

**Advanced Proceedings
for
172nd Grand Conclave
of
Knights Templar of Indiana
April 25, 2026
Muncie, Indiana**

Biography Of Joseph Lee Sparks

Joe was born in Danville, Indiana, the son of Otis and Martha Sparks.

Joe graduated from Greencastle High School. He later received an Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Technology in 2011 from Ivy Tech Community College.

In 2013 he became an apprentice for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union #157 out of Terre Haute, Indiana. He is currently a Journeyman fitter/welder.

Joe married his wife, Tracy, on January, 2019 at the Crawfordsville Masonic Temple. They have three children, Nathaniel Sparks, Brenan Hall and Theodore Bunch.

Masonic History

Joe's Masonic history began when he petitioned Alamo Masonic Lodge #144. He received his Entered Apprentice degree on March 26, 2009, his Fellow Craft degree April 30, 2009, and was raised a Master Mason on May 28, 2009. He served as Worshipful Master in 2012 and 2013. He was made an honorary member of Montgomery Lodge #50 July 1, 2019.

He petitioned Crawfordsville York Rite Bodies. He was Exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Crawfordsville Chapter #40 on October 22, 2015. Greeted a Select Master in Montgomery Council #34 on April 2, 2016 and Knighted a Knight Templar in Crawfordsville Commandery #25 on April 2, 2016. He has served as High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Eminent Commander for Crawfordsville York Rite. He now serves as their secretary/recorder.

He became a charter member of the Indiana Widows Sons, Outer Guard Chapter of Lafayette, IN on August 2018 and served as President in 2022.

He became affiliated with Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery of Research on May 28, 2019.

He became a member of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Banks of the Wabash College #72 on May 18, 2019, and served as Governor in 2024-2025.

He became a member of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Terre Haute on April 27, 2019, where he now serves in the Lodge of Perfection line.

He became a member of the Murat Shrine on July 8, 2019 and later a member of the Montgomery Co. Shrine Club. He served as president of Montgomery County Shrine Club in 2024.

He became a member of Athens Chapter #97 Order of the Easter Star, of Crawfordsville on July 11, 2019.

On November 30, 2019, he became a member of The Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, Cumberland Road #122.

He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Grand Commandery on January 18, 2020.

He received the Eminent Commander's Certificate of Merit Award on April 25, 2020.

He was initiated into the Sahara Grotto on March 27, 2021. He is also a plural member of Merou Grotto.

He was initiated into Thespian Council #492, Allied Masonic Degrees on April 16, 2021 and served as Sovereign Master in 2023, and now serves as secretary/ treasurer.

He was initiated into Robert A Woods Priory #62, Knight York Cross of Honor on July 25, 2021.

He was initiated into Prather Council of Knight Masons #125 on November 6, 2021, as a charter member.

He was initiated into Regis Cordis Court #110, The Masonic Order of Athelstan, on November 18, 2021.

He was awarded the Gold Award from the York Rite Sovereign College of North America on April 20, 2022.

He was initiated into Yeomen of York Preceptory #15 on November 12, 2022.

He was initiated into Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, St Andrews Tabernacle #35 on December 10, 2022.

He was initiated into the Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Canterbury Chapel #37 as a Charter Member on March 25, 2023.

He was initiated into Red Cross of Constantine, St. Basil conclave on June 17, 2023.

Joe was appointed to the Grand Commandery line in April 2019 as Grand Warder by Sir Knight Michael F. Robbins, Right Eminent Grand Commander.

He was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple on January 18, 2025

GRAND COMMANDER'S ALLOCUTION

Welcome:

On behalf of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Indiana, I would like to thank you for attending the 172nd Annual Grand Conclave. I would like to welcome all the Sir Knights from neighboring jurisdictions and the Representatives of the Grand Encampment, Grand Lodge and all Distinguished guests from the other appendant bodies. If there is anything

you need, let me or one of the other officers know and we will do our best to accommodate you. I am very honored and humbled to have served the Sir Knights of the Great State of Indiana as your Grand Commander.

One of my last duties as your Grand Commander is to report on my activities and decisions for the past 12 months. You will also find this report published in the proceedings.

Meetings:

April 25, 2025, Officers Meeting

- Discussed my plans and goals for the year
- Discussed General Orders
- Discussed Bulletins
- Discussed Officer Expectations

June 21, 2025, Summer Meeting & Officer Training

- Reviewed my plans and goals
- Committee Reports
- Battalion Commander Reports
- Officer Training covered Navigating MMS

August 31, 2025, Teams Meeting

- Went over inspections & Receptions
- Scoring for Inspections
- Commandery reports from the Battalion Commanders

January 17, 2026, Winter Meeting

- Jurisprudence Meeting
- Executive Officers Meeting
- General Meeting
- Committee Reports
- Battalion Reports

Grand Commandery Picnic:

The Grand Commandery Summer picnic was held in central Indiana this year at Hummel Park in Plainfield Indiana on July 26, 2026. We had 31 Sir Knights, Ladies and their families in attendance. We had BBQ pulled pork and BBQ brisket catered with everyone bringing a side dish. It was a great day of food, fun and fellowship.

Knight Templar Ball:

The second annual Templar ball was held at the Sahara Grotto on August 30, 2025. We added a dinner and silent auction to this year's ball. There were 75 in attendance. PRG Darling donated his DJ services to provide entertainment for the evening. The meal was catered by the Sahara

Grotto with a choice of Chicken or Ribeye. There were 38 items donated for the silent auction. \$3,990.00 was raised this evening and donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to go toward making Indiana 100% life sponsors.

Grand Commandery Christmas Party:

The Annual Christmas Party was held on December 6, 2025, at the Crawfordsville Masonic Temple. There were 79 Sir Knights, Ladies and their families in attendance. The Grand Commander and his Lady supplied the Ham, and everyone brought a side or dessert. The day concluded with a “dirty Santa” gift exchange, which is always full of fun and laughter. Non-perishable food items were collected for Servants Heart and delivered by our Grand Prelate and his Lady.

Newby-Avery-Vaught Banquet:

The 127th annual Newby-Avery-Vaught banquet was held on January 17, 2026, at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie Indiana. The banquet was open to all Sir Knights, their ladies and their family. We had 101 RSVPs with the MEPGM Duane Vaught being the guest of honor. Dinner choices were Prime Rib or Chicken. We raised \$5,000.00 for the Permanent Fund.

Visitations:

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| May 1, 2025, | 50 Year Presentation | LaPorte, Indiana |
| May 2, 2025, | KT Memorial Service, Larry Huffman | Spencer, Indiana |
| May 18, 2025, | KT Memorial Service, PGC Herb Roach | Vincennes, Indiana |
| May 19, 2025, | Grand Masters Banquet & Reception | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| May 20, 2025, | Grand Lodge Annual Communication | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| May 21, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| June 5, 2025, | Grand Court, Amaranth Informal Opening | Nashville, Indiana |
| June 6, 2025, | William G Bray Templar Board | Mooresville, Indiana |
| June 13, 2025, | Grand Chapter O.E.S. Informal Opening | Muncie, Indiana |
| June 17, 2025, | Grant County Templar Board | Gas City, Indiana |
| June 18, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| June 21, 2025, | Summer Meeting, Officers Training | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| June 21, 2025, | Crawfordsville Commandery Re-dedication | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| June 26, 2025, | DeMolay Grand Conclave | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| June 27, 2025, | Illustrious Order of the Red Cross | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| July 10, 2025, | Rainbow Grand Session | Nashville, Indiana |
| July 24, 2025, | Order of Malta | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| July 26, 2025, | Grand Commandery Summer Picnic | Plainfield, Indiana |
| August 1, 2025, | Elkhart Holyland Steak Fry | Bristol, Indiana |
| August 2, 2025, | Bloomington Commandery Re-dedication | Bloomington, Indiana |
| August 4, 2025, | Prather Commandery Reception | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| August 9, 2025, | Shelby Lodge Re-dedication | Shelbyville, Indiana |
| August 20, 2025, | Battalion 4 Reception | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| August 21, 2025, | Grant County Inspection | Gas City, Indiana |

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| August 23, 2025, | Vincennes/ Green Co. Ins & Reception | Vincennes, Indiana |
| August 25, 2025, | Richmond Reception | Richmond, Indiana |
| August 30, 2025, | Templar Ball | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| September 4, 2025, | 50 Year Presentation, PGC Paul Friend | Angola, Indiana |
| September 5, 2025, | Order of the Temple | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| September 7, 2025, | Indiana Masonic Home Festival | Franklin, Indiana |
| September 13, 2025, | William G Bray Commandery Inspection | Mooreville, Indiana |
| September 13, 2025, | Grand Master of Indiana Reception | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| September 16, 2025, | Grant County Reception | Gas City, Indiana |
| September 17, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| September 19, 2025, | Order of the Temple | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| September 20, 2025, | Battalion 4 Picnic | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| September 21, 2025, | Grand Commandery Family Church Day | Beech Grove, Indiana |
| September 25, 2025, | Red Cross Greenfield Commandery | Greenfield, Indiana |
| September 26, 2025, | Red Cross Frankfort Commandery | Frankfort, Indiana |
| September 29, 2025, | Baldwin Commandery Reception | Fairland, Indiana |
| October 11, 2025, | Greenfield Inspection & Reception | Greenfield, Indiana |
| October 11, 2025, | Kokomo, Anderson, Noblesville Inspection | Kokomo, Indiana |
| October 15, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| October 16, 2025, | Order of Malta Frankfort Commandery | Frankfort, Indiana |
| October 17, 2025, | Order of the Temple | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| October 18, 2025, | Apollo & Angola Inspection & Reception | Angola, Indiana |
| October 20, 2025, | Richmond Commandery Inspection | Richmond, Indiana |
| October 25, 2025, | Fort Wayne Inspection & Reception | Fort Wayne, Indiana |
| October 25, 2025, | New Albany & Columbus Ins & Reception | New Albany, Indiana |
| October 28, 2025, | Social Order of Beauceant Supreme Visit | Greenfield, Indiana |
| October 31, 2025, | Order of the Temple w/ Levant | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| November 1, 2025, | Bedford & Bloomington Ins & Reception | Bedford, Indiana |
| November 1, 2025, | William G Bray Special Reception | Mooreville, Indiana |
| November 8, 2025, | Battalion 1 Reception | Valparaiso, Indiana |
| November 11, 2025, | Compass Park Veterans Day Program | Franklin, Indiana |
| November 13, 2025, | William G Bray Reception & OT | Mooreville, Indiana |
| November 14, 2025, | Frankfort Order of the Temple | Frankfort, Indiana |
| November 15, 2025, | LaValette & Wright Ins & Reception | Evansville, Indiana |
| November 17, 2025, | Valparaiso Commandery Inspection | Valparaiso, Indiana |
| November 19, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| November 20, 2025, | LaPorte Commandery Inspection | LaPorte, Indiana |
| November 22, 2025, | Raper Commandery Ins & Reception | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| November 22, 2025, | Noblesville, Kokomo, Anderson Reception | Noblesville, Indiana |
| December 6, 2025, | Grand Commandery Christmas Party | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| December 11, 2025, | Terre Haute York Rite Visitation | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| December 13, 2025, | Apollo Commandery Templar Board | Auburn, Indiana |
| December 17, 2025, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| December 18, 2025, | LaValette Commandery Christmas Program | Evansville, Indiana |
| December 22, 2025, | William G Bray awards night & Installation | Mooreville, Indiana |
| January 3, 2026, | Jobs Daughters Bethel 8 Installation | Fort Wayne, Indiana |

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| January 10, 2026, | Grand Lodge Founders Day Program | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| January 15, 2026, | Frankfort Commandery Installation | Frankfort, Indiana |
| January 17, 2026, | Newby-Avery-Vaught Banquet | Muncie, Indiana |
| January 21, 2026, | Wright Commandery Awards & Installation | Huntingburg, Indiana |
| January 31, 2026, | Indiana Templar Academy North | Warsaw, Indiana |
| February 1, 2026, | York Rite Practice | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| February 7, 2026, | Indiana Templar Academy South | Bedford, Indiana |
| February 11, 2026, | Columbus Commandery Visitation | Columbus, Indiana |
| February 12, 2026, | KT Honor Guard for PGC Barton | Greenfield, Indiana |
| February 14, 2026, | DeMolay Sweetheart Dance | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| February 15, 2026, | York Rite Practice | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| February 18, 2026, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| February 20, 2026, | Mark Master Degree | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| February 21, 2026, | Indiana Templar Academy Central | Frankfort, Indiana |
| February 21, 2026, | Arch 4 & 5 Instructional | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 1, 2026, | York Rite Practice | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 14, 2026, | East Central Department Meeting | Fort Wayne, Indiana |
| March 15, 2026, | York Rite Practice | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 16, 2026, | Anderson Commandery Visitation | Anderson, Indiana |
| March 18, 2026, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 27, 2026, | Past Master & MEM Degrees | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 28, 2026, | Super Excellent Master Degree | Mooreville, Indiana |
| April 10, 2026, | Grand Chapter Welcome Banquet | Nashville, Indiana |
| April 11, 2026, | Grand Chapter Annual Convocation | Nashville, Indiana |
| April 12, 2026, | Grand Council Casual Buffet Dinner | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| April 13, 2026, | Grand Council Annual Assembly | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| April 15, 2026, | Crawfordsville York Rite Stated Meeting | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| April 16, 2026, | Greene County Visitation | Linton, Indiana |
| April 19, 2026, | York Rite Practice | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| April 24, 2026, | Grand Commandery Conclave | Muncie, Indiana |
| April 25, 2026, | Grand Commandery Conclave | Muncie, Indiana |

Out of State Visitations:

