

The Allocution
of
Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding
Right Eminent Grand Commander



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

Chivalric Year 2024-2025

May 2025

Allocution of the Right Eminent Grand Commander

Preamble

Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master,
Most Excellent Grand High Priest,
Illustrious Sovereign Grand Inspector General,
Most Eminent Grand Master,
Right Eminent Department Commander,
Right Eminent Sirs,
Eminent Sirs,
Distinguished Guests,
Sir Knights and friends all:

It is my highest honor to welcome you to the two hundredth and third Grand Conclave of the Knights Templar of Virginia. Your presence at this conclave is a testimony to the strength, honor, and tradition of this profound fraternity.

Allow me to begin these remarks with my utmost appreciation for your trust in me to serve as Grand Commander; it has been the highest honor of my Masonic career to act as caretaker of this historic and honorable order. I pray that your Grand Line continues to advance the cause of Templary in the Commonwealth.

Necrology

It is only fitting to begin the review of the year by remembering those Sir Knights who have laid down their swords and answered the call of our Savior to their eternal home. It is with a heavy heart that I report that 41 Sir Knights in the Commonwealth of Virginia have passed to the eternal peace of Christ. Among these valiant soldiers are:

Sir Knight Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr. Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, KTCH
Sir Knight William Edward Hershey, Jr., Past Grand Master of Virginia
Sir Knight Major Green Stephenson, III, Past Grand Recorder, KTCH
Sir Knight Arthur Wiley Mullins, Past Worthy Grand Patron, Order of the Eastern Star

These Fraters have finished their earthly duty and passed to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful!" While we mourn with the night, our hope comes with the eternal dawn when we will share fellowship with our Sir Knights in the everlasting presence of the Savior.

Decisions

There were no decisions issued during the previous Chivalric year.

Dispensations

Between 4 May 2024 and 2 May 2025, I issued 38 dispensations. All of these dispensations were consistent with the powers vested in me as Grand Commander by the Constitutions and Statutes for the

order of business in the Grand Commandery of Virginia. Each of the dispensations is attached in full to this allocation.

General Orders

During the previous Chivalric year, one general order was issued. General Order, No. 1, issued 4 May 2024, is the standard general order required by the Constitutions and Statues of Virginia with corresponding information. General Order, No. 1, was drafted and distributed in proper form and is attached, in full, at the end of this allocation.

District Official Visits

This Chivalric year, I had the opportunity to visit all nine of the districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia and fellowship with the Sir Knights and their families. Visits to the districts were held as follows:

District	Date	Location
1	13 July 2024 12:00	Richmond, No. 2 Richmond, Virginia
2	22 June 2024 12:00	Portsmouth, No. 5 Chesapeake, Virginia
3	29 June 2024 12:00	Sinclair, No. 37 Manassas, Virginia
4	20 August 2024 12:00	Luray, No. 19 Front Royal, Virginia
5	25 May 2024 12:00	Stevenson, No. 8 Waynesboro, Virginia
6	2 November 2024 12:00	DeMolay, No. 4 Lynch Station, Virginia
7	8 June 2024 12:00	New River Valley, No. 32 Christiansburg, Virginia
8	31 August 2024 12:00	Lynn, No. 9 Marion, Virginia
9	14 September 2024 12:00	Fredericksburg, No. 1 Fredericksburg, Virginia

Each Official Visit was held at noon, with a dispensation for joint Conclave of the of the Commanderies of the district after a social and lunch. Each Conclave was held with full opening and rehearsal of duties; reception of the Grand Commander, as dictated by the *Manual of Tactics and Asylum Ceremonies* (May 2023 version), was performed. Each Conclave was reviewed and scored by the Inspectors General for tactic improvement and member development.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the District Deputy Grand Commanders for their excellent work arranging, executing, and supporting these official visits. Spending time with the Fraters and families of our Order has been the highlight of my term, and I could not have completed this vital action without the support of the District Deputies and their supporting family, friends, and Knights.

Commandery Visits

Throughout the year, I had the distinct honor of visiting the various Constituent Commanderies around the Commonwealth. My intention was to act as a visitor and support each Commandery as needed, and I had the opportunity to staff a variety of roles in my travels. To each of the Commanders and Sir Knights I was able to fellowship with this year, thank you. Being with each of you has been a true honor, and I deeply appreciate the friendship and support you have extended to me this year.

A full itinerary of the Grand Commander's travel is attached to this allocution, but each of these visits holds a special place in my heart.

Masonic Invitations and Travel

Lady Sylvia and I were invited to a host of events this Chivalric year, and I am happy to report that our travels were both rewarding and renewing. Highlights of this year's travel include:

- A visit to Mountain City Lodge, No. 67, on May 6, 2024, to present the Locher Portrait.
- Ascension Day services at Old Dominion Commandery, No. 11, on May 22, 2024.
- DeMolay Cave Degrees in Luray Caverns, on June 1, 2024.
- My homecoming at Stevenson Commandery, No. 8, on June 6, 2024.
- Taylor Royal Arch Chapter Table Chapter meeting on June 10, 2024.
- The presentation of the 50 Year Veterans Emblem to Right Eminent Joseph Westfall at MAHOVA and the District 1 joint visit on June 11, 2024.
- The Virginia Drill Team School in Salem on June 15, 2024.
- Sinclair Table Commandery on June 17, 2024.
- The dedication of Meridian Lodge at MAHOVA on June 18, 2024.
- International Order of Rainbow for Girls Grand Assembly in Harrisonburg on June 28, 2024.
- Virginia Job's Daughters Grand Session in Ferrum on July 11, 2024.
- DeMolay Grand Session in Hampton Roads on July 27, 2024.
- The MidAtlantic Department Conference in Crystal City, September 27 – 28.
- Family Day at MAHOVA on October 16, 2024.
- The Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 6 – 9.
- The Virginia Grand Annual Convocation, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia, November 22 – 23.
- The installation of officers of Kazim Shrine on January 4, 2025.
- The 248th Religious Freedom Day Parade and Wreath Laying in Fredericksburg on January 12, 2025.
- The Festival of Orders at Jeffrey Glen Burcham Commandery on January 18, 2025.
- The Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, April 19 – 20, 2025.
- The Grand Annual Conclave of Virginia, May 1 – 4, 2025.

While this list is not exhaustive, there are key highlights of the invitations we have received this year. The opportunity to attend these events and represent the Grand Commandery of Virginia was a particular distinction.

Visits to Grand Commanderies

I was afforded the opportunity to visit the following Grand Comraderies and York Rite bodies:

- Grand Commandery of West Virginia, May 18 & 19, 2024.
- Grand York Right meetings of New Jersey, February 28 – March 2, 2025.
- Grand Commandery of Delaware meeting, March 6 – 8, 2025.
- Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, March 14 & 15, 2025.

At each event, I was honored as a visiting dignitary with all the honors and privileges appertaining there to, and Lady Sylvia and I enjoyed the hospitality afforded to us.

Gifts to the Grand Commander

While no Grand Commander expects nor demands gifts, I received the following gifts and donations from Sir Knights and friends this Chivalric year:

- A donation for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Jewel in my honor from Staunton Lodge, No. 13
- A custom cigar cutter from Brother Scott Johnson
- A gift bag from the Grand Commandery of West Virginia
- An antique souvenir letter opener sword from the 1913 Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment from Sir Knight Steve Young
- A donation to my charities in my honor from Allegheny Commandery for \$500
- A donation to the Education Foundation in my honor for \$100 from Stephenson Commandery
- Donations totaling \$400 to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, in my honor, from Portsmouth, No. 5 (\$100), Virginia Beach, No. 36 (\$100), Hampton, No. 17 (\$100), and Grice, No. 16 (\$100), Commanderies
- A coffee mug from District 2
- A personalized cutting board from District 2
- A pocket knight from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial from District 2
- A donation for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Jewel in my honor from District 3
- A donation to my charities from Appomattox Commandery for \$100
- A beautiful piece of artwork from District 1
- Donations from District 4 to the Holy Land Pilgrimage (\$100) by Luray Commandery, No. 19, and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation (\$100) by Winchester Commandery, No. 12
- A \$140 donation to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation by District 8
- A \$300 donation to the Knight Templar Education Foundation by District 6
- A replica of the George Washington Masonic Trowel used at the laying of the cornerstone of the Capital by Sir Knight Jonathan Giles, DDGC, District 6

Each of these gifts bear reflection and joy for my year as Grand Commander, and I thank each of the Sir Knights who bestowed these unexpected honors upon me.

Grand Commander's Theme



From the outset of the year, it was my intention to further the Order through the theme of *Templary & Tradition*, reflecting on the past while building on the edifice of Freemasonry. My intention has been, and continues to be, to build our fraternity on the foundation of Craft Masonry, utilizing the tools, lessons, and structure of the Royal Arch, to cap the beautiful edifice of this organization with the honor of Christian knighthood through the Order of the Temple. As often said by Right Eminent Dennis Haas and many other Grand Commanders, there's no reason all Christian Masons should not be Knights Templar.

Fraters, we must continue to build this spiritual building through the lessons of the York Rite Masonry. We must continue to look to the traditions of our Order and further the goals of chivalry. We must continue to stand in the gap and be the salt and light we are commanded to be by our Savior.

Membership

Membership in the Grand Commandery has been in the past, is now, and will continue to be our number one priority goal for this organization. As the small particles of the hour glass wane while we await the return of our Savior, the Knights of the Grand Commandery of Virginia must continue to further membership in our organization to maintain a strong foundation for future members.

