



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota



To: Sir Knight Douglas Pamp, REGC Knights Templar of Minnesota, Grand Officers and all Sir Knights
From: Sir Knight Brian Dimatteo, VEDGC Knights Templar of Minnesota
RE: Annual Meeting, Grand Commandery of Minnesota

The Annual meeting of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota took place at St Cloud, Minnesota and was opened at 08:05 by REGC Pamp. The following items were discussed and actions taken.

1. Education Committee – During the meeting, your Grand Officers discussed the topic of education and the Knight Templar Education fund. We discussed the fact that the fund has been under-utilized over the past years, and that we would need to consider the fund, its use, and its governance. There was a reminder that the fund could be used for Scholarships and Grants. S.K. Pamp discussed his strong support of education, and the need that we must support our Sir Knight's in our Masonic Obligations. S.K. Pamp reminded us that all Grand Commandery Officers are a part of this Committee.
 - a. Action: S.K. Dimatteo to reach out to the Minnesota Masonic Charities to clarify the application for matching funds from the Grand Commandery of Minnesota for Scholarships.
2. Grand Conclave – Your Grand Officers discussed the events of the 2018 Grand Conclave, and it was thought that the proceedings went very well. S.K. Pamp expressed his appreciation for the officers that accepted their positions, and once again stated his appreciation for the time and efforts of S.K. DeMars, REPGC on his term. The 2019 Conclave will be held in Rochester on June 29, 2018.
3. Membership – Your Grand Officers discussed the need to focus on Membership in the coming years. As our numbers decline, we face issues with our activities, but also our dues and cash flow. The officers discussed the need to “work backward” ensuring a strong base of Membership (Blue Lodge, Chapter and Council) to have strong Commandery Membership. A desire to capture the fire that was started with Chapter in the Northern parts of the state – they are doing it right, and we need to be a part of that.
4. Civility and Communications - During the meeting, a significant discussion was held regarding Civility and communications with and between our York Rite Bodies, and other Masonic Organizations. Numerous officers remarked at the fact that there seems to be “bickering” over a Lodge being “York Rite” or “Scottish Rite” in nature. Your Grand Officers also remarked over the seeming divide between the Chapter/Council and the Commandery. During the discussion, there was great emphasis placed on ensuring that these divides are closed and that we remember we are all Masons first and always. S.K. Pamp reminded us of our obligations at the Altar, and asked that we all remembered the key word of MWB Ed Halphus – Civility.
5. Visitation and Transparency – Finally, your Grand Officers reiterated the need for all officers to Visit the Commanderies in this Jurisdiction. This visitation is critical to allow us to help the Commanderies, rather than order them to do anything. Our roles as assistants and helpers is to be stressed in those meetings – we are not there to tell them what they must do, but to help enable them to action. We also discussed the need for agendas and minutes of ALL Grand Commandery meetings and decisions to be posted on our web site as a communications vessel.
 - a. Action: Reorganize the website to better enable communication and ability to find resources
 - b. Action: S.K. Hendrickson to post agendas no later than 3 days prior to meetings
 - c. Action: S.K. Hendrickson to post minutes of meetings on the website
6. Meetings – A tentative schedule of the Meetings of the Grand Commandery were set through the month of December. Meetings to be held at the Masonic Home from 10:00 to Noon, with call in Available. Dates for meetings are as follows:
 - a. July 14, 2018
 - b. August 11, 2018
 - c. September 5, 2018
 - d. October 6, 2018 (Time TBD)
 - e. November 17, 2018
 - f. December 15, 2018

No further discussions or activities to come before your officers, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM, harmony prevailing.