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| July 19, 2025, | Illinois Grand Commandery | Springfield, Illinois |
| August 16, 2025, | Michigan Grand Commandery | Bay City, Michigan |
| September 15, 2025, | Kentucky Grand Commandery | Lexington, Kentucky |
| December 1, 2025, | Detroit Commandery OT & Visitation | Detroit, Michigan |
| March 7, 2026, | Tri State Festival Commandery Day | Bryan, Ohio |
| April 1, 2026, | Easter Sunrise Trip | Washington D.C. |

Other Masonic Events:

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| May 3, 2025, | Yeoman of York Preceptory #8 | Frankfort, Indiana |
| May 4, 2025, | Banks of the Wabash YRSCNA dinner | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| May 10, 2025, | Masonic Order of Athelstan | Fort Wayne, Indiana |
| May 12, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| May 14, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| May 15, 2025, | Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| May 17, 2025, | Banks of the Wabash YRSCNA | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| May 24, 2025, | Red Cross of Constantine | Battle Ground, Indiana |
| May 26, 2025, | Montgomery County Shrine Club | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| May 30, 2025, | Montgomery Council R & SM Degrees | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| May 31, 2025, | Scottish Rite Officer Installation | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| June 7, 2025, | AMD Ingathering | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| June 9, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| July 14, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| August 2, 2025, | Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team | Muncie, Indiana |
| August 5, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 EA Degree | Alamo, Indiana |
| August 8, 2025, | AMD, Thespian Council 464 | Battle Ground, Indiana |
| August 11, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| August 13, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| September 6, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 Breakfast | Alamo, Indiana |
| September 8, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| September 10, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| September 12, 2025, | Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| September 18, 2025, | Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| October 8, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| October 13, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| November 7, 2025, | Master Mason Degree | Cloverdale, Indiana |
| November 8, 2025, | Red Cross of Constantine | South Bend, Indiana |
| November 10, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| November 12, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| November 24, 2025, | Knight York Cross of Honor | Franklin, Indiana |
| November 25, 2025, | Montgomery County Shrine Club | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| December 8, 2025, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| December 10, 2025, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| December 20, 2025, | Masonic Order of Athelstan | Fort Wayne, Indiana |

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| December 27, 2025, | Feast of St John | Dayton, Indiana |
| December 30, 2025, | Actual Past Master Degree | Alamo, Indiana |
| January 9, 2026, | Master Mason Degree | Alamo, Indiana |
| January 12, 2026, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| January 14, 2026, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| January 24, 2026, | Knight York Cross of Honor | Nashville, Indiana |
| January 29, 2026, | Master Mason Degree | Alamo, Indiana |
| February 5, 2026, | Outer Guard Widows Sons | Dayton, Indiana |
| February 9, 2026, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| February 19, 2026, | Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 9, 2026, | Alamo Masonic Lodge #144 | Alamo, Indiana |
| March 11, 2026, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| March 19, 2026, | Crawfordsville Masonic Temple Foundation | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| March 20, 2026, | AMD, Thespian Council 464 | Battle Ground, Indiana |
| March 21, 2026, | Prather Knight Masons | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| March 22, 2026, | Banks of the Wabash YRSCNA Practice | Terre Haute, Indiana |
| March 28, 2026, | Canterbury Chapel, St Thomas of Acon | Indianapolis, Indiana |
| March 31, 2026, | Montgomery County Shrine Club | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| April 8, 2026, | Scottish Rite | Terre Haute, Indiana |

Philanthropies:

Holyland Pilgrimage – Indiana sent 1 minister from Angola. Coins were minted and sold to raise funds for the Holyland Pilgrimage, \$3,070.00 was raised.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation – The Knight Templar Ball raised \$3,990.00 to make Indiana Sir Knights Life Sponsors. On June 21, 2025, we were able to help present a Golden Chalice to a Sir Knight from Crawfordsville Commandery #25. On March 15, 2026, we were able to help present a Sword of Merit to the same Sir Knight from Crawfordsville Commandery #25. For the 58th Annual Voluntary Campaign, Indiana donated \$64,712.91. Indiana currently has 6 Commanderies that are 100% Life Sponsors.

Bulletins:

- Bulletin #1 – 171st Conclave Digest
- Bulletin #2 – Certificate of Merit
- Bulletin #3 – Distinguished Service Award
- Bulletin #4 – Knight Templar Cross of Honor
- Bulletin #5 – Ritual Award Program
- Bulletin #6 – Battalion Commander and DBC Visits
- Bulletin #7 – Holyland Pilgrimage
- Bulletin #8 – Special Deputy Huntington #35
- Bulletin #9 – Passing of PGC Herbert Roach
- Bulletin #10 – Deadline for Scholarship Applications
- Bulletin #11 – Appointing Special Deputy Whisner
- Bulletin #12 – Appointing Special Deputy Williams

Bulletin #13 – Passing of PGC John Stevens
Bulletin #14 – Passing of PGC Steven Barton
Bulletin #15 – Notice of 172nd Annual Conclave
Bulletin #16 – Fall Holyland Pilgrimage
Bulletin #17 – Grand Prelate’s Easter Message

General Orders:

General Order #1 – Annual Inspection & Receptions of Constituent Commandery’s
General Order #2 – Special Dispensations
General Order #3 – Mentoring New Members & Junior Officers
General Order #4 – Libations for Candidates under the Age of 21
General Order #5 – R Frank Williams Award
General Order #6 – Video Presentation

Dispensations:

Dispensation #1 – Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery of Research U.D.
Dispensation #2 – Levant Preceptory
Dispensation #3 – Valparaiso Commandery #28
Dispensation #4 – Elkhart Commandery #31 Move Charter
Dispensation #5 – Vincennes Commandery #20 Special Election
Dispensation #6 – Angola Commandery #45 Move Stated Conclave Date
Dispensation #7 – Raper Commandery #1 Move Charter for Levant Conferral
Dispensation #8 – Frankfort Commandery #29 Move Stated Conclave Date
Dispensation #9 – Kokomo Commandery #36 Move Charter
Dispensation #10 – Frankfort Commandery #29 Move Stated Conclave Date
Dispensation #11 – Conferring of Orders in Another Jurisdiction
Dispensation #12 – Crawfordsville Commandery #25 Move Charter

By-Laws:

I approved By-Laws changes for the following commanderies:

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| Noblesville Commandery #61 | William G Bray Commandery #65 |
| Anderson Commandery #32 | Frankfort Commandery #29 |

Grand Representatives:

I am pleased to have appointed the following Sir Knights as representatives to the following commanderies:

Sir Knight Lawrence Myers – Alabama
Sir Knight Jon Carpenter – Delaware
Sir Knight Stephen Roberts – Italy
Sir Knight Dathan Reed – Kansas
Sir Knight Phillip Whisner – Kentucky
Sir Knight Mark Elder – Maine

Sir Knight Jordan McCracken – Maryland
Sir Knight Andrew Bowman – Massachusetts & Rhode Island
Sir Knight Jeffrey Prairie – Minnesota
Sir Knight Barry Clouser – Montana
Sir Knight Gary Paschke II – New Hampshire
Sir Knight Joseph Korschot – New Jersey
Sir Knight Vance Brewer – New Mexico
Sir Knight Dan Patterson – Oklahoma
Sir Knight Graig Huber – Oregon
Sir Knight Terry Bisping – Philippines
Sir Knight John Jones II – South Carolina
Sir Knight John Freeland – Tennessee
Sir Knight Scott Sacek – Texas
Sir Knight Mitch Rohrbaugh – Utah
Sir Knight Matthew McLaughlin – Virginia
Sir Knight Nathan Ratterman – Washington
Sir Knight William Short - Wisconsin

Goals:

All Commanderies to become 100% KTEF Life Sponsored
Each Battalion creates at least a Class D Drill Team
Increase membership by visiting and supporting Blue Lodge
Create an Exit Committee to study Sir Knights that are leaving due to NPD or Demits
Create a Templar Honor Guard committee
Continued training of battalion commanders and Deputy Battalion Commanders
Reaffirm expectations of being a Battalion Commander and a Grand Commandery Officer
Raise funds for the Holyland pilgrimage, KTEF or other worthy charity.
Promote and raise funds for the permanent fund, Newby-Avery-Vaught
Have 1 centralized summer picnic
Promote harmony and better communication through the other York Rite bodies
Assign a Mentor to appointed officers
Review By-laws of the Grand Commandery
Update Indiana Knights Templar Monitor
Review Officer handbooks and update as needed

Recommendations:

- 1 - I recommend that the Grand Commandery continue to support the youth groups of the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters. This support should be in the form of financial, visits, and participation with the local groups
- 2 – That the Membership Committee continue to work on recruitment and retention
- 3 – Continue to support Lawrence V Kaminsky Commandery of Research and promote Templar Education
- 4 – Continue the Ritual Competition Program to increase interest in Ritual
- 5 – Continue to promote the Drill Competition and continue to hold it at Conclave

- 6 – Continue to raise funds for the permanent fund, Newby-Avery-Vaught banquet and continue to keep it open to all Sir Knights and their families
- 7 – Continue to have Open Receptions to allow Ladies and Guest to attend
- 8 – Continue to provide information on various Commandery subjects through the Indiana Templar Academy or try a School of Instruction
- 9 – Continue to come up with new ways of preserving Templary
- 10 – Continue to train and mentor all elected and appointed officers
- 11 – Continue to raise funds for our philanthropies, Templar Ball, Golf Outing or other fundraising efforts
- 12 – Continue to support the Social Order of the Beauceant and invite them to Commandery functions

Conclusion:

What a fantastic year this has been! I have so much to be thankful for. Thanks to God, without his Grace and Mercy I probably wouldn't be here. Thanks to my amazing wife for all her support and for keeping all of you informed while I was in the hospital. Thanks to all the Sir Knights of this great state for your Love of Templary, for your dedication to your commandery and for the support you have shown me and my Lady.

As you can see from my travel log, my health issues did not slow me down much. Thank you to everyone who helped me get to an appointment or to a Lodge meeting. I still believe that to be a leader of Gods army you must endure his trials and tribulations.

Although my year is coming to an end, our work is not yet finished! On April 28, 2025, we started with a membership of 2,338 Sir Knights.

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| Knighthood – 63 | Demit - 91 |
| Affiliated – 65 | Suspended - 70 |
| Reinstated – 16 | Deaths - 81 |
| Total Gain – 144 | Total Loss – 242 |

Final membership count on March 6, 2026, was 2,240. It's no secret this has been an ongoing issue. We will continue to work toward improving membership. Unfortunately, we did have one Commandery merge this year. On a more positive note, we were able to rededicate 2 Commanderies. Crawfordsville Commandery celebrated their 150th year. Bloomington Commandery celebrated their 100th year. I also had the opportunity to assist in presenting to several Sir Knights their 50-year award of gold.

I was able to visit every Commandery during my term. During my visits I noticed that every Commandery is trying to do better. It takes time to rebuild. Continue to work with your neighboring Commanderies. Don't hesitate to ask your Grand Officers for help! That's what we are here for. Part of my job while visiting was to encourage and inspire each of you. The more impressive our Orders are the better the likelihood of a New Sir Knight returning. Once they return we must give them something to want to continue to return. I have a theory that the answer to this is mentoring that new Sir Knight. Maybe it's round table discussions, family nights, or education nights. Unfortunately, none of us have the answer or it wouldn't be a problem.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the Sir Knights of Indiana for having the confidence in me to serve as Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Indiana this year. It

has been an honor and a privilege to be able to serve you, and I will continue to serve in any way possible.

Courteously,
Joseph L. Sparks, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Executive Committee Report Annual Meeting

To the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Officers and Sir Knights all.

Your Executive committee currently has nothing to report.

Courteously,
Joseph Sparks, REGC, KCT, Chair
Dominic Hamblin, VEDGC, KCT
Jonathan McCracken, GG
Dathan Reed, GCG

Jurisprudence Committee Report

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders and Grand Commandery Officers:

The Committee on Jurisprudence has nothing to report at this time.

Courteously,
Michael Robbins, PGC, Chair
Past Grand Commanders
3-7-2026

Committee Reports

Grand Recorder's 2026 Final Report

To REGC Joseph Sparks
Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Sir Knights All,
Subject: Grand Recorder's Grand Conclave Report.

All the Commanderies have paid their Re-Caps for the year of 2025.

I am happy to report that for the most part there are some very competent Recorders in the State of Indiana. I have received very few questions from them and the few that I have received were because of confusion on their part as to what to do. And a few have kindly pointed out more than a few mistakes that I have made in my posting. Thank you for your help. You know who you are.

I ask that the local Recorders be more timely in updating their records of the knighting, deaths demits and suspensions. This is because it allows the Sir Knights that are Topline Signers to receive their awards in a timely manner. It is also because, in the long range, by not reporting deaths, demits and suspensions, this will cost their Commanderies funds on their annual Re-Cap Statements by not removing those who for whatever reason have left.

The Recorders should also keep track of their 50-year members. This is because they should be recognized for their service and also the commandery is losing a dues paying member.

SYNOPSIS OF MEMBERSHIP

Here is an overview of the membership numbers since our last Grand Conclave:

While compiling the Re-Cap Statement for 2025, I discovered something worth highlighting. Between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025:

1. We began the year with 2,366 members
 - We ended the year with 2,258 members
 - Reflecting a 4.56% decrease
2. 10 Commanderies experienced membership decline
3. 5 saw growth—with one Commandery seeing growth solely due to the closure and consolidation of another Commandery
4. 3 held steady
5. 72 Knightings recorded from January through December
6. 67 Affiliations
7. 14 Reinstatements
8. 102 Demits
9. 73 Suspensions
10. 86 Deaths

As you can see from the above figures, if we can cut the Demits and Suspension in half we would have had a positive year for growth, However it is the same conversation we have been having for years. We must identify why members leave through demits or suspensions.

