

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



May 2023

Christian Greetings and Salutations Sir Knights,

I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as Grand Commander this chivalric year. Your elected Grand Line Officers and I have worked diligently over the past two years to bring a new level of energy, trust, and transparency to enhance all operations of the Grand Commandery. We have implemented new programs that provide Templar Leadership and Education to our members. Our **Regional Leadership Conferences (RLC's)** provide an opportunity for you to interact with your elected Grand Officers in a smaller setting and to learn about the goals and objectives outlined in our five-year Long-Range Plan. Our **Talent Development and Transformation Initiative** allows for the Grand Commandery to identify, develop, and mentor our Sir Knights, thus creating a cadre of future leaders to choose from. We have restructured the Grand Commandery to function as a business organization implementing many internal controls, span of control, accountability standards, and best business practices.

As a first step, we developed, defined, and implemented duties, responsibilities, oversight, and reporting requirements, similar to a job description for each office. We refer to this as **"The Matrix."** Each of your elected Grand Officers now have direct oversight of specific Grand Commandery operations and committees. This will provide the necessary hands-on experience and gain the understanding of the many responsibilities they will inherit as they advance through the Grand Line. Becoming the Grand Commander comes with a great deal of responsibility. Operational, legal, and financial decisions are made every day that affect the Grand Commandery, our future leaders, and each of you. There is no substitute for education, training, and experience when it comes to running any organization. We now have a much clearer vision with a better-defined path forward.

We have created continuity in our advancing Grand Line that will allow us to achieve results by measuring the effectiveness of our actions. These goals can be found and described in our **five year Long Range Plan**. Please take time to read this plan in its entirety and become familiar with it.

Traditionally, General Order No. 1, has been posted on our website available for all public to see. It included a comprehensive list of our elected and appointed officers our Lady's name, home address, email, and phone contact information. It also included a detailed list of dates, times, and locations for official visits

and other scheduled events. I have never been a proponent of this personal information being available for public consumption. I congratulate our IT Committee for developing and launching our new website that contains a **“member only portal.”** All of the **traditional General Order No. 1** information is now contained in this secure member portal for Sir Knights to access. You will also be able to access all official documents, visits, and events posted on the website calendar. Our **new website** will serve as the portal for **official source authority** for all things approved and endorsed by the Grand Commandery. Individual Sir Knights that send emails and any other correspondences out on their own **are not to be considered** as “official, endorsed, or approved” correspondences of the Grand Commandery.

I look forward to serving with you this chivalric year. I encourage you to attend the **Regional Leadership Conferences**, and to get involved, this is not a spectator sport. Read and understand the Long-Range Plan; goals, objectives, and actionable items of the Grand Commandery. Get involved, be a good volunteer, and go the extra mile.

Courteously,

S. K. Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Grand Commander, 2023-2024