During the Chivalric Year, the following statistics were reported via the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) system:

Total Working Commanderies		26
Total Members on Previous Return		1,529
Total Knightings	66	
Total Affiliations	6	
Total Reinstatements	1	
Total Adjustments (+)	1	
Subtotal Gains (+)		74
Total Demits	16	
Total Suspensions	33	
Total Deceased	41	
Total Expelled	0	
Total Adjustments (-)	0	
Subtotal Losses (-)		90
Net Gain/Loss		-16
Total Number of Members (Including Dual/Plural)		1,513

While the Grand Commandery of Virginia witnessed a stellar year in new knightings, the number of Fraters who were suspended or passed to their eternal peace has eclipsed our efforts to support membership growth in the Commonwealth. The loss in membership represents 5.5% of the total membership for the year, with death accounting for 2.5% of the total loss in members this year.

Fraters, we must be honest with ourselves and carefully examine the state of our Order. While we cannot stop the Grim Tyrant Death in his work, we can continue to converse and develop good Brothers and Companions into valiant Knights.

Our efforts to build on previous Grand Commanders' efforts to support membership are yielding good results, but we cannot lose sight of this very important battle for our existence. These warnings are not meant to be harsh or bombastic, but we must continue our crusade to keep Templary alive in Virginia.

Leadership

Your Grand Commandery Officers are keenly aware of the importance of leadership in our Order. During the Chivalric year, I instructed the suspension of the Regional Leadership Conferences due to low attendance and enthusiasm. While these events are crucial for the development of constituent Commanderies, it is in the best interest of the Sir Knights and the Grand Commandery to use our time and effort in ways that will encourage participation and leadership development.

Your Grand Commandery officers are continuing to work for you. We have monthly meetings via Teams, where we discuss a wide array of topics from degree work, finances, leadership principals and the growth of our Commanderies. We make sure that all of us are going in the same direction and following our Long-Range plans. We had a Leadership Conference at MAHOVA in December with guest speaker Alan Adkins, Past Grand Master and Illustrious Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Virginia.

State of the Grand Commandery

Through my visits to individual Commanderies and District Visits, I am pleased to say that Virginia is on the right path. There is a spirit and willingness to do what it takes to build our Commanderies. Our Social Media Committee has brought our Grand Commandery into our homes and for the world to see. There is a clear vision of what we are about and the direction we are traveling. Our Trustees have implemented measures to enhance the Permanent Fund's earnings in support of the Grand Commandery of Virginia's operational and philanthropic objectives. Coupled with the Financial Management Team's adoption of significant business practice changes to strategically manage cash flow. They have set conditions for increased liquidity and profitability. It will be essential for the Grand Commandery of Virginia to remain dedicated to this process to ensure our plan's success.

Recommendations

That the Grand Line continue their monthly Grand Line Officers Meetings. Continue building the Social Media Platform for the Grand Commandery. Remain steadfast working with our Financial Management Teams and Trustees to grow the Grand Commandery's finances. Finally continue building our Commanderies in numbers, service, and ritual performance.

Gratitude and Appreciation

Thanks to RE Benjamin Franklin Hill for having faith in me by putting me in line.

I want to thank all the Grand Line Officers, and Appointed officers. I also like to thank all my District Deputy Grand Commanders and Aides de-camps.

Also thanks goes to RE Dennis Hass, RE Peter Reginald Spring for their guidance and support along with the following:

SK David Conner, Eminent Grand Recorder

SK Richard Rawls, Deputy Grand Recorder

SK Stephen Young, Deputy Grand Recorder

My AA, SK Brandon Hale

SK Jonathan Alexander Giles, Eminent Grand Warder.

The SKs of Stevenson Commandery No. 8.

My Traveling Companions the "MINGOS".

Finally, most importantly my Wife Sylvia, without her support, I could not have served as your Grand Commander.

Respectfully submitted in Knightly courtesy,

Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander, '24-'25
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia

Hello! Welcome Sir Knights and Ladies to the 203rd Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia! Your Arrangements Committee (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”) has been hard at work during the year to ensure that our venue and scheduling was not only sufficient to our needs, but that we exceed expectations in terms of comfort, convenience, and content. Our venue, as you know, is the Hotel Madison, and this is our second year to use this location for our Grand Conclave. Planning for this conclave began within a week of the conclusion of our 2024 conclave. The Committee, in conjunction with the entire Grand Line, held an after-action review to talk about what was good, what worked well, and where the opportunities for improvement might be. The Committee first met with hotel staff in the fall of 2024, again in the winter of 2024, and finally, once again early in 2025. Our objectives were quite simple...

1. Ensure that due preparation was made for the dispatch of the business of the Grand Commandery and that of our appendant bodies
2. Ensure that the schedule and venue provided adequate time and facilities to not only conduct business, but was sufficient for fellowship, networking, and camaraderie, all of which are the hallmarks of our fraternity
3. Achieve these goals while being fiscally responsible with the funds of the Grand Commandery and those of our fraters

We hope that you will find that we were successful in our goals. However, we know that nothing is perfect, and we have the final goal of improving every year. Should you find areas where improvement can be made, you are invited to send suggestions to the Grand Commander at gc@vatemplars.com. In the meantime, enjoy the next few days with all of us as we set the course for the coming year!

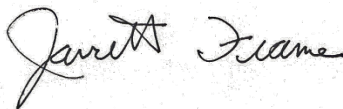
SK William Searcy, III
VEDGC
Grand Commandery of Virginia
Arrangements Committee Chairman

5 March 2025

From: SK Charles Jarrett Frame, Jr. (Baldwin Brown Chairman)
To: SK Scott Lyons Fielding (RE Grand Commander of Virginia)

Subj: 2025 Baldwin Brown Annual Report

1. During the 2024-25 Templar year, the foundation received donations for 4 new pins, 35 diamonds, and a Commandery donation of \$150, all totaling \$4,800. This is encouraging as it is an increase over last year.
2. A total of 11 Sir Knights and one Commandery made donations:
 - a. Fredericksburg No. 1 (1)
 - b. Portsmouth No. 5 (1)
 - c. Stevenson No. 8 (6)
 - d. Jeffrey Glen Burcham No. 19 (2)
 - e. Virginia Beach No. 36 (1)
 - f. Grice No. 16
3. Balance in the fund was \$399,267.31 as of January 31, 2024.
4. Of concern to this committee is the rising cost of diamonds and its impact on this fund. Last year, the cost to set a diamond was approximately \$93. Going to lab grown diamonds, which are indistinguishable to the naked eye, would save about \$20 per diamond. Since costs will probably not go down, the revenue to the program will diminish over time. There should be consideration about raising the price of a pin to enter the program, or to add a new diamond to an existing pin.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jarrett Frame". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jarrett Frame, KTCH
Chairman, Baldwin Brown Fellowship Fund

**Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia
Constitution and Statutes Committee Annual Report
2024-2025 Chivalric Year**

Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Virginia,

The Constitution and Statutes Committee is pleased to submit this report of the activities for the 2024-2025 Chivalric Year.

The Chivalric Year began with the passage of five resolutions and two propositions at the 2024 Grand Annual Conclave. These resolutions and propositions were included in the 2024 revision to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. The final revision was issued following the Grand Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to ensure no conflicting resolutions or propositions were issued that would require a subsequent rewrite.

The Committee also completely reformatted the volume to correct numerous grammatical, spelling and formatting errors. The 2024 revision uses one text style and applies consistent numbering format throughout. This resulted in a slight numbering change where errors were corrected.

The Committee also included a very brief summary of changes following the index to permit easy identification of the resolutions and proposals included in the revision.

The Committee is currently reviewing resolutions and propositions submitted for consideration during the 2025 Grand Annual Conclave.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

SK Roger W. Taylor, Chairman

SK Micheal T. Huff

SK Kevin J. Harvey

SK Jeffrey A. Paras

SK William F. Reinhold REPDC

CHARTERS COMMITTEE REPORT

Right Eminent Sirs, Eminent Sirs, and Sir Knights All,

The Charters Committee reports no activity of your Charters Committee during Chivalric year 2024-2025.

The Committee respectfully requests that this report be submitted to the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Virginia.

Thank you and most respectfully and fraternally,

Sir Knight Lawrence Barton "Larry" Smith
Right Eminent Past Grand Commander 2013-2014
Chairman, Charters Committee



Zeal, Action, and Excellence

Drill Team Committee End of Year Report (2025 Chivalric Year)

Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Virginia:

What an amazing year the Drill Corps in the Commonwealth of Virginia has had. We have battled the elements starting in early January with Triennial Team Tryouts going through August. We were trying to find the shade in the summer during the annual GCOVA Drill School and competition and of course we traveled across the country to Salt Lake City, Utah for the Grand Triennial where we again competed on the National level to represent the great Commonwealth of Virginia. I am happy to also report that we have 10 new permanent members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Drill Corps due to that representation in Salt Lake City.

The start of this amazing year was of course at the Grand Conclave 2024 where we held the Drill Competition which saw 4 teams compete in action against each other. It was at this event where the Triennial bug was planted for Virginia. This event while it was fun to compete in, and against each other, served as the jump off point for our entire Triennial run.

Next up was the annual School and Competition that took place June 15th, 2024 at Salem Civic Center in Salem, Virginia, where we saw an even larger turnout than the year prior of 24 Sir Knights. We were able to field 4 teams that day and I'm happy to announce that the winner of the competition for 2025 was Virginia Beach Commandery. This team consisted of Brian Rumley, Don Belanger, Jeff Paras, Richard Collins, David Rush, and Captain Roger Taylor. Congratulations Sir Knights, it was well deserved after seeing the amount of time and dedication you have devoted to this. To the winners go the spoils and you will be not only taking home the Fitz Allen Brown trophy, you will also take the home field advantage as now the state has to come to you to win it this coming year on August 16, 2025 in Norfolk, Virginia.