If possible, ask departing members about their reasons for leaving.

- Is it insufficient activity within the York Rite?
- Is it lack of support for new ideas?

- Are there too many meetings each week or month?
- Do they feel pressured to memorize ritual parts?
- Is the uniform cost prohibitive?
- Or are there are other factors?

There is a Commandery in northern Indiana that hosts round table discussions after completing the Orders, allowing members to reflect on and discuss their impression of the Orders and symbolism and what they received from them.

It appears that this approach has fostered growth and helped retain membership.

Use these insights to address underlying issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence J. Williams, KCT, PGC
Grand Recorder

1. Grand Treasurer Report

To be given at Grand Conclave

2. Budget & Financial Report

To be given at Grand Conclave

3. Trustee Report

To be given at Grand Conclave

Dispensations and Charter Committee Report

May 2, 2025, Sir Knight Dathan Reed, Grand Captain General was appointed to oversee the consolidation of Huntington Commandery No. 35 with Apolo Commandery No. 19.

Huntington No. 35 consolidated with Apollo No. 19 and the members were transferred on July 8, 2025. All assets of Huntington No. 35 were transferred to Apollo No. 19 at that time.

This concludes the committee report at this time.

Fraternally,

George A. Ingles, Jr., PGC, KCT, for the committee
Donald Olvey, PGC, KCT

Grievance & Appeals

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Sir Knights all

There were no issues brought to this Committees attention.

George A. Ingles, Jr., PGC, KCT, for the committee

Necrology Report April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

It is with a heavy heart that I submit this report of our dearly departed sir knights. To their friends and relatives we tender our heartfelt sympathy and affirm our faith that He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb looks down with the infinite compassion upon the widow and the fatherless in their hour of desolation; and that the same benevolent Savior who wept tears of sympathy over the grave at Bethany, will support and comfort all those who put their trust and faith in Him.

| Commandery | Name | Birth | Passing |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Raper #1 | Larry D. Jefferson | 11/27/1938 | 05/31/2025 |
| | Terry L. Turner | 11/22/1955 | 07/31/2025 |
| Baldwin #2 | Steven J. Barton | 12/10/1944 | 01/30/2026 |
| Fort Wayne #4 | Max L. Poorman | 07/12/1923 | 04/13/2025 |
| | Thomas J. Smith | 08/10/1960 | 01/01/1900 |
| | Donald R. Rush | 06/23/1936 | 03/20/2026 |
| New Albany #5 | Jerry Melton | 05/04/1942 | 01/01/1900 |
| | Jack L. Windell | 03/17/1934 | 01/01/1900 |
| Richmond #8 | Thomas C. Francis | 04/11/1938 | 12/07/2025 |
| LaPorte #12 | August K. Eckert | 03/07/1956 | 06/24/2024 |
| | Paul J. Erickson | 09/16/1935 | 06/07/2025 |
| | John E. Bauer | 05/19/1936 | 10/17/2024 |
| Columbus #14 | David S. Graham | 04/25/1947 | 04/12/2025 |
| | Thomas D. Cook | 06/30/1934 | 02/16/2025 |
| | Harold Greene Jr. | 08/08/1937 | 08/26/2023 |
| | David V. Koss | 09/04/1940 | 07/27/2025 |
| | Paul M. Rynerson | 02/01/1957 | 07/18/2022 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Samuel E. Shearer | 07/14/1935 | 01/06/2021 |
| | Gary Trowbridge | 10/16/1953 | 03/08/2023 |
| | Stephen W. Walters | 03/19/1939 | 07/30/2023 |
| | Charles W. Robbins | 04/23/1937 | 08/05/2022 |
| | Charles B. Roark | 02/23/1947 | 06/11/2025 |
| | Jesse C. James | 05/15/1937 | 12/20/2024 |
| | James R. Harrison | 10/24/1941 | 01/26/2026 |
| | William R. Riche | 08/22/1949 | 12/08/2025 |
| | Patrick L. Garrett | 04/09/1947 | 10/15/2024 |
| La Valette #15 | Thomas D. West | 09/25/1948 | 05/27/2025 |
| | Robin R. Holder | 11/08/1939 | 12/24/2024 |
| | Timothy R. Hermes | 07/23/1942 | 02/08/2026 |
| Terre Haute #16 | Harold W. Hopler | 03/20/1940 | 05/04/2025 |
| | Jack Thomas | 05/29/1942 | 08/26/2025 |
| | Marvin L. Williams | 08/08/1936 | 10/15/2025 |
| | Randy Porter | 07/16/1946 | 02/14/2026 |
| Apollo #19 | Stephen J. Williams | 03/01/1940 | 12/05/2025 |
| | Thomas R. Smith | 06/15/1961 | 02/08/2024 |
| | Eldred Glass | 07/18/1932 | 12/23/2025 |
| Vincennes #20 | Herbert G. Roach | 02/04/1930 | 05/10/2025 |
| | Philip C. Grounds | 09/23/1951 | 03/23/2023 |
| Grant County #21 | Phillip W. Wood | 08/13/1943 | 05/17/2025 |
| | James A. Bozell | 10/21/1949 | 07/30/2025 |
| Crawfordsville #25 | Michael S. Morrison | 03/26/1944 | 09/24/2025 |
| Valparaiso #28 | James Dimitri | 06/14/1929 | 04/11/2025 |
| | John M. Webster | 10/10/1933 | 01/12/2025 |
| | William, I. Smiley, Sr. | 08/25/1930 | 11/06/2023 |
| | Jeffery J. Oesterle | 06/14/1954 | 08/25/2025 |
| | James C. Barnett | 10/18/1939 | 04/05/2025 |
| | Joseph L. Beverly, Sr. | 02/27/1938 | 11/28/2025 |
| | Gordan C. Hall | 10/23/1949 | 03/18/2026 |
| Frankfort #29 | Russell M. Sheets | 11/16/1927 | 07/29/2025 |
| | Drew C. Godby | 09/10/1989 | 08/09/2025 |
| | Alan W. Kaufman | 12/23/1941 | 08/01/2025 |
| | Charles Jones | 02/13/1925 | 06/08/2021 |
| | Paul E. Anderson | 04/01/1956 | 02/26/2025 |
| | Veron L. Patchett | 10/13/1946 | 12/07/2025 |
| | Gary C. Steinhardt | 09/13/1944 | 12/12/2025 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| | John V. Stevens | 10/30/1940 | 09/19/2023 |
| Elkhart #31 | NONE REPORTED | | |
| Anderson #32 | Donald R. Phillippe | 04/09/1933 | 06/01/2025 |
| | Dale M. Adams | 10/17/1956 | 07/08/2025 |
| | Roger A. Glasby | 08/24/1932 | 10/20/2024 |
| | Janes E. Hummel | 06/18/1931 | 05/03/2025 |
| Kokomo #36 | Alan W. Kaufman | 12/23/1941 | 08/01/2025 |
| | Merrill C. Quarles | 05/27/1933 | 10/05/2021 |
| | Charles L. Pennington | 12/26/1940 | 07/29/2025 |
| Greenfield #39 | William T. Grover | 02/12/1960 | 02/12/2016 |
| | Scott A. Barton | 02/21/1968 | 07/04/2025 |
| | Robert E. Leonard | 10/08/1929 | 08/15/2025 |
| | David A. Hoover | 03/30/1947 | 06/22/2025 |
| | Steven J. Barton | 12/10/1944 | 01/30/2026 |
| | James C. Talbott | 12/14/1924 | 09/02/2022 |
| | James R. Wortman | 09/29/1931 | 02/16/2026 |
| Bedford #42 | NONE REPORTED | | |
| Angola #45 | Ronald V. Sullins | 09/02/1944 | 12/23/2025 |
| Noblesville #61 | David A. Metsker | 12/16/1946 | 04/07/2025 |
| | Neil B. McConnell | 08/08/1938 | 08/12/2025 |
| | Curtis D. Munden | 03/07/1940 | 08/18/2025 |
| Prather #62 | Gregory L. McConaughy | 10/25/1963 | 08/04/2025 |
| | William B. Lacefield | 10/10/1934 | 12/25/2024 |
| Bloomington #63 | Larry G. Huffman | 10/07/1952 | 04/26/2025 |
| | Verle A. Kersey Sr. | 02/21/1954 | 03/15/2020 |
| | Richard L. Sexton | 11/02/1941 | 08/02/2024 |
| | Phillip W. Hudson | 03/15/1948 | 04/26/2025 |
| | Jerome P. Murphy | 07/17/1939 | 03/08/2026 |
| Wright #64 | Dennis M. Reed | 06/15/1947 | 03/03/2026 |
| Wm. G. Bray #65 | David C. Willoughby | 11/16/1940 | 05/20/2025 |
| | Joseph L. Scott | 09/27/1930 | 06/13/2025 |
| Greene County #68 | Jack Thomas | 05/29/1942 | 08/26/2025 |
| Lawrence Kaminski | Dale M. Adams | 10/17/1956 | 07/08/2025 |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| David V. Koss | 09/04/1940 | 07/27/2025 |
| Michael S. Morrison | 03/26/1944 | 09/24/2025 |
| Steven J. Barton | 12/10/1944 | 01/30/2026 |
| Randy Porter | 07/16/1946 | 02/14/2026 |

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." John 11:25

Respectfully Submitted

John C. Jones II, MDiv., Grand Prelate
Randal Ellington, PGC, KCT, GPE
Dan Patterson, GPE



**Obituary
of
John Vincent Stevens
October 30, 1940 – September 18, 2023**

John Vincent Stevens, age 82 of Indianapolis IN, passed away on Tuesday September 19th, 2023. He was born on October 30th, 1940, in Silver Lake IN to John B and Dorothy L Stevens.

Sir Knight John Stevens was raised as a Master Mason on March 10th, 1975, in Lodge #637 in Swansea, Indiana and served as Worshipful Master in 1982.

He received his York Rite Degrees and Orders in 1976 and served as High Priest at Kokomo Chapter #104 in 1981, Illustrious Master of Kokomo Council #60, in 1981 and Eminent Commander of Kokomo Commandery in 1980. Served as secretary/recorder for Kokomo York Rite 1982 through 1985. Received his Distinguished Service Award in 1982 and was commissioned as a Grand Representative to Arizona near the Grand Commandery of Indiana in 1986.

He was a member of the Past Commanders Association of Wisconsin, Ohio, Arizona, Indiana, and Illinois. Royal Order of Scotland, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis, Knight Masons and has received several honorary memberships in Indiana and have the jurisdiction. He has served as a member of Indiana priority #8 KYCH York Rite Sovereign College #133 where he was Charter Member.

Sir Knight John served as Grand Commander in 1989. He also was a long time Grand Recorder for the Grand Commandery of Indiana,

He attended Taylor University and worked at Chrysler as a tool and die maker until his retirement

He and Rebecca Sue Parish were married on June 6th, 1961.

He is survived by his wife of 11 years Mary Jane Stevens, children Brenda R Evans, Michael B Stevens, Matthew Stephens, Bonnie M Joyner, Jason Stevens, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

John is preceded in death by his parents and first wife Rebecca and his son-in-law and William Evans.

Obituary
of
Herbert G. Roach, PGC
February 4, 1930 – May 10, 2025



Herbert G. Roach, 95, of Odon, IN passed away May 10, 2025. He was born in Vincennes, IN on February 4, 1930, to the late Raymond W. and Anna P. (Taylor) Roach. Herbert attended Lincoln High School and graduated in the 1948 class. He married the love of his life, Loretta Jones, on November 26, 1950, and they were blessed with 74 years together. Herbert proudly served his country in the United State Navy for 20 years. Herbert also worked as an Industrial Tech for Crane Naval Base for many years. He was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, VFW, and was a Past Master of the Vincennes Masonic Lodge #1. Herbert also is a Past Grand Commander, Indiana Knights Templar 1985/86, Knight of York Cross of Honor, an honorary Kentucky Colonel, and lifetime NRA member.

In his early years he enjoyed traveling with his family, hunting, fishing, and spending time at the Vincennes Gun Club. Herbert was a Master Referee for the ATA in San Antonio and the NSSA for both skeet and trap shooting. In his later years, Herbert enjoyed genealogy, solving crossword puzzles, and reading. He will be deeply missed by all.

He is preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Anna Roach; granddaughter Bobbie Jo Jones; daughter in law Sherron Roach; siblings Raymond Roach Jr., Betty Lett, Donald Roach, Verda Robinson, and Alfred Roach.

Herbert is survived by his wife Loretta Roach; children Mike (Susie) Roach, Dale (Ramona) Roach, Debbie (Tim) Gunnoe; grandchildren Season (Kevin) Stalcup, Nathan (Crystal) Roach, Chad (Meredith) Roach, Sean (Katrina) Roach, Mandy (TJ) Price; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

Sir Kinght Roach's visitation was held Sunday, May 18, 2025, at Goodwin-Sievers. With the services of Eastern Star, Templar Memorial Service and Masonic Services. His burial was on Monday May 20, 2025 at Memorial Park immediately following Military Honors.

**Obituary
for
Steven Jack Barton**

December 10, 1944 – January 30, 2026



Steven Jack Barton, age 81, of Hancock County, passed away surrounded by the love of his family. Steve was a man known for steady leadership, quiet strength, and a lifelong commitment to caring for others—especially his family.

Steve was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on December 10, 1944, the eldest child of Branson C. “Bill” Barton and Doris Ruth (Poer) Barton. He grew up in Charlottesville, Indiana, where he learned early the values that would define his life: hard work, responsibility, and service to others. He graduated from Charlottesville High School in 1963.

