



Harry Jude Smith
Grand Commander



102 Jessica Meadows Drive
Oley, Pennsylvania 19547
(724) 554-5522
smithhjktpa@gmail.com

May 23, 2022

From the Desk of the Grand Commander

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

GREETINGS:

My Fellow Fraters:

I am humbled and honored to serve as your Grand Commander for this coming Templar year. I am looking forward to building upon the great works of my predecessor, Sir Knight Mark Granville Mattern, Past Grand Commander as we continue to rebuild our ranks through Knighting's, Retention and Reinstatement.

My theme this Templar year is "Our Basic Tenets". Let our actions reflect on the oath we took at the foot of the altar to Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked & Bind Up the Wounds of the Afflicted.

Sir Knights, we are at (if not already past) a crucial crossroads in Templary. Our ranks have been ravaged by deaths, demits and suspensions. The world is looking for an organization, a symbol of all that is good and right, a light in the darkness of today's society. Our spiritual beliefs can be passed on to everyone by our acts of kindness and charity. We as Knights Templar must demonstrate that we are above the fray in our everyday actions of tolerance and Brotherly love. Let everyone see the good works we as Knights Templar do within our own towns and villages.

Pennsylvania DeMolay is celebrating a very important milestone in 2023, that of being in Pennsylvania for 100 years. This is a truly remarkable achievement. We will be acknowledging this important achievement during my term with the purchase of a specially created challenge coin, with all proceeds going to Pennsylvania DeMolay. We must also remember to support all Masonic Youth Organizations at every opportunity. Holy Land Pilgrimage and Knights Templar Eye Foundation are very worthy charities & programs that we already support.

I am issuing a challenge to all constituent Commanderies. In the years leading up to my term as Grand Commander, I challenged the Commanderies of the Central Section to identify and support local, privately-run, food pantries, food banks or no-kill animal shelters. The animal shelters are of special significance this year as Lady Pauline and I said good-bye to our Fur-Baby Charlie who was adopted from a private animal shelter. As before, I now challenge all the constituent Commanderies of Pennsylvania to do the same. It is why I included a designation in this year's Roster Book for a specific Charity Committee Chairman. I will personally reach out to you to find out what your Commandery is doing to meet this challenge.

I am also establishing a "Change for Charlie" campaign. Pet food bowls will be set up at each Section Reception, Christmas Observance and events I attend. Please take whatever spare change you may have in your pocket or purse and place it in the bowls. Monies collected at these events will be donated to a private animal shelter in the town or area the event is held. We will also be selling Purple Paw Print pins in support of Animal Rescue with all proceeds going toward supporting local animal shelters.

Workshops will continue in each Commandery. The Division Commanders may lead the workshops. The workshop will focus on basic sword tactics, opening and closing of the Commandery, as well as what would be most beneficial for that Commandery.

The Inspection Program will continue with no changes. The following requirement for inspections will continue this year: Every Eminent Commander will be required, from memory, to recite the Fifth Libation. A General Order detailing this requirement will be issued.

Every Commandery is to perform the Rehearsal of Duties at least twice during the Templar year. This is an important part of our ritual and reminds each officer what is expected of him.

I am proud to announce the establishment of a Division Commander's Proficiency Evaluation. This program is to ensure our Division Commanders are properly representing the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania in their travels within as well as outside of their Divisions and Sections. This evaluation will serve as the means to recognize a Division Commander as successfully completing his term of office as well as being recognized as a Past Division Commander. This program goes into effect immediately with the current as well as incoming Division Commanders as documented in the Roster Books. Details to follow in a separate General Order.

Don't forget that we still have GoToMeeting available for Section, Division, or individual Commandery group/committee meetings. Recorders need to be diligent in keeping the MMS (Masonic Membership Solutions) system updated. We must educate ourselves on how these

tools are to be used to maximize the business functions that the Commanderies must perform each year.

Sectional/Division 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 with other Sir Knights and their families, to socialize. Please come out to meet with your fellow Fraters at one or more of these events.

Here are dates to plan for the Templar Year 2022-2023: (some are subject to change)

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| July 23, REGC Testimonial / Awards Presentation | Gettysburg Museum, Gettysburg |
| July 30, One Day Conferral of Orders | Reading Masonic Center |
| September 11, Flight 93 Wreath Placement | Shanksville, PA |
| September 17, Division 11 Reception | Gettysburg |
| September 18, Gettysburg Memorial Service | Friend to Friend Memorial |
| October 16, Southeast Reception | Location TBD |
| October 23, Northeast Reception | Location TBD |
| November 11-13, Line Officers & DC Seminar | Patton Campus, Elizabethtown |
| February 5-6, G. O.'s Stated Conference/Drill & Tactics | Patton Campus, Elizabethtown |
| March 4, 2023; Southwest Section Reception | Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center |
| April 8-9, Easter Sunrise Weekend | Alexandria, Virginia |
| May 18-21, 170th Annual Conclave | Seven Springs Resort, Champion PA |

All preceding parts of this General Order, to this point, are to be read in full at the next Stated 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 23, in the year of our Lord 2022, A.O. 904.