This leads us directly to the big event of the year, and Triennial, the Grand Encampment Drill Competition in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year there were 11 members including 10 first time participants at the event. It was a long road to Utah and I'd like to take a moment to thank all the members of the Grand Commandery of Virginia. Without your continued support we wouldn't be able to field these teams and represent you at these events. Thank you! While the scores didn't come out as we had hoped, we did fulfill the obligation we made and were noted by some of the judges as having the best marching team in the field. To really emphasize that point, know that our Sir Knights were deducted only 1 point for timing during the entire competition which was the lowest of any group there.

With completion of the Triennial Drill Competition behind us, it is my honor to announce we have added 10 new Sir Knights to the rolls of the Virginia Drill Corps, forever.

- SK Joe Matthews
- SK Jeff Paras
- SK William Crosscup
- SK Dakota Burton
- SK Chris Stevens
- SK Jeremy Utt
- SK Richard Bateman
- SK Freddy Barnett
- SK Chuck Barbee
- SK Cole David

These 10 new additions, with our rugged veteran SK Joe Broce, all have, or will have, received their Triennial Drill bars, Drill Corps patches, and an accompanying certificate by the time this report is published. If you see these Sir Knights out and about talk to them about their experiences and about how you can help us go to California for the next Triennial and come back home with 1st place!

Continuing with our newest tradition, the Drill Corps has flown the flag of our current Grand Commander and will present it to him at the Grand Conclave during the Officer Installation as a parting gift from the Drill Corps to him for a successful year of service to the Sir Knights of Virginia.

The 2025 Grand Commandery Drill School and Competition are currently scheduled for Saturday, August 16, 202, in Norfolk, Virginia, however the location is TBD. More information can be found on the Grand Commandery's website under Drill Corps when available.

The Committee would like to thank the Grand Line Officers for their dedication to the Corps this year. The only note for this is that we would like to see participation from the Grand Line Officer with oversight into the committee. Unfortunately, that did not happen this year and we hope that it will get back on track with the coming year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Drill Team Committee.

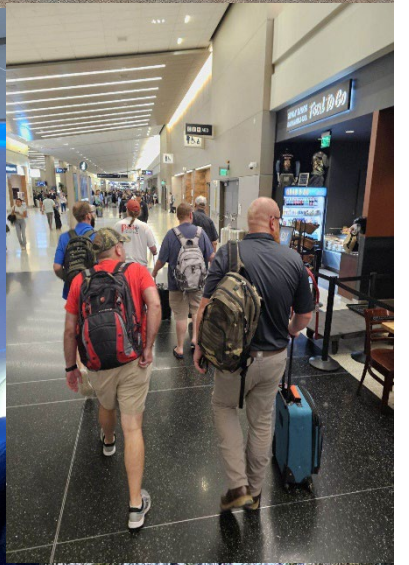
Courteously,

Sir Knight D. Cole David | Chairman
Sir Knight Bill Reinhold, Past Department Commander
Sir Knight Joe Broce
Sir Knight Chuck Barbee

drillcorps@vatemplars.com



Zeal, Action, and Excellence



March 12th, 2025

Right Eminentes, Eminentes, Sir Knight, Brothers and Friends all:

The purpose of this communication is to serve as the end-of-Chivalric-year report for the Editor for the Virginia Insert to the Grand Encampment Knight Templar Magazine.

I was humbly appointed Editor of the Virginia Insert in October of 2024, and immediately began work. Through the end of calendar year 2024, I edited articles for September, October, November, and December. Thus far through calendar year 2025, I have edited articles for the months of January and February, as well as completed the edit for the Easter article to be posted in April.

Through the edits, I have checked for any errors or oversights in grammar, spelling, syntax, or general flows in context and have made prudent changes where necessary while preserving the nature, tone, intent, and message of the original writing. In addition, I have also set the proper layout and formatting to the pieces according to the Grand Encampment Branding Regulations. I sincerely and graciously look forward to serving in this capacity in the upcoming months, and I am proud to help carry the message to the Sir Knights in this great Commonwealth.

Respectfully Submitted,

SK Dan Carter, PEC, KYCH, DDGC-Elect (District 4)

Winchester Commandery No. 12

Report of the Grand Commandery Finance Committee for 2024

March 26, 2025

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Virginia,

The Deputy Grand Commander found it necessary to appoint a ProTem Finance Committee (hereafter referred to as “The Committee”) to review expenditures from 2023 and 2024 and to plan for the 2025-2026 Chivalric Year. This is their report.

This Finance Committee report includes some improvements in the accounting and financial planning for the next Chivalric Year by putting the financial records into a shared space so that all concerned with managing funds can obtain information in real time using QuickBooks online. This represents a monumental improvement and should prove extremely valuable both this year and well into the future.

After an informal review of the last years financial activities, it was determined that a formal audit was not indicated nor required under the Constitution and Statues, so an Informal Review was conducted by the ProTem Finance Committee. It is the opinion of this committee that functions to support the endeavors and mission of the Grand Commandery were financially correct.

The various committee chairmen of the Grand Commandery were solicited for their budget requirements for the upcoming Chivalric Year. With that input, The Committee, consisting of SK Clifford Gregory, SK Marion Humphreys; with the assistance of the Trustees SK J.D. Davis and SK Adam Duncan, the Grand Treasurer SK Tom Varner and Assistant Grand Treasurer SK Jason Taliaferro and the Deputy Grand Commander SK William Searcy developed a budget, which was reviewed by those Sir Knights and is presented here.

The Budget is based on five factors, they are:

- a. Past Expenditures for the previous two years
- b. Revenue available, based on most current available data from the Grand Treasurer and the Trustees.
- c. Specific requests from various Grand Commandery Committees
- d. Needs expressed by the Deputy Grand Commander
- e. Fiscal responsibility and care

It is the recommendation of this committee that the budget be approve as prepared unless a specific need is identified during these proceedings.

Submitted in all Knightly Courtesy,

Clifford H. Gregory, PhD, KYCH, Past Commander

Sir Knight Clifford H. Gregory, PhD, KYCH, PC

Chairman ProTem – Grand Commandery Committee on Finance

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER 2024-2025

5/6/2024 to 3/30/2025 and 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

The statistical summary reported reflects the entries made to the database at MMS for the period stated. The report reflected below covers both the Grand Commander's year and the calendar year as the Grand Commander was installed 6 months after the beginning of the Calendar year and the annual return is based on the Calendar year. Therefore, it is only fair that the Grand Commanders year be reported to show what happened during the Grand Commander's term of office. Again, a reminder to all Commanders that it is their responsibility to see that their Recorders have made required entries into the database and their annual return is into the Office of the Grand Recorder by the first of April for the period January 1 to December 31.

The Statistics for the 2024/2025 Grand Commanders Year (May 6, 2024, to March 30, 2025)

Total Membership, as of May 6, 2024.....		<u>1529</u>
Knighting's	66	
Affiliations	6	
Restorations	1	
Total Gains.....	73	<u>1602</u>
Withdrawals	16	
Suspensions	33	
Deaths	40	
Total Losses.....	89	
Net loss	(16)	

Total Membership, March 30, 2025..... 1513

(Includes 107 dual/plural members) of which 41 are out of state memberships, and 1 holds 5 VA memberships, 13 hold 3 VA memberships and 57 hold 2 VA memberships.

Individual Sir Knights = 1499 (above information accurate as of March 30, 2025)

The Statistics for the 2024 Calendar Year: (Jan 1, 2024, to Dec 31, 2024)

Jan 1, 2024,		<u>1520</u>
Knighting's	42	
Affiliations	14	
Restorations	2	
Total Gains	59	
Withdrawals	23	
Suspensions	34	
Deaths	46	
Total Losses	103	

Total Membership, December 31, 2024..... 1476

I want to express my deep appreciation for the assistance provided me by the Deputy Grand Recorders during the year. It has been a team effort; THANK YOU! The Grand Recorder's Office is here to serve you. The published office hours are 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

In His Name and at your service
David Ray Conner– Grand Recorder

2024-2025 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

February 1, 2025

Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Virginia, it is my honor to present you with the report of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee for the 2024-2025 Chivalric year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you and the Sir Knights of our great Commonwealth.

This Chivalric year presented some unfortunate and unpreventable challenges for the Holy Land Pilgrimage program. Due to the lack of any resolutions on the horizon in the current ethnic and religious fighting in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank, it was determined that all the upcoming travel dates for the Knights Templar Holy Pilgrimage program for this Chivalric year be postponed and rescheduled with the earliest travel for ministers being tentatively set for 2026. No new applications from ministers were received for consideration or evaluation this year.

Our internal dedication to this program has faithfully remained intact with a renewed focus on business operations and our assets and fund contributions are being proactively managed to support the future needs of distinguished Christian ministers when they can again travel in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior in the Holy Land. We have travel plans, hotel arrangements, and staff in place. We are simply waiting for the political upheaval and war fighting on the ground to cease in the Holy Land to make travel possible again when appropriate.

The following Sir Knights and Masonic bodies deserve recognition for their contributions to our Holy Land Pilgrimage fund this Chivalric year totaling \$15,002.00.