Steve married Sherry Freeman in 1966, beginning a partnership that shaped the rest of his life. Together they built a family that became the center of Steve’s world. He was the proud father of Tammy, Scott, and Adam, and a devoted grandfather and great-grandfather to a growing family who brought him constant joy. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was lovingly known as “Pado.” Steve and Sherry created a home that was always open—a place of support, laughter, snacks in the drawer, and unconditional love.

From his early teen years through college, Steve worked alongside his father at Bill Barton and Sons Service Station in Charlottesville. Steve earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biology from Ball State University in 1970. He spent his professional career with Eli Lilly and Company, beginning as a laboratory technician and later serving as an analytical chemist and senior systems analyst. Over 35 years, he became known for his integrity, problem-solving ability, and leadership, eventually traveling the world on a global laboratory chromatography project before retiring in 2002.

Leadership and service were defining parts of Steve’s life. He devoted decades to Freemasonry and York Rite, serving in numerous local, state, and national leadership roles. He served twice as Worshipful Master, led commandery drill teams for decades, and was elected Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana. He later served three years as Department Commander for the East Central United States, overseeing multiple states. Steve was also appointed to the national Drill Regulations Committee of the Grand Encampment Knights

Templar, serving multiple terms as Chairman, helping shape drill standards at the national level. While his titles and honors were many, Steve valued most the friendships, mentorship, and sense of purpose that came from serving something larger than himself.

After retirement, Steve poured his energy into family and community. He volunteered at Hancock Regional Hospital, worked with Eastern Hancock schools in lawn maintenance and as a bus aide, and took on what he jokingly called “30 years of catching up on housework.” He loved time on the water, sitting in boats across the Midwest—especially in Michigan—enjoying the quiet, the challenge of fishing, and the stories that came with it.

More than anything, Steve was a family man. He and Sherry provided a loving second home for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren—offering rides, babysitting, guidance, and a steady example of kindness and dependability. To his family, he wasn’t just Pado; he was a safe place, a helper, and a role model.

Steve was a man of faith and service. He and Sherry were longtime members of Charlottesville United Methodist Church, where Steve served in leadership roles, and later attended Wilkinson Church of Christ.

Steve was preceded in death by his wife, Sherry Barton; his parents, Bill and Doris Barton; his son, Scott Barton and his sister, Carol Ann.

He is survived by his children, Tammy (Chris) Stunda of Wilkinson and Adam (Julie) Barton of Markleville; brother, Tom (Janice) Barton of Knightstown, daughter-in-law, Jane Barton of Greenfield, his beloved grandchildren, Steven Stunda, Jordan (Jameson) Supan, Carly (Chandler) Guion, Tom (Callie) Barton, Kyle (Mackenzie) Barton, Maddy (Patrik) Seal, Jake (Haley) Barton and great-grandchildren, Marcella Stunda, Kaydence Supan, Luka Barton, Eden Seal, Gloriana Guion, Katherine Stunda, Lucy Supan, Tate Seal, Hudson Barton, Carmi Guion and one on the way. Also, his mother-in-law, Marcella Freeman; sisters-in-law, Rebecca (Candy) Freeman and Deborah (Kevin) Shipp; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Membership Committee Report

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers, and Sir Knights,

Appreciation for Battalion Commanders

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each and every Battalion Commander of this Grand Commandery. Your assistance throughout the past year has been greatly appreciated and has contributed significantly to our progress.

Social Media Presence and Promotion

This year, we have seen a notable increase in our activity on social media compared to previous years. This enhanced presence is helping us promote our fraternity more effectively and reach a wider audience.

Membership Numbers and Statistics

The membership numbers for the past year are as follows:

The Grand Lodge currently has 39,000 members, of which 27,000 are dues-paying.

The Grand Commandery has 2,258 dues-paying members, representing 7% of the total Grand Lodge membership as Knights Templars.

This year, the Grand Lodge of Indiana raised 569 Master Masons. In the same period, we knighted 73 new Sir Knights, reflecting a 12% increase.

Membership Changes and Losses

The year began with 2,366 members and concluded with 2,258 members. The breakdown of membership losses is as follows:

73 suspensions

86 deaths

103 demits

Focus for 2026

Our primary focus for 2026 will be to address membership retention—"closing the back door." We will begin with a renewed emphasis on mentoring, which includes education, coaching, and providing valuable support to our membership during meetings. It is essential to engage and nurture our members. When meetings are interesting and enriching, members are more likely to attend and maintain their membership.

Fraternally,

Steven A. Dooley, Chairman for the committee.

BY-LAWS REPORT 2025-2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery officers, Past Grand Commanders and Sir Knights all,

The By-Laws committee consists of Dominic J. Hamblin, KCT, VEDGC-Chair, Jon McCracken, GG, and Lawrence Williams, KCT, PGC, GR. We have reviewed all incoming changes this year so far and have approved them to be passed on for the signatures of the Grand Commandery Officers so they could be made law in their respective Commandery's. There are three Commandery's in the State of Indiana that has requested changes. They are Noblesville Commandery #61, William G. Bray Commandery 65, and Anderson Commandery #32.

Noblesville Commandery previous by-laws stated that the Stated Conclaves shall be held jointly with Chapter and Council on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm, except for the month of December when the body shall be dark. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, or the day before or the day after, then the meeting for that month shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday. The modification now reads as follows: Stated Conclaves shall be held jointly with Chapter and Council on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, except for the month of December when the body shall be dark. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, or the day before or the day after, then the meeting for that month shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday.

William G. Bray Commandery by-laws previously stated the Commandery would meet separately on the 2nd Thursday of the month, while the Chapter and Council would meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. The modification now reads: all of Mooresville York Rite bodies, which include William G. Bray Commandery, along with Chapter and Council will now meet on the 4th Monday of the month. Both Chapter and Council requested the same by-law change from their respective Grand Bodies and was approved as well. These changes were made to boost the attendance and to have one night a month for stated meetings. They will work on a rotating schedule every month on which body opens, and the other bodies will be declared open by their respective heads of the line. This allows each body to open 4 times each year.

Anderson Commandery previous by-laws stated that the initiation fee for any new incoming member would be \$75 each. To help boost membership the new by-law changes now state: each new incoming member will be charged a fee of \$45 for initiation.

All the by-law changes were read in a stated meeting and held over for a vote until the next stated meeting. By which time were all approved by the majority of members that were present during the meeting. All three of these changes were signed into law by the current officers of the Diaz of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Indiana.

Right Eminent Grand Commander this is my report from the By-Laws Committee for our Winter meeting of the 2025-2026 Templar year.

Courteously,

Dominic J. Hamblin, KCT, VEDGC-Chair
Jonathan McCracken, GG
Lawrence Williams, KCT, PGC, GR

Knight Templar Eye Foundation Annual Report 2025-2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Sir Knights all:

I visited Grant County Commandery #21 on June 17th, 2025, where I gave a presentation on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation at the annual Templar Board.

August 20th, 2025, Sir Knight Duane Vaught, MEPGM presented a Golden Chalice to Sir Knight Irvan Boeglin at the Battalion 4 Reception. The Golden Chalice requires a \$10,000 donation to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

On August 30th, the REGC hosted a Knights Templar Ball and Fundraiser auction for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The goal was to raise funds to make all Knights of Indiana Life Members of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The Fundraiser raised \$3990.00 enough money to make 133 Sir Knights life members. This was a great accomplishment for Indiana Knights Templar. Special thanks to all Sir Knights and Ladies that donated to make this a success.

March 14th, 2026, Sir Knight David Kussman, MEGM, presented a Sword of Merit to Sir Knight Irvan Boeglin at the East Central Department Conference. The Sword of Merit requires a \$25,000 donation to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

The 58th Annual Voluntary Campaign Final report, Indiana cumulative contribution was \$53,708.91. Indiana has 29 Commanderies and the top three are Crawfordville No. 25 with \$24,995.00, Greenfield No. 39 with \$6,885.00 and Wright No. 64 with \$2,800.00 in donations.

Courteously:

Jeffery W. Prairie GStdB
Battalion V Commander
KTEF Voluntary Campaign State Chair

Holy Land Pilgrimage Final 2025-26 Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander Joseph Sparks, Grand Commandery Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Indiana,

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Ministry Program has sent one Minister who was paid for by Angola Commandery #45. The airfare was paid for by the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and was booked through the Grand Encampment.

We have received a \$4000.00 donation from Angola Commandery #45 to pay for their Minister, \$500.00 from Grant County Commandery #21 and a \$250.00 donation from Sir Knight James Isles of Valparaiso Commandery #28.

The 2027 Dates have been tentatively set for Ministers,
Group A, Monday, February 1 – Thursday, February 11, 2027
Group B, Monday, February 15 – Thursday, February 25, 2027

There is a “In the Footsteps of Jesus” a Pilgrim’s Journey for Sir Knights, Ladies, Friends and Guests in November 9th through the 19th 2026 and tentatively set for November 8th to 18th 2027.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Jewel Program has been recently sent out by our Grand Recorder to all Constituent Recorders and this is a wonderful program to promote for raising money for the Pilgrimage Program and it stays in Indiana and it being handled by Sir Knight Edward Fodreay, KCT, PGC who is has the jewels and bars.

Raper Commandery #1 at this time is the Only Commandery that has donated to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund for a Minister to be named in the future. These funds are held till a Minister Candidate had been selected.

Another fundraiser for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund is the Templar Crusader which is being published and provided at the Conclave. The net proceeds of the publishing of the Crusader each year goes into the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Please think about putting in an add next year.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee will continue to keep the Commandery’s of Indiana updated with information as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

Randal P. Ellington, KCT, GPE, PGC - Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman

Dan Patterson, GPE

Barry Clouser, GPE

William Short, KTCH, GPE

John Jones, II, GP
All Past Grand Prelates

4. Education Foundation Report

To be given at the Grand Conclave

2025-26 Grand Commandery Educational Foundation Committee Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, Deputy Battalion Commanders, Sir Knights all:

The members of this committee held its first meeting in the summer of 2025. At that meeting, we set the due date for applications to be submitted for March 15, 2026, and approved minor revisions to the application form.

The committee received communication from Grand Encampment in mid-February, reporting the status of the scholarship funds it holds in trust for our Grand Commandery. In 2025, we issued \$15,000 in scholarships, paid \$750 in brokerage fees, and earned just over \$10,500 in returns on our funds, bringing our beginning of 2026 balance to just under \$234,000.

The committee received a total of 13 scholarship applications. We met in late March via Teams Meeting to determine what awards we wanted to present. Partially based on the lower income we received in 2025, we decided to award 9 scholarships at \$1,500 each. The total awarded was \$13,500.

The members of the committee thank the Grand Commandery for the opportunity to serve in this role and look forward to continuing this work in future years, helping future generations pursue their educational goals.

Fraternally,

Sir Knight Phillip Whisner, PGC, KCT, KTCH, Chairman

Sir Knight Larry Williams, GR, PGC, KCT

Sir Knight Randy Darling, GT, PGC, KCT

Sir Knight Randal Ellington, GPE, PGC, KCT

Sir Knight Barry Clouser, GPE

Long Range Planning

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Sir Knights all,

The Members of the long-range planning committee are committed to continuing to grow the Grand Commandery and Sir Knights of Indiana. We plan to continue all viable options

to continue to grow our membership in the state. We also want to make sure the Templar Ball grows and gets stronger as we will use this as an outreach for membership. We will also continue to visit and assist in any way to all constituent Commandery's around the state. We will continue to make plans and keep the Grand Commandery abreast of our movements. But our focus is building and maintaining membership throughout the state.

Grand Commandery Law: Perhaps not Long Range but, for at least the last 5/10 years each Grand Commander has issued a General Order concerning "Libations." It's time to look at when to place it in Grand Commandery Law.

This from a member of this Committee: Communications: Great job Grand Recorder the Web site looks better than it has in years and a plan for the year is on the calendar. The State supplement for the Templar Magazine hasn't been used in several years. That really doesn't matter, as very few know or care about it after it was removed from the mailed magazine. Years ago, as a local union president, the state president said you need to put together a letter to the members what you are doing each month. I replied they don't need or care what I am doing. He replied, 'Even if you stopped for lunch and mentioned to someone about future negotiations, they need to know, "The Leader is working and thinking of you every day."'

How can we get the word to the general membership that the "Long Range Planning committee" [will be meeting July??/ and they are looking for input.] Make sure that input is also broadcast back to the general membership. Ok, not this committee but, some information because, as I send almost every little piece of information to the 60 plus members we have, not every Recorder does.

Courteously,

Dominic J. Hamblin, KCT, Chair
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana

Triennial Report 2025 - 2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

The 70th Triennial is to be held August 10th to 18th, 2027 in Burbank, CA. There is no information available yet on the Grand Encampment website as to details of the hotel or registration. Below is an estimate of the cost per person to attend the 2027 Triennial based on 2024 cost where noted and current cost. Those attending the 69th Triennial were reimbursed for \$1,000.00. The Triennial committee would recommend that this amount be increased for the upcoming Triennial.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Hotel 5 nights @ \$200.00 night | \$1,000.00 |
| Registration for Grand Encampment sessions (based on 2024 cost) | \$355.00 |
| Airplane ticket round trip | \$310.00 |
| Baggage (based on 2024 cost) | \$70.00 |
| Parking at Indianapolis airport (based on 2024 cost) | \$54.00 |
| Meals | \$340.00 |
| Mileage to Indianapolis airport | \$150.00 |
| Total cost per person | \$2,279.00 |

Courteously,

Jon McCracken, GG – Chair

Dathan Reed, GCG

Scott Sacek, GSW

Leadership (ITA) Report 2025 - 2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

The following dates, locations, and times have been set for the ITA's for the 2025-2026 Templar year.