Courteously,

Harry J. Smith

Harry J. Smith
Grand Commander

Attest:
Mark G. Mattern, PGC
Grand Recorder

JURISDICTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS
Entire Jurisdiction

Sir Knight Harry J. Smith (21)
Right Eminent Grand Commander
102 Jessica Meadows Drive

Oley, PA 19547-9266
(Pauline) 724-554-5522
smithhjktpa@gmail.com

Eminent Grand Treasurer

Sean M. Tomasic, PGC (1)
Masonic Temple
1 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-567-5836
sean.tomasic@gmail.com

Eminent Grand Recorder

Mark G. Mattern, PGC (24)
Masonic Temple
1 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(Jodi) 717-649-1687
mgmattern@gmail.com

Marshal of Grand Commandery

John J. Freeh, PC (20)
2267 Washington Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015-9083
(Diane) 717-360-9878
jjfreeh@ptd.net

Eminent Grand Prelate

Rev. Preston Van Dursen, PC (13)
183 Eden View Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
717-869-3172
pvandeur@icloud.com

MMS Liaison

Mark G. Mattern, PGC (24)
Masonic Temple
1 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(Jodi) 717-649-1687
mgmattern@gmail.com

Southeast Section

Division 1, 3, 5

Joshua J. Nay (36)

Eminent Grand Captain General

15 Flamehill Road

Levittown PA, 19056-1907

(Kathy) (215) 516-9404

josh.nay@gmail.com

Robert J. Burns, DC (4)
1953 Guernsey Ave
Abington, PA 19001-3701
215-997-8167
bburns7015@comcast.net

Division Commander No. 1
Commanderies 4, 36, 54

Jerome J. Phillips, DC (20)
4306 Coyote Ct
Orefield, PA 18069-2108
(Susan) 484-809-5234
hikap9@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 3
Commanderies 71, 95, 96

Tyler D. Barto, DC (13)
106 Carol Drive
Washington Boro, PA 17582
tyler.barto@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 5
Commanderies 13, 24, 55

Robert W. Bunch, Jr., PC (96)
Aide to the Grand Commander
614 Wade Ave
Horsham, PA 19044-1507
267-664-4060
rwbunchjr@gmail.com

Joseph P. Tolen, PDC (54)
Grand Sentinel
6 Loney Street
Rockledge, PA 19046-9215
(215) 901-1158
sktinman@gmail.com

Abram M. Shaffner, PC (24)
Aide to the Grand Commander
25 S. Second Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5412
717-371-8123
abram.m.shaffner@verizon.net

Albert H. Eschert, C (54)
Aide to the Grand Commander
2456 Brandon Court
Bensalem, PA 19020-2202
(Angela) 215-609-5806
cobolal@gmail.com

James W. Miller, PC/Recorder (71)
Grand Standard Bearer
344 North Roland Avenue

Pottstown, PA 19464-4443
(Joan) 610-323-0936
jimwmiller1958@gmail.com

Northeast Section

Divisions 7, 9, 13
Thomas C. Helm (20)
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
4250 Elm Drive
Allentown, Pa. 18103-6106

(Dorothy) (610) 737-2553
drtom4250@gmail.com

James P. Zerbe, DC (39)
1433 W Main Street
Valley View, PA 17983-9776
570-682-8130
Jimz2020@outlook.com

Division Commander No. 7
Commanderies 23, 39, 77

David E. Barlieb, DC (81)
17 Belfast Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091-9769
(Terra) 610-390-5966
d.e.barlieb@hotmail.com

Division Commander No. 9
Commanderies 9, 19, 20, 81

Lance J. Stange, Jr. DC (17)
2610 Motichka Road
Madison Township, PA 17582
570-575-4604
lance@lancestange.com

Division Commander No. 13
Commanderies 14, 16, 17, 45, 89

John M. Ellermann, PDC (20)
Quartermaster General
323 Lone Lane
Allentown, PA 18104-9585
(Jackie) 610-398-3152
ellermannjohnm@yahoo.com

Joshua A. Yorks, PC (14)
Associate Grand Prelate
1204 Reddington Avenue
Troy, PA 16947-1079
717-649-5898
jayorks@susumc.org