SK Charles P. Brackett	Staunton Lodge No. 13
SK Richard E. Saunders	Demolay Commandery No. 4
SK Andrew S. Hilton	SK Joseph H. Martinez
SK Robert L. Price, Jr. (posthumously)	SK Kevin E. Torres
SK Charles W. Taggart	Jeffrey G. Burcham Commandery No. 19
Grice Commandery No. 16	SK Shelton S. Mackey, III
SK Michael A. Huff	SK James B. Bartley
SK Steven L. Young	SK Marion J. Humphreys, III
SK Raymond D. Steele	

Award recipients will be announced at the Grand Conclave in May 2025 and receive their trophies from the Grand Commander.

Donations By Chivalric District as of 1/31/2025:

District 1: \$500.00

District 2: \$200.00

District 3: \$1,600.00

District 4: \$1,202.00

District 5: \$1,000.00

District 6: \$10,000.00

A debt of gratitude must be paid to SK Jimmy D. Davis, chairman, and the Sir Knights who are the Trustees of the Permanent Fund for successfully navigating the turbulent and unsure financial market this year and ultimately growing our HLP fund to significant, positive performance gains and growth. From the end May 2024 to the end of January 2025, earnings generated this Chivalric year were \$7,860.54 and positive market growth of the HLP fund was \$25,485.44.

All expenses pertaining to administration and operation of this program were personally donated and paid for by SK Jason Curtis Trenary and his wife, Lady Traci.

The travel record of the HLP chairman for the 2024-2025 Chivalric year:

- 6.17.2024** Presented HLP jewel to SK Richard E. Saunders at a Winchester Commandery No. 12 and Sinclair Commandery No. 37 Joint Conclave with the Grand Commander in Manassas, VA.
- 7.2.2024** Presented HLP jewel to the members of Staunton Lodge No. 13 at their Stated Communication with the Grand Commander in Staunton, VA.
- 7.13.2024** Attended the Grand Commander's Official Visit to Chivalric District No. 1 in Richmond, VA.
- 8.10.2024** Attended the Grand Commander's Official Visit to Chivalric District No. 4 in Front Royal, VA.
- 8.19.2024** Attended the 69th Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA in Salt Lake City, Utah. Met with SK Robert J. Elsner, Associate Grand Prelate and Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee member, and discussed the probable timeline of the next trip to the Holy Land in 2026 and the leadership changes in the Holy Land Pilgrimage program that are coming at the end of 2024.
- 8.31.2024** Attended the Grand Commander's Official Visit to Chivalric District No. 8 in Marion, VA. Presented HLP jewels to the Commanders of Lynn Commandery No. 9, Johnson Commandery No. 14, and Clinch Valley No. 20.
- 9.14.2024** Attended the Grand Commander's Official Visit to Chivalric District No. 9 in Fredericksburg, VA.
- 10.5.2024** Attended the Masonic Home of Virginia Family Day and Parade in Richmond, VA.
- 10.19.2024** Attended the Shenandoah Valley Regional Leadership Conference held at Steveson Commandery No. 8 in Waynesboro, VA and presented a program on our philanthropies and our first Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, Most Eminent Sir Knight Dewitt Clinton.
- 11.2.2024** Attended the Grand Commander's Official Visit to Chivalric District No. 6 in Lynch Station, VA.
- 12.11.2024** Attended the District No. 3 Christmas Observance held by Old Dominion Commandery No. 11 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA. Presented HLP jewel to SK Sheldon Sanford Mackey, III.
- 1.18.2025** Attended the District No. 4 Festival of the Orders held by Jeffrey Glen Burcham Commandery No. 19 and Winchester Commandery No. 12 and briefed the 32 new Sir Knights that were exalted that day on our philanthropies including the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund.

2024-2025 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE FUND SUMMARY

Beginning Balance from 2023-2024:	\$218,388.67
Contributions:	\$15,002.00
Earnings as of 1/31/2025:	\$7,860.54
Total Receipts:	\$22,862.54
Subtotal:	\$241,251.21
Holy Land Pilgrimage Fees (None):	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses (Donated):	\$0.00
Market Performance Gains as of 1/31/2025:	\$25,485.44
Ending Balance as of 1/31/2025:	\$266,736.65

As this Chivalric year ends and a new one dawns on the horizon, the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee is optimistic and hopeful for the fruition that lies ahead. We have structured the HLP fund to operate as a business entity this year and we have positioned our contributions to make a significant impact on the future of the Christian religion.

Thank you for the confidence you have entrusted to this committee and may God bless every one of you.



Submitted in All Knightly Courtesy,

SK Jason Curtis Trenary, KCT, Chairman and Grand Standard Bearer

SK Richard Edward Saunders, Grand Prelate

SK Michael Anthony Washington, Deputy Grand Prelate

SK Mark Todd Pennypacker, Sr.

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



IT and Communications (Public Relations) Committee Report

May 2024 – April 2025

Beginning in May of 2023 we began a total overhaul of the Grand Commandery of Virginia's public facing presence and its internal forms of communication and management of its documentation. This process has continued into this year. There has even been growth from the investments made in how we are as an organization being viewed. The investments I speak about are the identity, style and branding guide that was created, fully digitization of all the required logos, seals, and other material needing to be placed on official documentation. We also invested in Canva and are using Social Media Management and Listening Tools. We have continued throughout the year to schedule specific posts on the official platforms of the Grand Commandery of Virginia for all those to see and follow. Additionally, we have received through the travels of the Grand Commander or other Grand Officers various photos of events they have attended which were posted as well. There have also been several articles and photos published in the Masonic Harold (Grand Lodge of Virginia), Keystone (Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Virginia), and the Knights Templar Magazine.

As we continue our optimization with all these digital aspects of our organization, we look forward to the future and are excited to be able to work with numerous committees and the Grand Commandery's Officers to continue fostering our growth. As we expand our strategic plan and make the necessary adjustments to achieve the goals set by your Grand Officers. We also look to you and ask if you have any major events in the coming years (anniversaries, charities, drill, community activities, etc.) please share them with us at least three months in advance, if not even earlier. We are here to help each Sir Knight and Commandery make what they are doing as impactful as possible. This is your Grand Commandery, and we are your IT and Communication (Public Relations) Committee. Please let's continue to make the Grand Commandery of Virginia shine as it has throughout history.

Send all information to vatemplars@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Your IT and Communication Committee

Jurisprudence Committee Report

Chivalric Year 2024-2025

The Jurisprudence Committee was requested this year to assist the Resolutions Committee in the preparation of resolutions to be considered at Grand Commandery in May 2025. Input was provided via the Grand Recorder. The Committee was also asked to review the actions of a constituent Commandery in dealing with a membership issue.

Respectfully submitted:

J

SK James B. Bartley, EPC
Chairman, Jurisprudence Committee
Grand Commandery of Virginia for 2023-2024

KNIGHT TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR COMMITTEE

December 30, 2024

2024-2025 KTCH Annual Report

Sir Knights, your Knight Templar Cross of Honor Committee consisted of:

Jimmy D. (J.D.) Davis, PC, KTCH, Chairman
Daniel H. Surface, PC, KTCH
Stephen L. (Steve) Young, PC, KTCH

This year, there were a total of seven Sir Knights considered for the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. Two nominations were new, three nominations were updated, and two nominations were rolled over from previous years. The Committee used the decision-making process submitted to the Grand Line and approved by the Grand Commander previously.

Nomination packets were shared among the Committee to allow each member to conduct his own analysis of the candidates. The Committee then came together via MS Teams to conduct a final review of the assessments. There were less than thirteen points separating the first and second committee recommendations reinforcing the importance of annual updates to your nominations as the Committee carries forward nominations not selected to be considered in the next year.

In accordance with Section 13.O. of the Constitution and Statutes, your committee submitted its recommendation to the Grand Commander on December 30, 2024, for his final determination of the recipient. We look forward to the results at the Annual Grand Conclave. Your committee was honored to have the opportunity to serve Chivalric Masonry and assist in determining the most outstanding Sir Knight in the State for the year 2024-2025.

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

Jimmy D. Davis, "J.D." PC, KTCH
Jimmy D. Davis
Chairman
KTCH Committee

REPORT OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Virginia Division

Sir Knights:

Over the past Chivalric Year, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation - Virginia Division continued to improve on the accomplishments made last year the three key areas of emphasis: 1. increase the visibility of the Foundation, 2. publicly recognize our grant recipients, 3. grow the balance of the Fund.

Many thanks go to Right Eminent Grand Commander Scott L. Fielding for adopting the Educational Foundation as the focus charity of his term. This, along with the continuation of the Regional Leadership Conferences has continued to increase the visibility of the Foundation.

For the second year in a row, we publicly recognized the grant recipients, presenting them with a certificate. This year, we did this at a Commandery event near their home, allowing more members of their family and the Sir Knights in their community to be in attendance to celebrate with them.

The balance of the fund grew by \$63,907.99, representing deposits of more than \$34,000 growth in excess of \$38,000 with withdrawals of \$8,000 and administrative fees of \$750, payable to the Grand Encampment. The Committee and Grand Commandery Trustees continue to be troubled about the frequency of reports from the Grand Encampment to the Grand Commandery as well as questions regarding the accuracy of those reports. These issues are the reason behind the proposition and two resolutions to return the Funds of the Educational Foundation back to the Grand Commandery and invest them along with the rest of the Permanent Fund.

Due to the report deadline, the Committee is not able to speak to the number of grant recipients for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year at this time. However, for a second year in a row, there was an increased number of applications for our grant program. The Sir Knights across the Commonwealth are to be commended for continuing to promote this opportunity. The grant recipients will be identified and shared publicly as soon as possible.