January 31st, 2026

Indiana Templar Academy North

Warsaw Masonic Lodge 10:00 A.M. start time

February 7th, 2026

Indiana Templar Academy South

Bedford Masonic Lodge 10:00 A.M. start time

February 21st, 2026

Indiana Templar Academy Central

Frankfort Masonic Lodge 10:00 A.M. start time

As in the past, first the VEDGC will discuss his plans for the upcoming year, then we will cover material for the academy. Some of the topics that will be discussed are the Flag Presentation, Prelate's escort, proper way to salute, and navigating the Grand Commandery website.

All Three ITA's were held on the above dates at the locations shown with an average of around 30 Sir Knights in attendance at each one. Thank you to each of the Commandery's that hosted an ITA this year and to all the Sir Knight's that attended.

Courteously,
Jon McCracken, GG – Chair
Dathan Reed, GCG
Scott Sacek, GSW

2025 - 2026

Ritual and Tactics Committee End of Year Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander Joseph Sparks, Grand Commandery Officers and Sir Knights of Indiana.

As of this report, we are looking into a few minor changes into the Templar Board Ritual.

Courteously,

Dathan L. Reed
Grand Captain General
Battalion II Commander
Ritual and Tactics Committee Chairman

**Lanyard Cord Program
Grand Conclave 2026**

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

I am happy to report that as of the date of this report, March 22, 2026, we have had 70 new Knighting's. There were 17 new top line singers and 9 new membership cords awarded.

4– White
4 – Silver
1 – Red

The awarding of cords to those Sir Knights that are entitled to wear them is based upon the timely and accurate input of information into “Masonic Membership Solutions” data base from the local recorders. If they do not record information of the Knighting's and Topline signers into the system, there is no way that the cords can be given out in a timely manner.

Courteously,
Randy J. Darling- PGC, KCT, GT

2025-2026 Uniform Committee Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, Sir Knights all.

I have perused the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery regulations for the Templar Apron which can be part of the Templar uniform. The regulations are clear.

At a Stated Conclave the Commandery must vote to adopt the Templar Apron. That is the only requirement to wear it.

The whole Commandery is not required to wear it. There is no rule that if one person doesn't wear it no one can wear it. There is no rule that the Commandery must buy everyone aprons. There is no rule that everyone must buy their own.

I hope this clears up any questions or concerns that people have had concerning the Templar Apron.

As for the Pershing Cap. The regulations do not require a vote, a knight knighted in a Chapeau may continue to wear it and/or adopt the Pershing Cap. As to if it is required or not for those knighted after Apr 2018, I will leave that for others to decide. The writer of the regulation intended it to be required for all new knights after Apr 2018 with no choice, most Sir Knights understood the regulation to be a personal choice.

Courteously,

Sir Knight John R. Freeland
Grand Sword Bearer
Battalion Commander of Battalion IV

York Rite Coordination Committee Annual Report 2025

To the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Officers and Sir Knights all.

Your committee on York Rite coordination is currently working with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Jason Miller and the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Todd Carpenter. We are currently looking at ways to strengthen the relationship between the Grand York Rite bodies. We are looking at better ways of communication between the bodies and the craft. Our Most Excellent Grand High Priest theme for the year is York Rite Unity! Jason Miller had a coin made that represents each of the bodies and is selling them for \$20.00

each. The proceeds will be divided between each body's philanthropy. It will take time to get the bodies to work as York Rite. The Grand Chapter and the Grand Council had a joint Christmas Party on December 7th, 2025, at the Sahara Grotto.

Courteously,

Joseph Sparks, REGC, KCT, Chair
Dominic Hamblin, VEDGC, KCT
Jonathan McCracken, GG
Randy Darling, PGC, GT, KCT

Competitive Drill Committee Report

At the posting of this report, it is expected that three teams will take the floor for the 2026 Indiana State Drills that will take place at the 2026 Grand Commandery Convocation in Muncie IN. Raper Commandery No. 1, Baldwin Commandery No. 2, and Greenfield Commandery No. 39 are presently practicing Class D drill routines.

Respectfully submitted,

William Short, KTCH- Chair
Randy Darling, PGC, KCT
David Miller
Jan Henline

Publicity and Public Relations Report 2025-2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Sir Knights all:

Publicity and Public Relations put a table booth space at Grand Lodge Annual Communications on May 20th. Sold several Holyland Coins and communicated with Brothers about KTEF and Holy land Pilgrimage.

Publicity and Public Relations had a booth space at IMH Festival on September 7th, 2025. Also, the Grand Commandery performed Flag Raising that morning as well as March in Parade.

Grand Commandery presented Collars at the IMH Veteran service on November 11, 2025. Grand Commandery will have a table at Annual Communication January 10, 2026

Courteously:

Jeffery W. Prairie GStdB
Battalion V Commander
KTEF Voluntary Campaign State Chair
Publicity and Public Relation

Grand Commandery Masonic Youth Final 2025-26 Report

To Sir Joseph Sparks, KCT, REGC, Grand Commandery Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Indiana All,

The Masonic Youth Groups of Indiana DeMolay, Job's Daughters and the Rainbow Girls all are all ready for their 2026 Sessions.

Masonic Youth 2026 Sessions

Indiana DeMolay will hold their Conclave at July 9-12 at Marian University

Job's Daughters of Indiana will hold their Grand Bethel Session June 18th – 21st Franklin College

Rainbow for Girls in Indiana will hold their Grand Assembly July 9th – 11th at The Seasons in Nashville

Job's Daughters of Indiana Ms. Isabel Alger was elected as the Grand Bethel Honored Queen for 2025-26 year and has had a wonderful year with a featured events, August 16th Miss Zoey was elected Miss Indiana and Miss Jaelynn was elected Jr Miss Indiana for 2025-26, Bloomington Job's promoted Job's at a Farmers Market on August 30th, Bethel 27 held a Masons and OES Honor Night on September 2nd, Bethel 18UD of in Kentucky attended the Grand Chapter of Kentucky OES on September 7th, Attended the Grand Master's Reception, Attend the Masonic Home Festival on September 7th, Attending Indiana Grand Lodge Founders Day on January 10th, their All Day School of Instruction was held on January 17th at Southport Lodge, Attended the DeMolay Sweetheart Dance held on February 14th at the Scottish Rite, Multi State held on March 7&8 Initiation with Michigan, Annual Coronation Ball held on March 21st at Southport Lodge, their Grand Bethel Hike for Education April 11th with a visit to Indiana Beach on May 16th.

Indiana DeMolay 2025-2026 State Master Councilor Brother Jake M, of Fort Wayne was Installed at Wabash College as the 96th State Master Councilor on Saturday June 28th, 2025 for the 2025-2026 year. He has had an aggressive term plan and has kept Indiana in the upper Top 10 percentage of new membership in DeMolay International and has been First with the Chapters in the United States, A few featured events Attend the Masonic Home Festival on September 7th, Sports and Games Festival October 11th, DeMolay Honors Night in Indianapolis on November 1st, Dad Frank S. Land Memorial Luncheon and Honors Night in Ft Wayne November 8th, State Bowling Tournament and State

Initiation in Ft Wayne, Jerry Burns Chapter held their Installation January 17th in Terre Haute, Annual Wayne Reid State Ritual Tournament held at the Scottish Rite along with the Sweetheart Dance held on February 14th, 2026 with an Knights Templar Honor Guard Commanded by Sir Knight Carson Smith and Escorted by Sir Knight Joseph Sparks, REGC, Heartland Ritual Tournament held in Dayton, OH on April 24-25.

The International Rainbow for Girls in Indiana Miss Amber was Installed as the Grand Worthy Advisor and she is from Friendship Assembly. Rainbow held their University on July 26th at the Rainbow Camp, On August 24th Indiana Rainbow represented the International Order of Rainbow for Girls at the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite held in Indianapolis at their Annual Meeting. held their Grand Officer Workshop on September 6th at the Rainbow Camp and delivered 1.3 Million Pop Tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, Attend the Masonic Home Festival on September 7th , had a School of Instruction and Overnighter in Terre Haute for District 4 September 27th and 28th, Attended Nettie Ransford Day at the Masonic Home one November 9th, Held their Grand Cross of Color Degree and a Grand Helper Holiday Party at the Rainbow Camp November 15th and 16th, Rainbow Attended the Indiana Grand Lodge Founders Day on January 10th Attended the DeMolay Sweetheart Dance held on February 14th at the Scottish Rite, Held their School of Instruction for District 5 on Feb 28th in Princeton, Rainbow University Watch Party at the HTC Lodge March 21st.

Attached you will see the Grand Commandery Youth Group Certificates that are available to present to any Active or Senior Member of any of Job's, Rainbow or DeMolay.

If your Commandery would like to do a Certificate presentation to one of the Youth Groups please contact the Grand Recorder, who will be able to provide you with a Certificate.

Thank you to Sir Knight Dominic Hamblen, VEDGC who has attended several of Fort Wayne Job's Daughters and DeMolay Events and supporting State Master Councilor Brother Jake M. who is from Fort Wayne. He has been a great supporter of our Masonic Youth with several visits!

Thank you also to all of the Sir Knights who have Formed the Lines, traveled to meetings, installations and other events of our Masonic Youth Groups. We hope you know how much it means to each of us that you show your support, but we hope you know how much more it means to the each of Masonic Youth that you are attending an event and maybe even letting them wear your Chapeau, put on chainmail, hold a sword and treating them like an equal and that you are there showing your support!

In Closing I would like to leave you with a quote from "Dad" Frank Sherman Land, Founder of the Order of DeMolay in 1919. "How lonely it must be for a boy not to have a man to talk with, or a man to provide some type of inspiration and direction." This is why "Dad" Land decided there was a need for an organization where boys would have the opportunity to associate with other boys and a place, they could share common interests, learn responsibility and other skills that would benefit them throughout their lives.

Please keep this quote in mind as you journey around the State of Indiana and might approach one of our Masonic Youths and I encourage you to attend a Masonic Youth Meeting or Activity in the future and become active and please support our Masonic Youth, these Young Adults are our direct Life Line!

Respectfully Submitted in Christian Masonry,

Dad and Sir Knight Randal P. Ellington, KCT, GPE, PGC – Chairman
Dad and Sir Knight Dathan Reed, GCG
Pop and Sir Knight Lawrence Myers, GW

Report of Ritual Competition Committee

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Sir Knights all:

We are excited that the Ritual Competition will be held once again at this year's Grand Conclave.

Competition Categories

- Junior Warden's Address
- Prelate's Address
- Sword Presentation
- Ode to the Skull
- Flag Lecture
- A portion of the Warder's part

Timing and Sign-Up

The Ritual Competition is scheduled for Friday, April 24 at 2:30 pm in the Hackley Reserve. Sir Knights were given multiple options to sign up including paper form, online link and QR code.

Information was sent out through multiple sources, unfortunately as of the submission of this report the number of Sir Knights who have signed up is low. This could be due to the competition being held on a weekday. Consideration should be given to possibly holding this event separate from Grand Conclave on a weekend where scheduling would allow greater participation.

Courteously,

Mark A. Elder, GJW
Jeffery Prairie, GStB
Andrew Bowman, GS

2025-2026 Patriotic Activities Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights all.

This is the 2025-2026 Patriotic Activities Report.

The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Dominic Hamblin, KCT, presented his Flag Protocol powerpoint at Star Lodge #225 on Wednesday, 14 May 25.

Angola Commandery #45 performed the Flag Presentation at Star Lodge #225 on Wednesday, 14 May 25.

Baldwin Commandery # 2 presented the Flag, folded the Flag, and presented the POW/MIA ceremony at the Shelby County Memorial Service on Thursday, 22 May 25.

Wright Commandery #64 participated in a Memorial Day event at the War Memorial in French Lick, IN., on Monday, 26 May 25.

An Honor Guard for Past Grand Commander Ron Simpson's 70th Master Mason Anniversary at Greentown Masonic Lodge. Nine Sir Knights from around the state were in attendance.

Angola Commandery #45 09 Jun 25 made a flag presentation for the Pokagon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at their June meeting at the Fremont Library.

Fort Wayne Commandery #4 02 Jul 25 made a Flag Presentation for Waynedale Lodge #739 at their July Stated Meeting.

VEDGC Sir Knight Dominic Hamblin, KCT, performed the Flag Protocol Presentation on Wednesday, 30 Jul 25, at Pokagon Council #147, A.M.D. meeting at Ashley Masonic Lodge #614. Angola Commandery #45 posted the Colors and Sir Knight Jim Milleman gave the flag lecture.

Kokomo Commandery No. 36, assisted by Sir Knight George Ingles PGM, PGC, presented the flag to Austin Lodge No. 128 on 07 Aug 25

Four Sir Knights from Battalion III formed an honor guard at the request of Anderson Council for the memorial of Past Grand Illustrious Master Dale Adams.

VEDGC Sir Knight Dominic Hamblin KCT, performed the Flag Protocol Presentation on Tuesday, 26 Aug 25, at Bluffton Lodge #145

Bedford Commandery and New Albany Commandery did the Flag Presentation on Saturday, 20 Sep 25, at Bedford Lodge for their Rusty Nail Degree.

Grant County No. 21 presented the flag at the rededication of Blackford Lodge No. 106 in Hartford City on 20 Sep 25.

Bedford and New Albany Commanderies did the Flag Presentation on Saturday, 27 Sep 25 at Bedford for their outdoor degree.

11 Sir Knights participated at the Indiana Masonic Home Veteran's Day Program which also included placing a wreath at the Soldier's Monument on Veteran's Day, Tuesday, 11 Nov 25.

Noblesville Commandery No. 61 presented the flag at the installation of officers of Noblesville Masonic Lodge No. 57 on 05 Dec 25.

