothing and food box to collect items that can be donated within your communities.

I have selected the Tunnel to Towers Foundation as my designated charity for my term. This foundation's Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer. Over 94% of fundraising dollars goes directly to Programs. The programs are: In The Line Of Duty Programs honoring the lives lost on September 11, 2001; Smart Home Program which builds specially adapted mortgage-free smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders; Fallen First Responder Program that pays off mortgages for the families of law enforcement and firefighters killed in the line of duty; Gold Star Family Home Program

paying off mortgages for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice; Homeless Veterans providing housing support, counseling, skills training, and addiction support; and the Never Forget Programs for those who have lost their lives and those who continue to suffer. I know that we as Knights Templar can get behind and help support this much needed effort.

Workshops will continue this Templar year. The Rehearsal of Duties is an important part of our Ritual and reminds each officer what is expected of him. All chair officers are expected to know their dialogue. The Inspection program will continue.

We need to continue utilizing the tools we have: MMS System, video, and virtual conferencing. Our Recorders are the front line for obtaining and retaining information, membership, logistics and communication flow up and down the chain of command. The question is twofold: does your Recorder

need any training and does he have an assistant assigned to help him? The answer is also twofold: make sure he gets the training he needs and get an assistant assigned.

As Knights Templar's we need to have the expectations of being the best we can be. We need to raise the bar and set high standards. I do not expect perfection even though that is our goal, but strong effort to reach as high as we can is expected.

Section Receptions will be held throughout the year. The purpose of these receptions is twofold: For the members in the Section to meet the Grand Officers, and for them to meet you. It is also an opportunity for you to meet and socialize with other Sir Knights, and their families.

DATES FOR YOUR PLANNING CALENDARS 2023-2024:

June 9/10, 2023	Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication	Elizabethtown
June 11/12, 2023	Vermont Annual Conclave	Killington, VT
June 24, 2023	SW Section Reception/Joint Conclave	Pittsburgh
June 25, 2023	Tuskegee Airman Memorial Wreath Laying	Sewickley
July 1, 2023	NW Section Reception/Joint Conclave	Erie
July 8, 2023	Council of Deliberation	Valley of Harrisburg
July 29, 2023	REGC Testimonial Banquet, Steel Club	Hellertown
August 19, 2023	One day Conferral of Orders	Samuel S. Yohe
Sept 10, 2023	Flight 93 Wreath Laying	Shanksville
Sept 15-17	Gettysburg Memorial/Div. 11 Banquet	Gettysburg
Oct 14, 2023	NE Section Reception	Loc TBD
Oct 15, 2023	SE Section Reception	Loc TBD
Date: TBD	LO/DC Seminar	Elizabethtown
Date: TBD	Stated Conference	Loc TBD
Date: TBD	Central Section Reception	Loc TBD
May 17-19, 2024	171st Annual Conclave, Delta Marriott	Breinigsville

All preceding parts of this General Order, to this point, are to be read in full at the next scheduled conclave of each Commandery, and the entire General Order entered in full or attached to the records.

Only those portions of the Jurisdictional Assignments which pertain to your respective Section, Division, and Commandery are required to be read.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania this day, May 22, 2023, in the year of our Lord 2023, A.O. 905.

Yours in Templary,
Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander

Attest:
Mark G. Mattern
Grand Recorder

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