Our goal remains to award five grants of \$2,000 each. We plan to continue the recipient recognitions in their local community so that their family, friends and supporters can be there to celebrate with them.

The health of the Fund under the administration of the Grand Encampment continues to be strong with a balance increase of \$63,907.99 last year for an ending balance of \$393,524.28. This represents an investment gain of \$38,355.12, and deposits of \$34,302.87. Disbursements from the Fund, including grants for the 2024-25 academic year and administrative fees, totaled \$8,750.00.

This also represents a gain of \$138,565.09 since the Grand Encampment took over the administration of the Fund in February of 2020 (*initial deposit of \$254,959.19*).

Beginning Balance (Jan. 1, 2024):	\$	329,616.29
Deposits:	\$	34,302.87
Fund Gain:	\$	38,355.12
Grants Awarded - 2024:	\$	(8,000.00)
GE Administrative Fee:	\$	(750.00)
Ending Balance (Dec. 31, 2024):	\$	393,524.28
Net (Jan. 1, 2024-Dec. 31, 2024):	\$	63,907.99

I would first like to thank the Sir Knights of the Commonwealth of Virginia for this opportunity to serve and for their assistance, advice and generosity to the Fund during the 2024-25 Chivalric Year. I would also like to thank

the other Sir Knights who served on the Educational Foundation Committee and those who helped us grow the visibility of this opportunity for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Joseph Martin Matthews, Chairman

Committee Members

SK Joel Thomas Bundy, M.D.

SK Thomas Lee Varner

SK David Ray Conner

12 February 2025

Greetings Sir Knight Scott, Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights all:

Your Grand Commandery Committee on Leadership and Education is pleased to provide this report of our activities for the 2024-2025 Chivalric year.

The Grand Commandery Committee on Leadership and Education has been charged with conducting workshops at the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Virginia for the purpose of providing leadership training at the Constituent Commandery level, and education on the general subject of Chivalric Masonry. We did not conduct a workshop at our Grand Annual Conclave in 2024 due to the full schedule of other activities and other educational and leadership development opportunities provided our membership intended to take its place. We worked on further refining what we have, improving the correspondence course and on adding to the volume of resource materials available to the membership.

We continued to work with the District Education Officer for Chivalric District No. 3 to grow the supply of educational programs and resources available to enrich Conclaves and provide the Sir Knights with a more robust Chivalric experience. We confirm our disappointment that more District Education Officers were not appointed or advocated for this year. Instituting this position across our jurisdiction has been long overdue if we are to be serious about Chivalric education and about our commitment to making good men better.

It is encouraging to note the continued participation by the membership in the online correspondence course. There was a total of 32 registrations this Chivalric year.

Serving with me on your committee were the following enthusiastic and dedicated Sir Knights: Adam L. Buffington, Shelby L. Chandler II, Timothy A. Dahlman, Jonathan A. Giles, Joseph B. Hale, Joseph H. Martinez, Dennis G. Parmerter, David M. Strohsahl, Roger W. Taylor and Jeremy B. Utt.

We appreciate and are thankful for the support and cooperation we have received from the membership, other committees, the Grand Commandery Officers, the Past Grand Commanders as well as your always prompt attention and guidance Grand Commander. We look forward to continuing to work toward the success of our Grand Commandery and are both honored and thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray

Raymon W. Bacchus, Chairman

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia Membership Committee Annual Report 23 March 2025

Greetings Sir Knight Scott, Right Eminent Grand Commander and Sir Knights all:

Your Grand Commandery Committee on Membership is pleased to provide this report of our activities for the 2024-2025 Chivalric year.

The Membership Committee is divided into five regions with Co-Chairman representing each region as noted below.

Shenandoah Region: Sir Knights Scott Truax and Jessie Lyons

Representing Commanderies: 8, 12, 19, 23 and 27

Created 14 new Knights

Northern Region: Sir Knights Dennis David and Brian Van de Meulebroecke

Representing Commanderies: 1, 11, 26, 29 and 35

Created 11 new Knights

Southwestern Region: Sir Knights Brandon Hale, Robert Maxwell, and Craig Cox

Representing Commanderies: 9, 14, 15, 20, 22, and 32

Created 13 new Knights

Eastern Region: Sir Knights David Strohsahl and Brian Rumley

Representing Commanderies: 5, 16, 17, 33, 36 and 37

Created 21 new Knights

Central Region: Sir Knights Jonathan Giles and Jack Moorman

Representing Commanderies: 2, 3, 4, and 6

Created 7 new Knights

Commanderies throughout the Commonwealth created 66 new Sir Knights this year with 32 being created at a single Festival of Orders at Jeffery Glen Burcham Commandery No. 19 on January 18, 2025. An additional 10 Sir Knights were created on March 22, 2025, at the District 2 Festival of Orders held at Grice Commandery No. 16. The chivalric year started off with 12 Knights being created on May 11, 2024, in Bayard, DeMolay, New River Valley and Sinclair Commanderies.

On a less positive note, MMS indicates only one Sir Knight has been reinstated this year.

Collectively, all of the commanderies have done a great deal of work presenting our fraternity in the best possible light and in a wide range of ways. Below are some of the activities the commanderies across the commonwealth conducted to maintain our current membership, recruit new members and regain members that have demitted or became inactive.

Some of the activities include:

- Presenting Knights Templar programs in Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters.
- Attending Grand Lodge of Virginia District Leadership Conferences, in uniform and manning information tables.
- Supporting local Non-Masonic youth groups like Little League Baseball/Softball teams, Pop Warner Football teams, Scouts and others.
- Non-Asylum Flag Presentations
- Religious Programs
 - o The commanderies of District 2 held a Joint Conclave in conjunction with a public Christmas service at the Norfolk Masonic Temple. Attendees were treated to toasts and readings, Christmas music and a program presented by local pastor. 79 Sir Knights and guests attended.

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia
Membership Committee Annual Report
23 March 2025

- Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Museum.
- Parades
- Patriotic programs
- York Rite Night

The efforts are not without challenge. The Membership Committee and most very active Sir Knights are heavily engaged in all aspect of York Rite Masonry, Scottish Rite Masonry and other bodies and organizations. The Committee in addition to being ambassadors for our fraternity are also the eyes and ears of the Grand Commander. This year the Committee continues to see challenges with maintaining the important level of ritual proficiency and the number of members proficient in the various orders.

The Committee offers the following recommendations:

1. Improve the availability of digital and printed marketing material. Making marketing material available provides an avenue to educate our Brothers and Companions on the many attributes of our Christian order.
2. Establish and distribute the Grand Commandery branding standard that includes ready examples of social media posts that each commandery can easily tailor for their public announcements.
3. Create a Grand Commandery Store – a place where any Sir Knight can easily buy Grand Commandery of Virginia merchandise and other Knights Templar specific items.
4. Lobby for authorization to wear the traditional Knights Templar Apron during tiled Blue Lodge meetings for special events and occasions. The apron is unique to our fraternity and an obvious conversation starter.
5. Make District, Region and Statewide Ritual Training opportunities a priority. Executing the Orders with proficiency and enthusiasm communicates the message more clearly and deeply than a shabbily performed ritual.
6. Improve the availability of ceremonial regalia. Each order has specific requirements for regalia and maintaining a full complement of regalia is the expectation. Well executed orders in full regalia, without a doubt, improves the Sir Knights' experience during the ceremony. Conferring the degrees with full regalia adds a level of drama that makes a lasting impression on new fraters and wil very likely lead to the new Sir Knight sharing his experience with others.

Yours in Knightly Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature reads "Roger Taylor" in a cursive, flowing script.

Roger Taylor, PC

Grand Commandery Membership Committee, Chairman

Necrology Report

Name	Commandery	Position	Passing
Samuel Lynn Cochran	Fredericksburg No. 1	Past Commander	6/7/2024
Richard Joseph Fisher	Fredericksburg No. 1		6/23/2018
James Rollin Morgan Jr.	Fredericksburg No. 1		01/04/2025
William Edward Tyndall	Fredericksburg No. 1	Past Commander	12/19/2024
Joseph Patrick Westfall, Jr.	Richmond No. 2	Right Eminent Past	07/04/2024
	Portsmouth No. 5	Grand Commander	
	Appomattox No. 6		
	Penn-Neck No. 33		
	Turner Ashby No. 35		
William Wright Bell	Richmond No. 2		11/25/2024
	Grice No. 16		
Charles S. Sarbaugh	Richmond No. 2		07/23/2024
David Charles Merchant	Charlottesville No. 3		07/15/2024
Gilbert Clayton Luck Jr.	DeMolay No. 4		07/15/2024
Dr. Dudley Allen Raine Jr.	DeMolay No. 4		11/07/2024
James Sidney Jones III	Portsmouth No. 5		07/05/2024
Major Green Stephenson III	Portsmouth No. 5	Past Commander	11/16/2024
		Past Grand Recorder	
Stormy Thorson	Portsmouth No. 5		10/11/2024
William Edward Hershey Jr.	Stevenson No. 8	Past Grand Master	11/06/2024
Dr. Christopher Newkirk Sheap M.D.	Stevenson No. 8		11/17/2024
Tommy Lee Swisher	Stevenson No. 8		06/11/2024
William Merle Jones	Old Dominion No. 11		01/11/2025
Franklin Jay Pepper	Old Dominion No. 11	Past Commander	01/06/2025
Paul Gayle DeHaven	Winchester No. 12		06/23/2024
Joseph Ben Mathis	Winchester No. 12		09/22/2024
James A. Bishop Sr.	Johnson No. 14		10/04/2024
Charles Wayne Edmonds	Johnson No. 14		10/06/2024
Robert Wayne Necessary	Johnson No. 14	Past Commander	12/29/2024
Kenneth Wayne Glass	Bayard No. 15		05/01/2024
Harry Joseph Worwetz	Grice No. 16		05/25/2024
Tony R. Auby	Hampton No. 17		11/28/2024
Lowell Bradley Baughan	Jeffrey Glen Burcham No. 19		01/06/2025
Arthur Wiley Mullins	Clinch Valley No. 20	Past Commander	06/28/2024
		Past Worthy Grand Patron	
Lincoln Daniel Watson	Clinch Valley No. 20		07/15/2024
Jay Preston Lockhart	Alleghany No. 23		04/14/2024
Carl Hampton Dunn Jr.	Piedmont No. 26		08/15/2024
Mac Herron Morris	Arlington No. 29		05/28/2024
David Lee Nunley	New River Valley No. 32		01/20/2021
Arnold Cereal Sutphin	New River Valley No. 32		01/04/2023