Angola Commandery did the Flag Presentation at the Feast of Saint John on 27 Dec 25, at Star Lodge No. 225.

Courteously,

Sir Knight John R. Freeland
Chairman of the Patriotic Activities Committee

Knight Templar Honor Guard Report 2025-26

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

The Honor Guard has been formed and conducted Templar Services and standing Honor Guard for Fallen Sir Knights of Indiana. The Honor Guard has conducted three Templar Funeral Services.

The first funeral service was conducted on May 2nd 2025, for Sir Knight Larry G. Huffman at the West & Parrish & Pedigo Funeral Home in Spencer, Indiana. There were 12 Sir Knights in attendance for the service.

The second funeral service was conducted on May 18th 2025, for Past Grand Commander Hebert G. Roach. at the Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home in Vincennes, Indiana. There were 11 Sir Knights in attendance for the service.

The third funeral service was conducted on November 19th 2025, for Sir Knight Michael S. Morrison at the Hoskinson Funeral and Cremation Services in Crawfordsville, Indiana. There were 8 Sir Knights in attendance for the service.

The Honor Guard also formed the Lines for an presented an Arch of Steel for the following events.

Indiana Grand Conclave for the 172nd Right Eminent Grand Commander Joseph L. Sparks installation of Officers. April 26th, 2025.

Annual Communication for Most Worshipful Grand Master David G. Morgan on May 20th, 2025.

Jobs Daughter Annual Session for Grand Bethel Honor Queen Isabel A. on June 20th, 2025.

Installation of Bethel Honor Queen Rhoslyn Vasquez on July 2nd, 2025

Kokomo Commandery formed the lines for the Installation of the Worshipful Master of Howard Lodge #93. On December 20th, 2025.

Bethel #8 installation of Bethel Honor Queen Kenadie Bontemop on January 3rd, 2026.

Founders Day for Most Worshipful Grand Master Randolph Sieple on January 10th, 2026.

On February 10th, 2026, 27 Sir Knights stood Honor Guard for East Central Department Commander, Past Grand Command Steven Jack Barton at the Erlwein Mortuary & Crematory in Greenfield, Indiana. On February 11th, 2026, 19 Sir Knight formed Sir Knight Bartons final Arch of Steel at the McCray Cemetery in Wilkinson, Indiana.

Courteously,

Randy J. Darling, KCT, PGC, GT- Chair

Easter Trip Committee Annual Report

Your Committee on the Easter Sunrise trip is pleased to announce that the will proceed as planned with 22 Sir Knights & Ladies signed up. The schedule will be as follows.

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 6:30 - Arrive at Hancock Lodge. 7:30 – Depart. 11:30 - Lunch on your own. 7:00 - Arrive at the hotel in Philadelphia. We are staying downtown within walking distance of many attractions and restaurants.

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6:00 - Breakfast is available at the hotel on your own. 9:45 - Depart the hotel. We will walk ¼ mile. 10:00 - Tour of the Philadelphia Masonic Temple.

11:30 - The rest of the day is yours to enjoy. We are staying downtown within walking distance of many attractions and restaurants.

Friday, April 3, 2026, 6:00 - Breakfast is available at the hotel on your own. 7:00 - Depart from the hotel. 11:00 - Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery. You will have a ticket to ride the tram. 12:15 - Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 - Lunch on your own. 2:30 - Arrive at the hotel in Arlington the rest of the afternoon is on your own. 5:30 - Indiana State Dinner on your own If there are people interested. We can do a night tour of the monuments.

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 6:00 - Breakfast is available at the hotel on your own. You have the entire day on your own at any museum that you'd like to visit. The vans will take everyone downtown. You will have a ticket for the Hop On/Off bus that will take you to various places around the city. 6:00 - Grand Encampment Banquet - on your own, not included.

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 7:00 - Depart for the George Washington Masonic Memorial. 8:00 - Easter Sunrise Services. 9:15 - Depart to return to the hotel. We'll stop for brunch and dinner along the way on your own. 9:30 - Arrive at Hancock Lodge.

Courteously,
Joseph L Sparks, KCT, REGC
Joseph Korscht, Aide to the REGC
Mitchell Rohrbaugh, Aide to the REGC

Grand Inspector General's Report

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers and Sir Knights all:

Every Commandery in Indiana has complied with General Order #1 and have completed their respective Inspections and Receptions in a timely manner.

Courteously,

Michael Robbins, PGC, GIG
Phillip Whisner, PGC, DGIG
Bill Short, GPE, DGIG
3-7-2026

Website Report (March 2026)

Website Overview

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar currently operates its online presence through two domains: **indianaknightstemplar.org** and **indianaknightstemplar.com**. As a non-commercial body, the .org domain functions as the primary platform, with all core services and resources connected to it. At present, no Grand Commandery offices use dedicated email accounts, and file management is handled through a single FTP account, primarily used for uploading large or bulk files.

Regarding website activity for 2025 - 2026, we've observed a **drop in visits, unique visitors, and clicks**.

| Summary by Month | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Month | Daily Avg | | | | Monthly Totals | | | | | |
| | Hits | Files | Pages | Visits | Sites | KBytes | Visits | Pages | Files | Hits |
| Mar 2026 | 4689 | 3669 | 2129 | 776 | 15305 | 19042483 | 18643 | 51108 | 88066 | 112549 |
| Feb 2026 | 3937 | 3151 | 1469 | 703 | 15046 | 27507011 | 19697 | 41153 | 88247 | 110237 |
| Jan 2026 | 2005 | 1337 | 820 | 426 | 10668 | 22469321 | 13216 | 25444 | 41470 | 62159 |
| Dec 2025 | 1698 | 1138 | 750 | 464 | 10749 | 13922280 | 14389 | 23274 | 35293 | 52662 |
| Nov 2025 | 2052 | 1300 | 896 | 517 | 11409 | 17962795 | 15522 | 26889 | 39017 | 61576 |
| Oct 2025 | 3861 | 2325 | 1883 | 609 | 12472 | 18787223 | 18884 | 58390 | 72083 | 119706 |
| Sep 2025 | 5728 | 2969 | 3166 | 689 | 13775 | 20157605 | 20686 | 95008 | 89071 | 171857 |
| Aug 2025 | 5091 | 2655 | 2669 | 722 | 15057 | 22289238 | 22412 | 82765 | 82324 | 157845 |
| Jul 2025 | 5794 | 2793 | 2797 | 724 | 13636 | 15654162 | 22461 | 86708 | 86599 | 179644 |
| Jun 2025 | 14178 | 3172 | 4818 | 749 | 11923 | 15193125 | 22488 | 144555 | 95185 | 425364 |
| May 2025 | 9467 | 2897 | 3714 | 669 | 13926 | 15819701 | 20756 | 115158 | 89822 | 293490 |
| Apr 2025 | 7424 | 2938 | 3273 | 619 | 11109 | 16105799 | 18590 | 98196 | 88147 | 222731 |
| Totals | | | | | | 224910743 | 227744 | 848648 | 895324 | 1969820 |

The website has seen a decline in use over the past few years, largely due to a lack of current content and the cessation of daily updates on commandery and Grand Commandery activities. While there's some inconsistent activity on the Grand Commandery's Facebook page, relying exclusively on it is limiting our organization's outreach and preventing the wider public from accessing vital information.

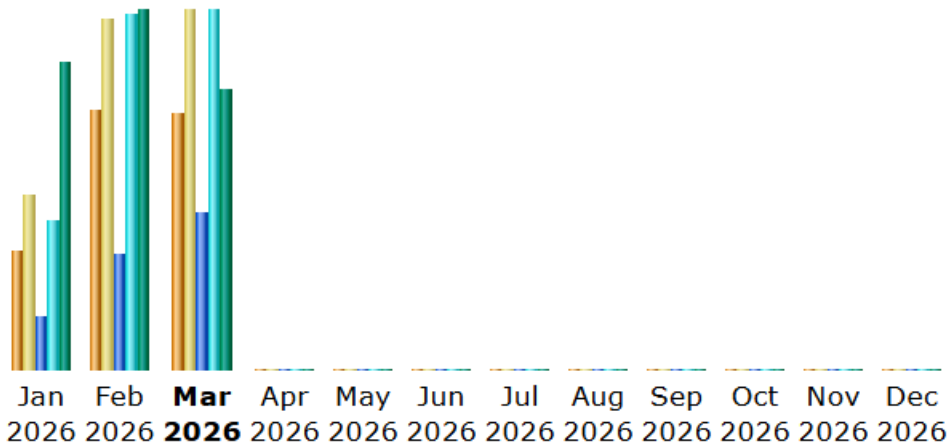
Website Modernization and Security

The Grand Commandery's website was recently updated on a new platform which will enable us to maintain it without any major upgrades for at least several years in the future.

Hosting

The hosting is on one of my servers which reside under Inmotionhosting. This company provides a wide range of tools for maintaining and developing websites as well as a strong security protection and I am using their services for many years and for hosting of a number of professional websites.

Monthly history



| Month | Unique visitors | Number of visits | Pages | Hits | Bandwidth |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jan 2026 | 3,057 | 4,514 | 11,034 | 30,396 | 10.81 GB |
| Feb 2026 | 6,669 | 9,053 | 23,590 | 72,735 | 12.69 GB |
| Mar 2026 | 6,629 | 9,262 | 32,246 | 73,586 | 9.90 GB |
| Apr 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jun 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jul 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sep 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oct 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nov 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec 2026 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16,355 | 22,829 | 66,870 | 176,717 | 33.40 GB |











Geographic and Search Performance

Our website traffic is overwhelmingly domestic, with **over 95% of visitors originating from within the United States**. We're also seeing nearly **1,000 hits generated directly from Google searches**, indicating a solid organic search presence.

Device and Operating System Usage

When examining how visitors access our website, desktop computers continue to lead as the primary device. Among operating systems, Windows accounts for the largest share at 43%, followed by macOS at 20% and Linux at 14.6%. Mobile usage, while lower, remains meaningful—iOS devices (iPhones) make up 6.4% of traffic, with Android at 4.5%. Overall, this

indicates that although mobile access is steadily increasing, a significant portion of our audience still relies on traditional desktop and laptop computers to interact with the Grand Commandery’s website.

| Operating Systems (Top 10) | | Pages | Percent | Hits | Percent |
|---|---------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | 13,841 | 42.9 % | 28,566 | 38.6 % |
|  | Windows | 6,479 | 20 % | 11,175 | 15.1 % |
|  | Macintosh | 4,728 | 14.6 % | 5,627 | 7.6 % |
|  | Linux | 3,257 | 10.1 % | 10,726 | 14.5 % |
|  | Unknown | 2,076 | 6.4 % | 8,732 | 11.8 % |
|  | iOS | 1,459 | 4.5 % | 8,020 | 10.8 % |
|  | Android | 393 | 1.2 % | 934 | 1.2 % |
|  | Unknown Unix system | 11 | 0 % | 12 | 0 % |
|  | BSD | 1 | 0 % | 82 | 0.1 % |
|  | OS/2 | 1 | 0 % | 1 | 0 % |
|  | Symbian OS | | | | |

Digital Presence in 2026: Why a Dedicated Website Is No Longer Optional

Organizations like the Grand Commandery are tasked with preserving tradition while engaging an increasingly digital and diverse audience. While platforms like Facebook remain useful for communication, relying on them alone in 2026 is a strategic limitation. A dedicated website is no longer just an enhancement—it is a foundational necessity. Here’s why:

1. Ownership vs. Dependency: Building on Solid Ground

Social Media (Leased Space):

Operating solely on Facebook means building your presence on infrastructure you don’t control. In 2026, this comes with even greater unpredictability:

- **Algorithm Volatility:** Visibility is governed by constantly evolving algorithms. Even loyal followers may never see your content without paid promotion.
- **Platform Policies:** Content moderation, account restrictions, or policy changes can affect your presence overnight.
- **Limited Identity Expression:** Branding is confined within Facebook’s templates, restricting how fully you can convey your identity.
- **Data Limitations:** Audience data remains largely in the hands of the platform, not the organization.

Website (Owned Asset):

A dedicated website is digital property—fully controlled and fully customizable:

- **Complete Autonomy:** Design, structure, messaging, and functionality are entirely in your hands.

- **Consistency & Stability:** Your content remains accessible regardless of third-party changes.
- **Structured Content:** From archives to membership resources, everything can be organized intuitively and permanently.

2. Expanding Reach Beyond the Social Media Bubble

Social Media Constraints:

Not everyone uses Facebook—and even among users, not everyone treats it as a source for official or meaningful information.

- Entire demographics remain underrepresented or absent.
- Content is designed for scrolling, not deep engagement or research.

Website Advantages:

- **Search Visibility:** A well-optimized website ensures discoverability through search engines, where people actively seek information.
- **Intent-Based Access:** Visitors arrive with purpose—whether to learn, join, or connect.
- **Public Accessibility:** No login, no barriers—just open access to anyone interested.

A website meets people where they are searching, not just where they are scrolling.

3. Credibility in a Digital-First World

In 2026, a professional website is a baseline expectation—not a luxury.

- **Trust & Legitimacy:** A well-maintained site signals permanence, seriousness, and transparency.
- **Authoritative Source:** It becomes the official repository for accurate information—history, leadership, documents, and events.
- **Professional Communication:** Formal announcements and institutional messaging carry more weight on a dedicated platform than on social media feeds.

Without a website, even well-established organizations risk appearing informal or inaccessible.

4. Preserving Legacy and Institutional Memory

The Problem with Social Feeds:

Social media is designed for immediacy, not preservation. Content quickly disappears into the timeline.

The Role of a Website:

- **Permanent Archive:** Events, milestones, publications, and historical records can be systematically preserved.
- **Organized Access:** Information remains searchable, structured, and meaningful over time.

