

To: All Sir Knights in this Grand Commandery

From: SK Thomas E Hendrickson

Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota

RE: Report on the 2019 Department Conference

Sioux Falls, SD, October 26, 2019, 8:00 AM

Grand Officers in Attendance, per Roll Call:

* SK Brian K. Dimatteo, KTCH, KCT, REGC (and his Lady Wendy)
* SK Terrance Rybarczyk, KCT, VEDGC (and his Lady Margo)
* SK Joseph Anderson, KTCH, KCT, EGG (and his Lady Anne)
* SK Sean Gardiner, KCT, EGCG
* SK Thomas Hendrickson, EGR
* SK David Seitz, KCT, EGT
* SK Alan MacKenzie, KTCH, KCT, EGJW
* SK Marvin Schendel, KCT, EGStB (Grand Council, and his Lady Marilyn)
* SK Donald DeMars, KCT, REPGC
* SK Jim Luchsinger, KCT, REPGC (Grand Chapter)
* SK Doug Pamp, KCT, REPGC
* SK Dan Sherry, KCT, RE Department Commander (and his Lady Ellen)
* SK Danny Evans, Fergus Falls, Emerging Leader
* SK Eldred Jones, Fergus Falls, Emerging Leader
* SK Sean Novack, Zion, Emerging Leader

Meeting was called to order by Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffrey Nelson

Opening Remarks

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation Membership presented by Bill Garrard “Recruitment-Retention-Restoration”

* The Speaker stated that the Grand Master has outlined the importance of Membership in General Order #5.
* This was a very lively discussion filled with Brain Storming and possible Solutions. He explained about the Tools available to the Commanderies on the Grand Encampment Web site. This was a two hour and forty five minute presentation.
* A SWOT (Strength / Weakness / Opportunity / Threat) analysis was performed. The results of this, to be used by individual Grand Commanderies and Departments are listed below.
* SWOT are in order of votes, also including the number of votes for that item (multiple votes per person were allowed, so a number of 27 means that, of the 28 members there, 27 thought this was a Strength)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Strength | Weakness/Threat/Challenge | Opportunities |
| Christian Faith – Lessons and Ritual (27) | Do nothing Meetings (28) | Public displays of uniform and sword work (29) |
| Panache of being a modern day KT (21) | Poor ritual performance (23) | Streamline our Business Meetings (25) |
| Patriotic Programs (20) | Apathy of members (18) | Supporting Ladies and youth groups (24) |
| Personal Investment (14) | Personal Investment (13) | Observance Days (23) |
| Strengthens our bonds / esprit de corps (13) | Time Commitment (9) | Niche and purpose (22) |
| Charity (KTEF) (12) | Misconception of being military (6) | Plethora of Communications Tactics (20) |
| Pilgrimage / Faith Based Programs (11) | Hollywood Media (6) | KTEF (16) |
| Templar Ritualist Programs (6) | Hierarchal Bureaucracy (6) | Holy Land Pilgrimage (13) |
|  |  | Honors / Recognition (4) |

Knight Templar Eye Foundation Speaker Bela Anand Apte PhD Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Ohio “Impact on Pediatric Vision Research”

* Dr. Apte also presented material on Retinopathy of Premature Babies, and updates on her current research projects.

68th Triennium-Projects and Updates:

* Membership is a priority, New Membership Brochure was passed out, new Knight Templar APP to allow anyone to read the current or any Knight Templar Magazine on their Mobil device, Templar Travel: Grand Master planning trips to England and France where Sir Knights and Friends may travel.
* The Three Easter Observances updates, soon a forth will be added in Mexico, Encouraged Commanderies to take every opportunity to celebrate Templary.

Preserving Templary

* Updates from the Preserving Templary 2021 Committee. Details are in the most recent KT Magazine. Some of the key items are included
* Legislative Items
  + Summer Uniforms and Fatigue Uniforms being worn during Orders
  + Summer Uniform times to be worn
  + Allowing for Commanderies to have a Roving Charter
  + Allow for “niche” Commanderies, such as Research Commanderies
  + Allow for wearing of Templar Aprons
* Non-Legislative
  + Revamp the GEKT Website
  + Use Facebook or other Social Media
  + Create a bi-weekly eMail Newsletter
  + Preserve our Archives
  + Digitize all GEKT forms with fillable form fields
  + Digitize our Proceedings
  + GEKT Podcasts
  + Conduct a Membership Survey

Templar Law, Jurisprudence and Protocol

* Very brief. Focus on clarification of the Quorum changes
  + Conferring of Orders: 9 Sir Knights, of which 5 must be from that Commandery
  + Business: 5 Sir Knights

Jurisdictional Reports

* The Grand Commanders all brought Greetings, and pleasantries and announced the dates and known information of their 2020 Grand Conclaves:
  + Iowa June 4-6 Ames Iowa, Radisson Hotel
  + Minnesota June 25-27th Holiday Inn Alexandria, MN
  + Nebraska March 27-28 Karney Nebraska
  + South Dakota September 17-19
  + Wisconsin June 13 Madison

Grand Commanders met with Grand Encampment Officers, other Grand Commandery dais officers met with their state counterparts, Grand Recorders met and reviewed and discussion on the MMS system

Grand Recorder completed his final presentation of the day at 5:30 and attended the Banquet at 6:00