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia

Religious Observances Report

During this year, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia was active with religious observances in many ways, including but not limited to:

The Grand Officers held our second annual Christmas Libation service in December 2024, at the Masonic Home of Virginia, which was attended by Sir Knights, family members, and many of the residents. This year we modified the ceremony to make it more inclusive for the residents. This was well attended, and we received very positive feedback from the MAHOVA residents in attendance. The MAHOVA residents were also presented with Christmas ornaments as a gift from Santa, as our thanks for allowing us the opportunity to celebrate with them.

In January 2025, many Sir Knights and Grand Officers, led by SK Scott Fielding, REGC, participated in the annual Religious Freedom Day Parade in Fredericksburg, Va, along with the Knights of Columbus and Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of VA, Prince Hall Affiliation. About 20 Sir Knights, representing both Grand Commanderies, marched together with SK William Searcy leading the cadence.

At the time of this writing, many Grand Officers are planning on joining with Grand Encampment, Virginia Sir Knights, and Sir Knights from around the country for the annual Sunrise Easter Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on Easter morning.

In addition, several Grand Officers participated in Ascension Day services, which occurred after Grand Conclave in 2024, and in Christmas Libation Services throughout Virginia.

At the 2024 Grand Conclave, it was decided to move the annual Divine Service to Friday morning, immediately following the reception of distinguished guests, to give everyone the opportunity to participate as well as kicking off by putting our focus on God as we begin our weekend. This will continue at the 2025 Grand Conclave.



The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia



To Sir Knight Dennis M Haas, Right Eminent Grand Commander Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar of Virginia

COMMITTEE REPORT: Religious Freedom Day January 12, 2025

The purpose of this committee is to coordinate participation with the Knights of Columbus in the Religious Freedom Day in Fredericksburg, VA. Religious Freedom Day commemorates the adoption of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom by the General Assembly on January 16, 1786. The document was written by Thomas Jefferson, who directed that it be included as one of three "things that he had given the people." The other two were having written the Declaration of Independence and being "Father of the University of Virginia."

It is a pleasure to report that this year's event was conducted and enjoyed by all. As we work towards restoring participation to previous levels, this event remained both enjoyable and meaningful, holding significant importance for The Community and our Sir Knights.

Schedule of events was:

January 12, 2025

1245 Form the Parade at Fredericksburg Train Station

1315 Dignitaries gather at St. John Bosco Catholic Campus Center, University of Mary
Washington.

1330 Step-off from Fredericksburg Train Station

1400 Ceremony

1500 Reception at St. John Bosco Catholic Campus Center

The Featured Speaker was Mrs. Tara Durant, Virginia State Senator, District 27. Mrs. Durant spoke on the importance of religious belief and the guidance it provides.

There were several distinguished guests from across the State of Virginia including Delegate Robert Orrick and Honorable Kerry P Devine, Mayor, City of Fredericksburg, VA.

The Grand Commandery was represented by Sir Knight Scott Fielding, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knight Templar of Virginia. SK Scotts was joined by several members of the Grand Line.

Right Eminent Grand Commander James Johnson, Grand Commander, King Baldwin Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation was represented by SK James Manning, Honorary Past Grand Commander.

A formation about 20 Sir Knights representing both Grand Commanderies marched together to participate in this year's ceremony with SK William Searcy leading the cadence.



Following the ceremony a reception was held at the St. John Bosco Catholic Campus Center where comradery was enjoyed with the Knights of Columbus and the Sir Knights.

The current plan for next year's March is January 11, 2026.

Committee Members

SK Shelton Mackey, DDGC, Chair

SK William Searcy, EDCG

SK Daniel Thompson, PDDGC

SK Shelby Chandler, PC

SK Heath Thomas

Your committee stands ready to assist in any way that it can.

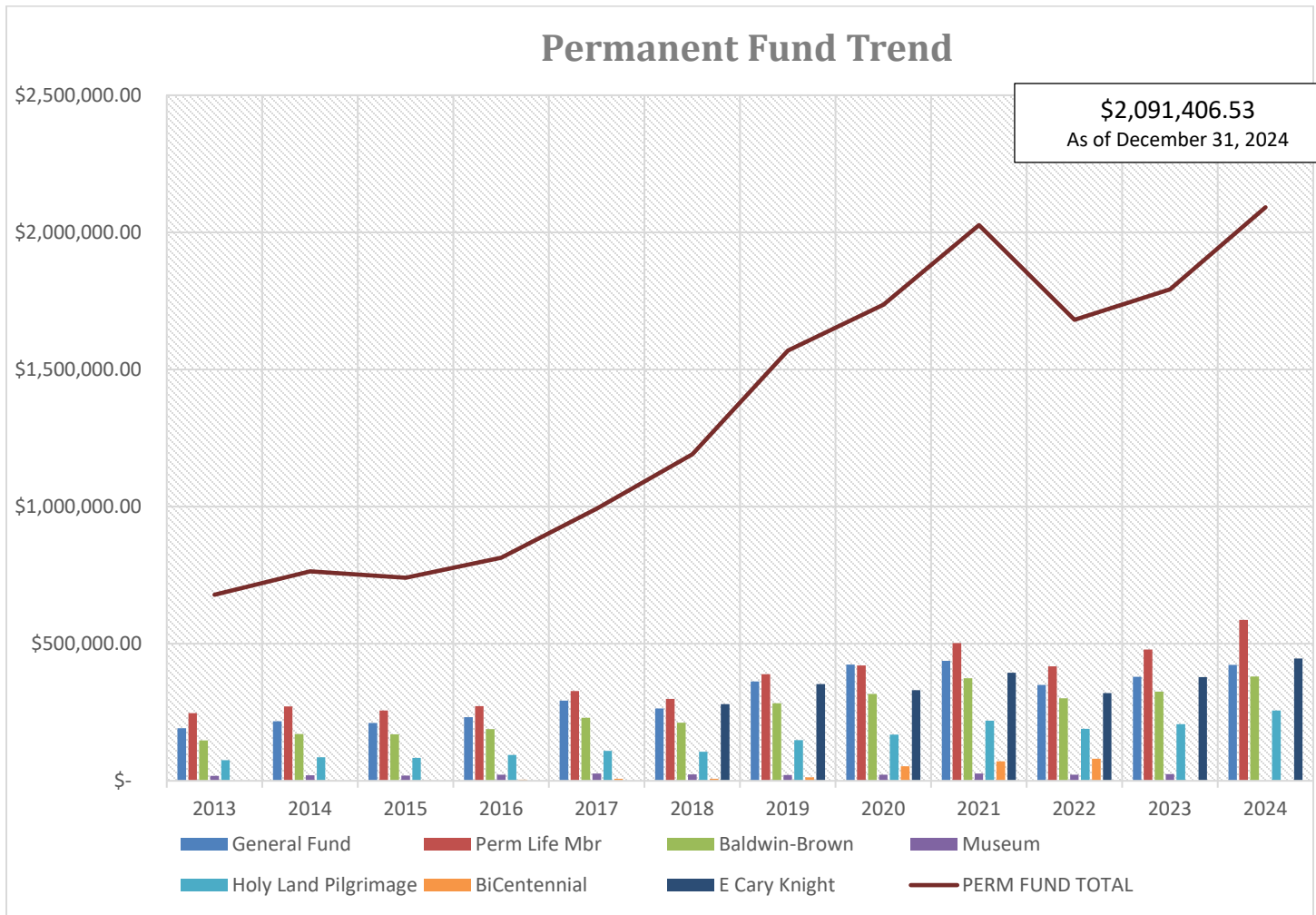
In His Service,

SK Shelton Mackey

Trustee Report on the Permanent Fund

January 1, 2024, thru December 31, 2024

To begin, a historical trend of the total investments of the Grand Commandery is provided immediately below. Upon closer inspection, the chart shows the completion of the Bi-Centennial and subsequent closing of the fund in 2022. The remaining funds were to be deposited into the Permanent Fund but were never realized. The chart also illustrates the closing of the Museum fund. Regardless, the Permanent fund appears to have recovered from the pandemic and its effects on Grand Commandery operations. The key to continued success will be obtaining consistent donations and getting them into the Permanent Fund.



Recall that in 2023 the Permanent fund was split in half and awarded to two competing financial institutions. Due to market conditions, Charles Schwab was selected to invest in cash alternatives (CDs) as a protective measure. Wells Fargo was selected to continue investing in equities. The intent was to evaluate their performances and in November of 2024 to award the Permanent fund to the best performing manager.