- Legacy Building: Future members and researchers gain a clear, documented narrative of the organization’s journey.

5. The Strategic Balance

Facebook still has value—it excels at:

- Quick updates
- Community interaction
- Event promotion

But it should serve as a **gateway**, not the destination.

A modern strategy looks like this:

- Social media attracts attention
- Your website captures and retains it

Conclusion

In 2026, a website is not just a communication tool—it is the digital foundation of an organization’s identity, credibility, and growth.

For the Grand Commandery, a dedicated website ensures:

- A professional and enduring public presence
- Accessibility to all audiences—not just social media users
- Full control over messaging, branding, and data
- A lasting archive of its work, history, and values

Relying solely on Facebook limits visibility, reach, and long-term impact. It creates a closed loop rather than an open door.

A website, by contrast, ensures the organization is not just present—but truly established in the digital world.

Prepared by

Lucas Pacukovski, KT

2025-2026 Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery U.D. Report

02 Aug 25. Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery U.D. met at Bloomington Commandery #63, after their 100 year rededication. Sir Knight John R. Freeland was the speaker and gave a report on Lesser Known Crusader Orders covering the Knights of Saint Lazarus and the Order of the Dragon.

08 Nov 25, Lawrence V. Kaminsky U.D. met at Valparaiso Commandery before the

Battalion 1 Reception. Sir Knight Carson C. Smith was the speaker and gave a report on the History of the Indianapolis Masonic Temple.

17 Jan 26, Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery U.D. met after the Winter Meeting in Muncie. Sir Knight John R. Freeland will be giving a report on Brother Cassius Marcellus Clay.

07 Feb 26, Lawrence V. Kaminsky U.D. met after the Indiana Templar academy in Bedford, IN. Grand Prelate, Sir Knight John Jones II gave a report on the Holy Saints John.

Courteously Submitted,

Sir Knight John R. Freeland
Grand Sword Bearer
Eminent Commander of Lawrence V. Kaminsky Commandery U.D.

BATTALION COMMANDER REPORTS

Battalion I Final Report 2025 - 2026

To: The Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery, Past Grand Commanders, Officers and all Sir Knights.

Status of Battalion #1 Commanderies:

The Battalion consists of Laporte #12, Valparaiso #28, Elkhart #31. I have met with each of my constituent commanderies multiple times within this battalion to address the specific issues affecting them. I maintain an open line of communication with all commanders and recorders, ensuring that any concerns or updates are promptly shared and addressed. This ongoing dialogue helps foster a collaborative and efficient working environment within the battalion. The Battalion performed the Open 10 man Reception at Valparaiso Asylum. It was well attend by all members of the Battalion and Grand Officers.

Laporte #12

This commandery is in excellent shape, and I have always been impressed with their capabilities. They are able to perform every role in all Orders. Leadership keeps new member on track and the continuing support of long term members creates a deep pool of knowledge. Their inspection scores are a testament to their high level of commitment.

Valparaiso #28

This commandery is also in great shape. Their members are dedicated and knowledgeable. They hold practice for their orders every Monday, and it shows in both their work and

their inspection scores. They have exhibited some of the best-in-class traits, making them exemplary models for others. Recently, they completed 13 individual Orders of the Temple, showcasing their commitment and proficiency.

Elkhart #31

This commandery had a rocky 4th quarter. Their Dias Officers after the summer of being Dark seem to give up. This caused disruption, However, the New Leadership within this commandery is solid, and their commitment to hard work ensures they will continue to grow. I always look forward to visiting them and seeing their progress.

Summary/Remarks:

On the note of Out of State visits. One of the greatest part of the fraternity is the meeting of like-minded guys. I enjoy comradery between states. I am impressed with the other states by them being able to take care of business in just a few days of all 3 bodies. Now, for the dislike, unfortunately depending on the venue the food has been very good or very bad which creates bonding moment with other states by ordering pizza.

Battalion I is in great shape, and we are looking forward to the new year and the opportunity to bring on new Sir Knights. As the new calendar year begins, they start their rotations, beginning with Chapter.

Courteously,

Scott A. Sacek
Grand Senior Warden
Battalion I Commander

2025 - 2026 Battalion II End of Year Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander Joseph Sparks, Grand Commandery Officers and Sir Knights of Indiana. I was humbled and honored to serve as your Grand Captain General this year. Battalion II consist of the following Commanderies: Ft. Wayne # 4, Apollo # 19 and Angola # 45.

I am very pleased to say that Battalion II has had a good year. This past year, I have seen great improvements in every Commandery. Although there are still a few spots where improvement are needed, they keep their heads up and drive on to get those fixed. Keep up the wonderful things you are doing Sir Knights.

To the Eminent Commanders and Recorders of the 3 Commanderies in Battalion II. I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the efforts that you

continue to make every day to make Indiana Knights Templar better. My DBC's SK Chales Brindle and SK Mike Arford, thank you for dedication and strong desire to improve the Craft and being part of this amazing adventure together.

Ft. Wayne # 4 continues to build; they have started a Drill Team and have been doing outstanding work on flag presentations throughout the local Blue Lodges around the Ft. Wayne area they have also presented the colors at a Ft. Wayne Komets Hockey Game, and have a traveling Mark Master Team. The officer line is still growing due to most of them still being new. Keep up the great work, I look forward to seeing where you go next.

Apollo # 19 is continuing its efforts on membership and growth as a Commandery. They have had Huntington # 35 merge in with them back in July 2025 and have been very helpful with their members coming into the fold. The officer line is a treasure trove of knowledge. I encourage all the Sir Knights to strive for more light. I look forward to your continued efforts and growth. As of this report, Apollo # 19 is starting to build their own Drill Team.

Angola # 45 continues their great efforts with flag presentations throughout the community and engage in community events, this gets them out and strengthens their ties with them. They do their own degree work, and it shows the pride and dedication of their members. Congratulations on all your hard work.

Overall, it seems to be a challenge to get members engaged in Templary again. We will continue our efforts and do our best to keep this going in the right direction.

Courteously,

Dathan L. Reed
Grand Captain General
Battalion II Commander

Battalion 3 2025/26 Report

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Sir Knights all:

Battalion III - Grant #21, Anderson #32, Kokomo #36 and Noblesville #61.

Being appointed Battalion Commander nine months ago. I have taken every possible opportunity to visit each Commandery and assist them in what ever they needed. It has given me the opportunity to learn to know many of the Sir Knights and to work closely

with the commanders and recorders. Each Commandery has had their ups and downs but over all the results have been positive.

Grant County Commandery - Still continues to demonstrate strength and conduct their own degree work and orders. As of August they added two more Sir Knights. They have conducted flag presentations including a rededication of Blackford lodge. They are starting the new yearly cycle of the York Rite journey.

Anderson Commandery has strengthened there membership and gained one new Sir Knight at the conferral of the Temple order in October. They have visited blue lodges and conferred the mark master degree. They formed the lines for the Anderson Job's daughters installation in July. As well as an honor guard for Past Grand Illustrious Master Dale Adam

Kokomo Commandery has strengthened there numbers by conferring the Order of the Temple on two new Sir Knights and receiving a transfer/reinstatement from a former Sir Knights. They have assisted in a mark master and preformed one flag presentation, as well as forming an escort for Kokomo blue lodge installation.

Noblesville Commandery has had a few set backs over the past few months. As such most of their attention has been focused on Chapter. I have been informed that they have passed their review with Grand Chapter. They started out strong with three candidates, but none were able to finish due to moving or schooling obligations. Their plan is to finish the two remaining candidates in the spring Tri state classes. They are also waiting on information to come from California for a transfer member. They did a flag presentation at the Noblesville blue lodge instillation.

Anderson, Kokomo and Noblesville still are trying to grow their membership. It is a slow process. I do see them having to work together for the upcoming year.

On each Commandery visit I have spoken about drill competition. Set a sign up sheet complete with links to grand encampment information at sign-in tables. Unfortunately only two members of the four commanderys have shown interest to date. I will keep pushing in hopes of mustering future Interest.

I am look forward to working with the Commanderys of Battalion III in the upcoming year. And stepping in to support in what ever roll they need.

Fraternally submitted,
Andrew Bowman BC #III

2025-2026 Report Battalion IV

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights all.

Battalion IV consists of Terre Haute No. 16, Crawfordsville No. 25 and Frankfort No. 29

Terre Haute is continuing to do well. While they will be teaming with Crawfordsville this year for their Reception, they are going alone on their inspection. This shows growth in the Commandery and increased participation. I am sure they will continue to improve.

Crawfordsville Commandery continues to be the leader of the Battalion. They will be doing a joint reception with Terre Haute and their own inspection. The Commandery continues to grow, and help other Commanderies with their Orders.

Frankfort Commandery is still making great strides and appears to be bringing their Commandery back. They are doing a reception on their own and their own inspection. The new Knights they brought in last year are hungry and most eager to participate.

Courteously,

Sir Knight John R. Freeland
Grand Sword Bearer

Battalion V Final Report 2024-2025

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders,
Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, and Sir Knights all:

Battalion Five is made of Greenfield Commandery #39, Prather Commandery #62 and
William G. Bray Commandery #65

Greenfield Commandery #39

This Commandery has Knighted 3 new knights this year and proud to have been there for their Order of Malta and Order of Temple. All Inspections were completed in the timely manner as required by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana. They were inspected on the Order of Malta. I have visited this Commandery several times. They are an enthusiastic group of men, that meet regularly for meeting and special events like their Pizza Boothe at their County Fair. They are very ready to bring new members into the organization and Support the Grand Commandery of Indiana. I feel this is a strong Commandery and able to perform orders without help.

Calvin Prather Commandery #62

This Commandery has Knighted 11 Knights this year and proud to have been there for the Order of Red Cross, Order of Malta and Order of Temple. All inspections were completed

in a timely manner as required by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana. They were Inspected on the Order of Malta. I have visited this Commandery when they open on Commandery. This enthusiastic group of men, they host twice a year an all-day Classes to ensure that not only to bring Knights to their Commandery as well as any York Rite that need to get individuals through their Chapter, Council degrees and Knights. This Commandery schedules many events for their members throughout the year to make their membership very strong. This is a strong Commandery.

William G. Bray Commandery #65

This Commandery has Knighted 6 Knights, one affiliated and one reinstated this year. All inspections were completed in a timely manner as required by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana. This Commandery was inspected on the Order of Red Cross. They needed a lot of help but were able to perform. I am planning on meeting with this commandery meeting next year to assist as much as they will allow for their future inspections. This Commandery is Struggling but putting forth the needed to put on orders for Membership.

I would like to give special thanks to SK Vance Brewer and SK Josph Hedges on being my DBC this year and big thanks to SK Josph Sparks VEDGC for assisting me this year.

Courteously:

Jeffery W. Prairie GsB
Battalion V Commander

Report for Battalion VI

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, Sir Knights all:

I am pleased to submit the following report on the activities of Battalion VI.

Raper Commandery No. 1:

Raper Commandery successfully created two new Sir Knights during its official annual inspection this year. Several members remain candidates, and their completion of the Orders is pending due to scheduling conflicts.

The Order of the Temple exemplified for the new Sir Knights (two from Raper and one from Greenfield Commandery) was executed with commendable solemnity and precision. However, as Raper Commandery was the subject of the annual inspection, many of the

essential officer roles were filled by visiting Sir Knights from other Commanderies. This regrettably resulted in a lower overall Officer Proficiency rating score.

The Officers of Raper Commandery are strongly encouraged to work diligently toward self-sufficiency in executing the majority of their ritualistic work to improve future inspection ratings.

Raper Commandery maintained its tradition of strong commitment to the Grand Commandery, being actively and visibly involved in Grand Conclave activities. This participation included fielding a team in the Drill Team Competition and individual Sir Knights participating in the Ritual Competition. Raper Drill Team has been practicing for the drill team competition at the Grand Conclave on April 25, 2026.

I extend a sincere thank you to Eminent Commander Earl Hopkins for his dedicated service and leadership to Raper Commandery throughout 2025. I would also like to congratulate Sir Knight Paul Ney on his election and installation as the Eminent Commander of Raper Commandery No. 1.

Baldwin Commandery No. 2:

Baldwin Commandery is commended for demonstrating exceptional vitality, achieving an increase in the number of Sir Knights for the second consecutive year. The Commandery continues to focus on growth, and I am pleased to note they have members beginning their York Rite journey in 2026.

Baldwin Commandery maintained a high level of engagement with the Grand Commandery, evidenced by their active participation in the Annual Conclave, including fielding a Drill Team and having members compete in the Ritual Competition. The Commandery also earned a high score on its Annual Activity Report. At the time of the submission of this report Baldwin is practicing weekly for the upcoming drill team competition at Grand Conclave on April 25, 2026.

The Commandery was formally inspected while conferring the Order of the Temple with several candidates participating. Following the inspection, Baldwin Commandery members formally recognized specific areas for improvement in the execution of their Orders. They have proactively addressed these needs in a Stated Conclave and established a plan to enhance ritual proficiency and improve inspection scores in the next year. I look forward with confidence to the advancements they will achieve.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Eminent Commander Matthew McLaughlin for his dedicated service and leadership to Baldwin Commandery throughout the 2025

Fraternal Year. I would like to congratulate Sir Knight Scott Pike on his election and installation as Eminent Commander of Baldwin Commandery No. 2.

Richmond Commandery No. 8:

Under the sustained leadership of Eminent Commander Dennis Rigsby, Richmond Commandery continues to exhibit strong performance in two key areas: maintaining excellent meeting attendance and actively pursuing new membership recruitment.

Despite these efforts, the declining level of Blue Lodge activity within their jurisdictional area continues to pose a significant challenge to membership pipelines. The Commandery remains dedicated and steadfast in its vitality efforts to attract new members.