Randy R. Knauss, PC (81)
Aide to the Grand Commander
646 Cherry Hill Road
Nazareth, PA 18064-8856
484-239-2680
combatcop106@hotmail.com

Central Section

Divisions 6, 11, 14
Troy A. Mock (10)
Eminent Grand Senior Warden
135 Mockingbird Hill Lane
Imler, PA 16655-8375
(Sherri) 814-276-9752 (H)
ramrod.tam4@gmail.com

Thomas L. McClain, DC (65)
2205 Catharine Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652-9728
tiutmcclain@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 6
Commanderies 10, 61, 65

Keith E. Whittaker, DC (79)
3644 Centennial Road
Hanover, Pa. 17331-9065
(Dolores) 717-465-2125
whittakrk@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 11
Commanderies 8, 11, 21, 56, 79, 98

James M. Gautsch, DC (85)
3092 Red Bank Road
Middleburg, Pa. 17842-9205
(Linda) 570-539-8906
jmsgautsch@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 14
Commanderies 12, 22, 26, 33, 37,
46, 85

Lewis E. Burgett, PC (8)
Associate Grand Prelate
31 Greenfield Dr
Carlisle, PA 17015
(Rita) 717-243-1892
lbrb65@aol.com

Michael L. Glenn, PC (56)
Grand Warder
759 Cito Road
Big Cove Tannery, PA 17212-9569
mikeglenn56@gmail.com

Joseph C. Reuter, PC (21)
Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
7 Cedar Lane
Stewartstown, PA 17363
(Terrie) 717-577-0870
legioncoach455@yahoo.com

Christopher D. Reed, PC (21)
Aide to the Grand Commander
12 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Stewartstown, PA 17363-4096
(Amy) 717-485-4801
wm_423_07@yahoo.com

John R. Segursky, PC (33)
Aide to the Grand Commander
507 East Hillside Avenue
State College, PA 16803-1507
814-883-2189
jsegursky@gmail.com

Southwest Section

Division 2, 4

Larry D. Horath (80)

Eminent Grand Generalissimo

1131 McCrory Lane

California, PA 15419-1218

(Rebecca) 724-938-0247

larryhorath@gmail.com

Steven R. Seman, DC (1)

2613 West Hardies Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

724-814-6596

godfather110603@gmail.com

Division Commander No. 2

1, 35, 72, 78

Lawrence D. Fowler, DC (3)
911 Thomas 84 Road
Eighty-Four, PA 15330-2823
724-986-3571
lrryfw@yahoo.com

Division Commander No. 4
Commanderies 3, 7, 18, 80

Rev David A. Eichelberger, PDC (72)
Associate Grand Prelate
377 S. Winebiddle Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15224-2226
630-661-3452
davideosl@yahoo.com

Ronald F. Rearick, PDC (72)
Inspector General
638 Sheasley Hill Road
Shelocta, PA 15774-2326
(Lisa) 724-664-6985
duqc72@outlook.com

Michael S. Kasyan, PC (1)
Aide to the Grand Commander
5334 Keepport Drive #11
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
412-496-6487
mskasyan@gmail.com

Richard M. Dodds, PC (35)
Aide to the Grand Commander
7420 Steubenville Pike, Apt. 130
Oakdale, PA 15071
412-419-8590
shark152@hotmail.com

Northwest Section

Divisions 8, 10, 12

Roger B. Early

Eminent Grand Junior Warden

503 Bicker Road

Cabot, PA 16023-3403

724-353-9191

rearly.efc@gmail.com

Brian L. Daniels, DC (84)
1167 Route 68
New Brighton, PA 15066-4104
724-846-5844
skbrianleedaniels@outlook.com

Division Commander No. 8
Commanderies 67, 84, 87, 100

Troy M. Herzog, DC (58)
501 W. Main Street
Smithport, PA 16749-1143
814-558-6113
troyherzog@hotmail.com

Division Commander No. 10
Commanderies 58, 63, 69

Dale E. Konen, PDC (30)
1560 Robinson Road East
Erie, PA 16509-5628
(Nancy) 814-825-9755
camaro396425@verizon.net

Division Commander No. 12
Commanderies 30, 44

Kevin L. Colledge, PDC (100)
Deputy Inspector General
236 Wayne Street Apt 422
Lower Burrell, PA 15068-2675
724-309-0439
kcolledge100@comcast.net

John D. Stuart, PC (67)
Aide to the Grand Commander
4031 State Route 158
Volant, PA 16156-3019
724-533-8030
blacksmith54@icloud.com