Schwab investors were awarded the General Fund, Baldwin-Brown Fund, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Wells Fargo was awarded the E. Cary Knight Fund, Museum Fund, and the Permanent Life Membership Fund.

Market returns surprised investment firms with the S&P index ending the year with a 24.2% gain in 2023. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose more than 13% that year, and the Nasdaq soared to a 43% gain. All driven by gains in big technology companies.

The Trustees made the performance decision nine months early as it was apparent that Schwab results were insufficient. In February the Trustees, with approval of the Grand Commander, made the decision to award the entirety of the Permanent Fund to Wells Fargo with Mr. David Schneeweiss as its manager. The CD's transferred over but those with long-term maturation dates were allowed to mature (December 2024) to avoid penalties. Upon maturation, those funds were then used to purchase equities.

The Grand Commandery was blessed with three Endowments during the year. A 10K restricted endowment was donated to the HLP fund. A 20K unrestricted endowment went to support the Drill Team and the budget for the year. A third endowment, also unrestricted, in the amount of \$30, 893.87 was directed by the Grand Commander to support the Education Foundation. Contemporaneous written acknowledgments were sent to each of the Endowment Trustees per IRS Substantiation and Disclosure requirements. See IRS Pub 1771 (Rev. 11-2023).

This investment year was also fraught with uncertainty. What was advertised as going to be a year of declines turned out to be one of double-digit returns. The Permanent Fund grew by 18.9% (Net of fees) resulting in an increase of \$299,546.63.

With the assistance of the Wells Fargo office personnel, the Trustees automated the distribution process. No longer will the Grand Commandery have to wait for checks from the investment firm to be sent through the Postal Service and cashed by the Grand Treasurer. Upon completion of the Constitutionally mandated action by the Financial Management Team and authorization from the Trustees, an automated transfer can be accomplished in less than 48 hours directly into the Grand Commandery Operating Account. Likewise, using mobile deposits, the Trustees can deposit checks instantly into any one of the Permanent fund accounts. Both processes were evaluated and used this year. Technology advances make it prudent for the Finance Committee to review Grand Commandery law to leverage these processes to reduce or eliminate lost checks and improve efficiency of the deposit process.

Individual fund activity and results are shown below. The charts show Grand Commandery deposits made to the Permanent fund in September. Most of the individual deposits were originally made in 2023. For every month that those deposits were not invested in the Permanent fund, the Grand Commandery lost revenue. Sadly, those opportunity losses continue and can never be recovered. These deposits represent the entirety of the 2023 calendar year's donations along with the first quarter of 2024 plus the first two months of the second quarter. This is not good business practice and violates the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices resolution previously approved.

When reviewing the individual fund activity, a few points of explanation are necessary for Wells Fargo terms. The term Equities refers to proportional ownership in stocks. Real Assets are physical assets with intrinsic worth such as real estate and natural resources and include master limited partnerships. Cash Alternatives include treasury bills, high-yield savings accounts, CDs, money market accounts, bonds and more options and money market sweeps. Fixed Income in this case consists of preferred stocks paying a set dividend amount on a scheduled basis.

Permanent Life Membership Fund Activity. Wells Fargo generated earnings of \$26,152.61 for the year with gains of \$98,687.27 yielding a 20.57% return. This fund's asset allocation is: 68.95% Equities, 21.45%

Real Assets, .29% Cash Alternatives, and 9.32% Fixed Income. Based on the Grand Recorder's capitation computation of \$19,028.81, the fund can pay the entire capitation for the year. The excess earnings will remain in the fund for future growth. Priority of capitation payment is to the Grand Encampment, then to the Grand Commandery, and finally to the Commanderies. This is the first year since 2022 that the fund has met its entire constitutional obligation. There were also delays in PLM deposits, creating a dilemma for the Grand Commandery. By law, Sir Knight donations are to be deposited in the PLM fund for a year before the Sir Knight is given dues relief and the Trustees pay the dues credit. If the relief is granted up front, the Grand Commandery loses money. If the benefit is delayed coinciding with the deposit and the law, a Sir Knight is liable for additional dues payments. The Financial Management Team must take immediate action to remedy this issue.

Life Membership Fund	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Balance	\$ 478,284.07	\$ 491,602.17	\$ 505,945.33	\$ 529,725.09	\$ 511,519.55	\$ 527,530.95	\$ 538,124.58	\$ 544,727.93	\$ 562,855.05	\$ 575,574.10	\$ 574,107.09	\$ 613,184.05
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,380.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.48)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 439.55	\$ 4,126.91	\$ 1,290.42	\$ 1,403.01	\$ 4,133.75	\$ 1,264.37	\$ 1,433.11	\$ 4,116.26	\$ 1,333.67	\$ 1,502.79	\$ 3,814.19	\$ 1,294.58
Management Fees	\$ (1,201.72)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,331.55)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,356.12)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,451.15)	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ (1.40)	\$ (1.48)	\$ (1.48)	\$ (25.27)	\$ (3.50)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (18.19)	\$ (1.48)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.80)
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 14,080.27	\$ 10,217.65	\$ 22,490.82	\$ (18,251.73)	\$ 11,881.15	\$ 9,330.74	\$ 6,526.36	\$ 14,029.05	\$ 1,006.13	\$ (1,518.65)	\$ 35,262.77	\$ (28,098.24)
Ending Account Value	\$ 491,602.17	\$ 505,945.33	\$ 529,725.09	\$ 511,519.55	\$ 527,530.95	\$ 538,124.58	\$ 544,727.93	\$ 562,855.05	\$ 575,574.10	\$ 574,107.09	\$ 613,184.05	\$ 586,378.59
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ (1.40)	\$ (1.48)	\$ (25.27)	\$ (3.50)	\$ 1.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,380.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 315,622.41	\$ 326,003.14	\$ 326,003.14	\$ 326,003.14	\$ 326,003.14
Trend	2.78%	2.92%	4.70%	(3.44%)	3.13%	2.01%	1.23%	3.33%	2.26%	(0.25%)	6.81%	(4.37%)

General Fund Activity. Originally held by Schwab, this fund was affected by the CD investments there. Wells Fargo produced earnings of \$16,773.04 with gains of \$28,738.71 for the year, yielding a 7.25% return. Asset allocation for this fund is: 73.74% Equities, 15.30% Real Assets, 1.79% Cash Alternatives, and 9.16% Fixed Income.

General Fund	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Value	\$ 379,064.52	\$ 380,899.52	\$ 389,004.43	\$ 392,624.76	\$ 392,869.03	\$ 401,479.65	\$ 405,514.56	\$ 409,722.46	\$ 415,460.97	\$ 420,570.32	\$ 417,807.97	\$ 438,192.12
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.03)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 65.99	\$ 3,120.04	\$ 675.12	\$ 10.86	\$ 1,010.06	\$ 491.88	\$ 1,067.48	\$ 1,990.26	\$ 533.50	\$ 1,042.13	\$ 1,976.44	\$ 4,789.28
Management Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (588.38)	\$ (179.88)	\$ -	\$ (1,022.18)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,069.13)	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (11.97)	\$ (1.13)	\$ -	\$ (2.70)	\$ (1.33)
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 1,769.01	\$ 4,984.87	\$ 2,945.21	\$ 821.79	\$ 7,780.44	\$ 3,544.06	\$ 4,162.60	\$ 3,760.22	\$ 4,576.98	\$ (2,735.35)	\$ 18,410.41	\$ (20,487.28)
Ending Account Value	\$ 380,899.52	\$ 389,004.43	\$ 392,624.76	\$ 392,869.03	\$ 401,479.65	\$ 405,514.56	\$ 409,722.46	\$ 415,460.97	\$ 420,570.32	\$ 417,807.97	\$ 438,192.12	\$ 422,492.79
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 174,938.91	\$ 174,938.91	\$ 174,938.91	\$ 174,938.91	\$ 174,938.91	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94	\$ 174,939.94
Trend	0.48%	2.13%	0.93%	0.06%	2.19%	1.01%	1.04%	1.40%	1.23%	(0.66%)	4.88%	(3.58%)

Baldwin-Brown Fund Activity. Also originally held by Schwab, this fund was also affected by cash alternative investments. Wells Fargo produced earnings of \$13,468.34 with gains of \$35,609.13 for the year yielding a 10.14% return. This fund asset allocation is as follows: 70.84% Equities, 14.41% Real Assets, 1.0% Cash Alternatives, and 9.53% Fixed Income.