Richmond Commandery deserves special commendation for having a member participate in the Ritual Competition at Grand Conclave last year, marking the first time in recent memory. We strongly encourage additional Sir Knights from Richmond Commandery to register for this valuable competition in future years.

Richmond Commandery was scheduled to confer the Order of the Temple for a new candidate during its annual inspection. Although the candidate regrettably had to cancel at the last minute, the Commandery proceeded without difficulty using an exemplar.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Eminent Commander Dennis Rigsby for his dedicated service and leadership to Richmond Commandery for the past several years. I would like to congratulate Sir Knight Charles Thackrey on his election and installation as Eminent Commander of Richmond Commandery No. 8.

In conclusion my observation is that all Commanderies demonstrated a basic knowledge of ritual and tactics, however there is room for improvement in seamlessly integrating the two. Consistent practice and refinement will enhance the overall performance of each Commandery.

Out of State Commandery Visitations

As Grand Junior Warden, I was required to attend a minimum of two Annual Conclaves within the East Central Department. I am pleased to report that I exceeded this requirement by attending three of the Department's out-of-state Conclaves: Illinois, Michigan, and Kentucky.

My wife accompanied me to both the Illinois and Michigan Conclaves, where we had the honor of attending their respective Annual Banquets. I traveled to Kentucky and focused primarily on observing the official proceedings of the Annual Meeting.

In every jurisdiction, we were extended a truly warm and fraternal welcome by the resident Sir Knights. It was particularly interesting to observe the methods by which our Grand Commanderies conduct their Annual Conclaves, noting both the similarities and the differences in procedures.

I strongly recommend that any Sir Knight with the ability and opportunity to travel consider attending an out-of-state Conclave, as it offers invaluable insight into the broader organization.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen work and personal conflicts, I was unable to attend the Annual Conclave of Ohio. It is my sincere goal to make this visitation a priority next year.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Deputy Battalion Commander Brian Hooten, Past Commander of Greenfield Commandery No. 39, and Deputy Battalion Commander Nathan Ratterman, Past Commander of Baldwin Commandery No. 2 for their invaluable support and contributions throughout the year.

Courteously,

Mark A. Elder
Grand Junior Warden
Battalion VI Commander

Battalion VII Final Report 2025 - 2026

To: The Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers of the Grand Commandery, Past Grand Commanders, Officers and all Sir Knights.

Status of Battalion #7 Commanderies:

The Battalion consists of New Albany #5, Columbus #14, Bedford 42 and Bloomington #63. I have met with each of my constituent commanderies multiple times within this battalion to assist and inform in communications from Grand Commandery. This open communication with all commanders and recorders has enhanced our relationships and instilled in them that I, as a representative of Grand Commandery, am here to help in their efforts to grow in Knights as well as knowledge of our orders. The Battalion preformed the Open 10-man Reception at their inspections and was well attended by members of the Battalion and Grand Officers.

New Albany #5

This commandery has shown good growth and I expect them to continue to become more active in the coming year. They are improving in performing the roles of the Orders. Leadership continues to grow its new members that will be evident in future inspection scores.

Columbus #14

This commandery is also growing and had good leadership under the direction of their commander. Their members are enthusiastic about learning the roles of the Orders and have shown an interest in learning drills. They have a day dedicated to practicing floorwork and ritual but have not had good participation. With the new membership, they should show good improvement in tactics and ritual work when performing the orders.

Bedford #42

This commandery is the strongest of the four commanderies. Very strong leadership and mentorship among the past and present Grand Commandery Officers within their membership. Their presentation of the Orders is among the best with them being performed by memory. Lectures are spot on and a new Knight goes away knowing that what they have seen is amazing.

Bloomington #63

This commandery has shown growth as well. With the new members and renewed enthusiasm, they will continue to develop their knowledge of tactics and knowledge of the Orders. Good participation in conclaves and IPA will only make them stronger.

Summary/Remarks:

On the note of Out of State visit. I was able to visit one of the two states that I was planning to attend, and it was interesting how their Grand Conclave is conducted.

Battalion VII is in good shape and sees a renewed life in new year as well as opportunities in bringing on new Sir Knights. As I become more experienced in my roles and understanding, I am looking forward to much more growth and knowledge with all Battalions.

Courteously,

Lawrence D. Myers (Rocky)
Grand Warder
Battalion VII Commander

Battalion VIII Winter Report 2025 - 2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Past Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery Officers, and Sir Knights:

LaValette # 15 They have held several practices this year to prepare for their inspection with Wright Commandery which was held on November 15th. These practices were well attended by both commanderies. They used their rituals a lot during their inspection but have improved dramatically on their tactics in the past several years. They are moving in

the right direction. They have continued to ask a lot of questions and have wanted feedback from their inspection scores, which to me shows a desire to improve. They held their annual Christmas program on December 18th 2025 which was very nice and well attended. Their average attendance at their stated conclaves is still holding strong, with their meals before each stated contributing to this. Currently there are 2 candidates going through their York Rite.

Vincennes # 20 Their attendance is still holding. To my knowledge they have been able to open every month this year. Their long-time recorder has recently resigned, and I have worked with their new recorder on preparing his paperwork for their inspection and answered several questions that he had. He seems to be taking over very well. They hosted their inspection with Greene County on August 23rd. Almost all used their ritual for the order and struggled with the tactics quite a lot. They need to set some time aside to practice throughout the year. This would help them, and I believe they would not feel rushed when it comes time for inspection. Overall, they are doing good and have a very dedicated and helpful group that continues to move forward. They currently have 2 candidates going through the Chapter and Council degrees and took 2 candidates to participate in Lavalette and Wright's inspection.

Wright # 64 They participated in their joint inspection with LaValette with their members doing some of the more demanding parts. They have also participated in practices with LaValette this year. Some of their members' work has been done from memory with very little use of the ritual, while others are still using their rituals some. They are improving on the tactics as well. The practices are definitely helping. A big improvement from the past. Their attendance has been good at their stated conclaves, and they always serve a meal beforehand. They had one candidate at their inspection and currently have none waiting on degrees or orders.

Greene County # 68 They participated in their joint inspection with Vincennes on August 23rd with their members taking several of the parts. Their attendance at their stated conclaves is still low, but steady. They have some very good ritualists, and they travel around Battalions 7 and 8 to help out where they are needed. Most of the officers do not need the ritual to open / close and they understand the tactics very well. They currently have 3 candidates going through the Chapter and Council degrees.

Overall, the Battalion is going in the right direction. None of the Commanderies in the battalion can perform the orders without help from the other commanderies. They have been working together by helping each other perform the Orders and the other York Rite degrees to get their candidates ready for their next step. They have also supported each other by visiting at the stated conclaves and special activities put on throughout the year. The attendance issues seem to be over as all of the commanderies have been able to open. All of them have been showing improvement in performing the tactics and are genuinely interested in improving their York Rite bodies.

Battalion 8 held their Battalion meeting before the ITA held in Bedford on February 7, 2026.

Courteously,
Jon McCracken, GG
Battalion VIII Commander

5. Year Review Report

To be given at the Grand Conclave

UNFINISHED BUSINESS 2025-2026

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery officers, Past Grand Commanders, and Sir Knights all,

The committee for Unfinished Business has nothing to report currently.

Courteously,

Dominic J. Hamblin, KCT, Chair
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana

Proposed Legislation Changes

26-01 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

LAWS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF INDIANA

Current Statute

CHAPEAU

SECTION 940: For Sir Knights, the chapeau shall be black regulation style for Knights Templar. There shall be placed on the left side of the chapeau a rosette of silk velvet and silk ribbon, with an embroidered silver bullion or Mylar passion cross, with or without rays. The color of the filling of the cross shall be red. The chapeau to be trimmed with two black plumes and one duplex white top plume, to extend three inches beyond the rear peak of the chapeau and to be not less than six and three-quarters inches in width. For Commanders and Past Commanders, the same except that on the rosette there shall be an embroidered raised gold bullion or gold Mylar passion cross with rays. The color of the filling of the cross shall be red. There shall be gold slashing one and one-half inches in width on both sides, front and back and gold tassel or front peak. For Grand and Past Grand Officers, the same as for Commanders

except that the rosette shall be an embroidered gold bullion or gold Mylar Templar cross with filling color of red or purple appropriate to rank.

In lieu of the chapeau, the Grand Commandery of Indiana adopts a military Pershing style black dress cap.

A military Pershing style black dress cap shall be of the following description:

For Past Grand Commanders: military Pershing style dress cap with black top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, purple Templar Cross 2 ¼ inches square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons.

For Grand Commander: Same as above except red Templar Cross.

For Grand Commandery officers: Same as above except plain black visor.

For Commanders and Past Commanders: Same as above except with a 1 3/8 x 2-inch red Passion Cross trimmed in gold with rays.

For all other Sir Knights: Same as above except using a red Passion Cross trimmed in silver with a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons.

Those Knights who wish to continue use the traditional head covering may do so and are not required to purchase the new style of head covering. (4/28/2018)

Change to read:

CHAPEAU

SECTION 940: For Sir Knights, the chapeau shall be black regulation style for Knights Templar. There shall be placed on the left side of the chapeau a rosette of silk velvet and silk ribbon, with an embroidered silver bullion or Mylar passion cross, with or without rays. The color of the filling of the cross shall be red. The chapeau to be trimmed with two black plumes and one duplex white top plume, to extend three inches beyond the rear peak of the chapeau and to be not less than six and three-quarters inches in width. For Commanders and Past Commanders, the same except that on the rosette there shall be an embroidered raised gold bullion or gold Mylar passion cross with rays. The color of the filling of the cross shall be red. There shall be gold slashing one and one-half inches in width on both sides, front and back and gold tassel or front peak. For Grand and Past Grand Officers, the same as for Commanders except that the rosette shall be an embroidered gold bullion or gold Mylar Templar cross with filling color of red or purple appropriate to rank.

~~In lieu of the chapeau, the Grand Commandery of Indiana adopts a military Pershing style black dress cap.~~

The Grand Commandery of Indiana adopts a military Pershing style black dress cap, which may be worn in lieu of the chapeau.

A military Pershing style black dress cap shall be of the following description:

For Past Grand Commanders: military Pershing style dress cap with black top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, purple Templar Cross 2 ¼ inches square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons.

For Grand Commander: Same as above except red Templar Cross.

For Grand Commandery officers: Same as above except plain black visor.

For Commanders and Past Commanders: Same as above except with a 1 3/8 x 2-inch red Passion Cross trimmed in gold with rays.

For all other Sir Knights: Same as above except using a red Passion Cross trimmed in silver with a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons.

~~Those Knights who wish to continue use the traditional head covering may do so and are not required to purchase the new style of head covering. (1/28/2018)~~

The decision to wear either a chapeau or the military style Pershing cap shall be made by each Knight and not dictated by any Commandery in the state of Indiana.

Reasoning for change

“In lieu” means “instead of” or “in place of” (sources: Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, Merriam-Webster Dictionary). The use of the phrase “in lieu of” in the current statute indicates that all Knights in the state of Indiana shall wear the Pershing cap instead of a chapeau. The proposed changes clarifies that Knights may choose to wear either a chapeau or a Pershing cap.

Submitted by:

Phil Whisner, PGC, KCT, KTCH

Proposed Law Change to the Education Foundation Committee

As Written

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

SECTION 780: The Educational Foundation Committee shall consist of five members to serve five-year terms of which one will expire each year, one member to be appointed each year at the time of Annual Conclave by the incoming

Grand Commander. The Grand Commander serving will make appointments to fill any vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term and may replace any member of the Committee but shall not be a member of the Committee. It shall be the duty of this Committee to administer the business of the Educational Foundation in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation, and under the direction of the Grand Commandery.

Committee shall review applications for Scholarship grants for students attending an Indiana Credible College/University and request a distribution of the funds from the Grand Encampment. Student applicants must be a Daughter, Son, Granddaughter, Grandson of an Active Indiana Knight Templar. Applications are to be provided online and filled out and mailed to Committee Secretary by March 1st yearly. Stepchildren also fall into the qualified applicants. The Committee Chairman will report all actions to the Grand Conclave each year. *(April 2022)*

Proposed Changes

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

SECTION 780: The Educational Foundation Committee shall consist of five members, each serving a five-year term, with one term expiring annually. One member shall be appointed each year at the Annual Grand Conclave by the incoming Grand Commander. The Grand Commander may appoint members to fill unexpired terms and may remove a member for cause but shall not serve as a member of the Committee.

The Committee shall administer the affairs of the Educational Foundation in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation and under the direction of the Grand Commandery. The Committee shall review scholarship applications from eligible students attending an Indiana-accredited college, university, or trade school and shall request the appropriate distribution of funds from the Grand Encampment.

Eligible applicants shall be children, stepchildren, grandchildren, or step-grandchildren of an Active Indiana Knight Templar. Applications shall be made available online and must be submitted to the Committee Secretary no later than March 1 each year. The Committee Chair shall report all Committee actions annually to the Grand Conclave. The report shall include the number of scholarships awarded and the amount of the scholarship.

The Committee will also make an annual report on the status of our portion of the funds that are held by the Grand Encampment Investment Account. The report shall include starting and ending balances and any income/loss derived for the year, less expenses or fees to maintain the account.

The committee will not request more than 95% of the income for scholarships. The balance of income not used will be put into the permanent portion of the Scholarship Fund for the growth of the funds to offset inflation and to pay the maintenance fees of the account.

The rationale for the above changes is to clear up some of the verbiage and to see that the fund not only maintains its current status but that it continues to grow for future generations.

Respectfully Submitted

Lawrence J. Williams, KCT, PGC
Grand Recorder