Baldwin-Brown	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Value	\$ 325,469.87	\$ 327,027.77	\$ 334,460.89	\$ 337,643.02	\$ 337,359.32	\$ 344,682.04	\$ 351,948.51	\$ 356,762.52	\$ 364,978.88	\$ 376,057.31	\$ 375,288.80	\$ 397,258.61
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,983.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 52.60	\$ 3,093.04	\$ 600.70	\$ 7.48	\$ 869.04	\$ 388.85	\$ 788.85	\$ 1,737.98	\$ 439.46	\$ 901.37	\$ 1,720.35	\$ 2,868.62
Management Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (258.57)	\$ (383.52)	\$ -	\$ (884.70)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (952.78)	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9.27)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 1,505.30	\$ 4,340.08	\$ 2,581.43	\$ (32.61)	\$ 6,837.20	\$ 6,877.61	\$ 4,909.86	\$ 6,487.65	\$ 4,655.10	\$ (717.10)	\$ 20,249.46	\$ (19,706.16)
Ending Account Value	\$ 327,027.77	\$ 334,460.89	\$ 337,643.02	\$ 337,359.32	\$ 344,682.04	\$ 351,948.51	\$ 356,762.52	\$ 364,978.88	\$ 376,057.31	\$ 375,288.80	\$ 397,258.61	\$ 380,421.07
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,983.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 164,136.00	\$ 164,136.00	\$ 164,136.00	\$ 164,136.00	\$ 164,136.00	\$ 164,136.01	\$ 164,136.01	\$ 164,136.01	\$ 170,119.88	\$ 170,119.88	\$ 170,119.88	\$ 170,119.88
Trend	0.48%	2.27%	0.95%	(0.08%)	2.17%	2.11%	1.37%	2.30%	3.04%	(0.20%)	5.85%	(4.24%)

Museum Fund Activity. There have been no deposits into this fund since before 2019. In 2023, the Grand Commander partnered with the Grand Lodge of Virginia to establish a Masonic Family Museum within the York Rite Building. Earnings for the year were \$241.96. Per agreement funds were withdrawn to pay for improvement projects in the facility. In exchange, the Grand Lodge remitted our utilities obligations and rent. Once facility improvement payments were completed, residual funds were transferred to the Operating Account of the Grand Treasurer (\$3,019.15) for future building improvements and the fund was closed per resolution. Had we left this fund open, it would have been exposed to excessive fee degradation of its balance.

Museum Fund	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Value	\$ 24,402.80	\$ 24,538.96	\$ 24,938.21	\$ 25,230.87	\$ 24,983.60	\$ 10,309.69	\$ 10,527.26	\$ 10,633.88	\$ 15,803.64	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 16,852.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (15,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (32,439.15)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 37.88	\$ 75.71	\$ 99.88	\$ 0.99	\$ 1.43	\$ 0.43	\$ 25.42	\$ 0.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Management Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Account Closed		
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 98.28	\$ 323.54	\$ 192.78	\$ (248.26)	\$ 324.66	\$ 217.14	\$ 81.20	\$ 169.54	\$ (216.49)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Account Value	\$ 24,538.96	\$ 24,938.21	\$ 25,230.87	\$ 24,983.60	\$ 10,309.69	\$ 10,527.26	\$ 10,633.88	\$ 15,803.64	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (15,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 49,291.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 14,395.00	\$ 14,395.00	\$ 14,395.00	\$ 14,395.00	\$ (605.00)	\$ (605.00)	\$ (605.00)	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 53,686.15	\$ 53,686.15	\$ 53,686.15	\$ 53,686.15
Trend	0.56%	1.63%	1.17%	(0.98%)	(58.73%)	2.11%	1.01%	48.62%	(100.00%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund Activity. Transferring from Schwab, Wells Fargo produced earnings of \$7,645.97 with gains of \$22,069.23 for the year yielding a 9.93% return. Its asset allocation is: 75.49% Equities, 13.29% Real Assets, 1.56% Cash Alternatives, and 9.67% Fixed Income. An endowment of 10K coupled with continuing donations and travel delays due to the situation in the Middle East have aided this funds growth. The last reported cost for two ministers was \$9,800.00. The \$102.00 deposit in December represents the testing of the automated deposit process using two Sir Knight dues payments with excess donated to the HLP fund. Both donations were reported to the Grand Recorder and the Chairman for their records.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Value	\$ 206,810.44	\$ 207,839.26	\$ 210,588.26	\$ 212,433.39	\$ 213,476.60	\$ 218,388.67	\$ 222,882.22	\$ 226,126.14	\$ 230,107.42	\$ 251,399.51	\$ 251,221.52	\$ 262,371.75
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,591.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102.00
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 44.56	\$ 88.72	\$ 279.28	\$ 2.59	\$ 416.46	\$ 175.53	\$ 492.56	\$ 960.93	\$ 215.11	\$ 533.06	\$ 945.12	\$ 3,492.05
Management Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (280.18)	\$ (132.03)	\$ -	\$ (562.69)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (640.04)	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,135.31	\$ (4.80)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 984.26	\$ 2,660.28	\$ 1,565.85	\$ 1,320.80	\$ 4,627.64	\$ 4,318.02	\$ 2,178.74	\$ 3,025.15	\$ 2,485.50	\$ (71.01)	\$ 10,205.11	\$ (9,530.42)
Ending Account Value	\$ 207,839.26	\$ 210,588.26	\$ 212,433.39	\$ 213,476.60	\$ 218,388.67	\$ 222,882.22	\$ 226,126.14	\$ 230,107.42	\$ 251,399.51	\$ 251,221.52	\$ 262,371.75	\$ 256,435.38
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,591.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102.00
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 152,928.13	\$ 171,519.61	\$ 171,519.61	\$ 171,519.61	\$ 171,621.61
Performance	0.50%	1.32%	0.88%	0.49%	2.30%	2.06%	1.46%	1.76%	9.25%	(0.07%)	4.44%	(2.26%)

E. Cary Knight Fund Activity. Wells Fargo produced earnings of \$21,590.70 and gains of \$69,924.22 for the year, yielding an 18.52% return. Asset allocation is: 62.71% Equities, 24.92% Real Assets, .6% Cash Alternatives, and 11.77% Fixed Income. Allocation of earnings is 70% to the budget, as needed, in the amount of \$15,113.49. Per previous resolution, this money will remain in the account increasing our growth until required for budget purposes. The HLP fund receives 5% of the earnings in the amount of \$1,079.54 This money will be transferred to the HLP account in May 2025. The remaining 25% (\$5,397.67) stays in the account for growth.

E. Cary Knight Fund	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024	Sep-2024	Oct-2024	Nov-2024	Dec-2024
Beginning Account Value	\$ 377,828.20	\$ 387,197.83	\$ 397,835.39	\$ 415,669.50	\$ 402,364.76	\$ 413,394.02	\$ 421,009.45	\$ 423,808.66	\$ 437,752.56	\$ 439,106.40	\$ 435,528.31	\$ 468,664.32
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Withdrawals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.13)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dividends including sweep funds	\$ 365.34	\$ 3,255.16	\$ 1,338.79	\$ 1,119.39	\$ 3,088.31	\$ 1,314.83	\$ 1,310.90	\$ 3,121.15	\$ 1,230.76	\$ 1,201.51	\$ 3,076.26	\$ 1,168.30
Management Fees	\$ (948.99)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,044.28)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,060.93)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,107.18)	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.13)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,135.31)	\$ (8.50)	\$ (1.13)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.40)
Net Change in Portfolio (Net of Dividends)	\$ 9,953.28	\$ 7,382.40	\$ 16,496.45	\$ (13,379.85)	\$ 7,940.95	\$ 6,301.73	\$ 3,684.55	\$ 10,831.25	\$ 124.21	\$ (3,672.42)	\$ 30,059.75	\$ (24,152.52)
Ending Account Value	\$ 387,197.83	\$ 397,835.39	\$ 415,669.50	\$ 402,364.76	\$ 413,394.02	\$ 421,009.45	\$ 423,808.66	\$ 437,752.56	\$ 439,106.40	\$ 435,528.31	\$ 468,664.32	\$ 445,678.70
Net Change in Principal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1.13)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Principal (Sir Knights Deposits only)	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,497.92	\$ 282,497.92	\$ 282,497.92	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05	\$ 282,499.05
Trend	2.48%	2.75%	4.48%	(3.20%)	2.74%	1.84%	0.66%	3.29%	0.31%	(0.81%)	7.61%	(4.90%)

In conclusion, Trustee actions continue to posture the Grand Commandery’s financial assets to leverage market opportunities, increasing our returns. The resolution to keep earnings in the Permanent fund until necessary is having a positive impact on fund growth. We expect Markets to continue to be volatile for the near future. For the Grand Commandery, this means we need to continue moving donations into the Permanent Fund as quickly as possible to maximize earnings and growth potential. It follows that the longer we delay, the longer it will take to reach our goal of financial autonomy. We also continue our efforts to identify Sir Knights within the Grand Commandery with investing experience to offer those Sir Knights the opportunity to serve the Grand Commandery as a Trustee.

In Knightly Courtesy,

Jimmy D. Davis
 Jimmy D. Davis, “JD”
 Senior Trustee

Adam C. Duncan
 Adam C. Duncan
 2 YR Trustee

Richard E. Saunders
 Richard E. Saunders
 3 YR Trustee

Uniform Committee Report 2024-2025

The Uniform Committee checked the Constitution and Standards of Virginia to ensure all regulations are mirrored with the Grand Encampment's regulations. We are also ensuring that all the changes that were voted on in the past, are in the Constitution and Standards.

We are voting on one resolution this conclave. Resolution No. 2025-02 states, "In lieu of the Chapeau, a military-style, black dress cap or black bell crown hat may be worn. The military-style, Naval Officers type White hat shall only be worn with the summer uniform. If approved the resolution will be added to the Constitution and Standards of Virginia, under the uniform section.

Respectfully Submitted

SK Stephen L. Young KTCH

Uniform Committee

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia
Committee on the York Rite Building and Knight Templar Museum
2024-2025

3rd Quarter Report (Nov 2024 – January 2025)

To: Sir Knight Jason “Jake” Curtis Trenary, KCT, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer

From: Sir Knight Dennis Mark Haas, KCT, PGC, Chairman, Committee on the York Rite Building and Knight Templar Museum

Date: February 15, 2025

Background 2024:

In cooperation with, and support of, the Grand Lodge and the MAHOVA Board of Governors, the concept to expand the York Rite Building / Knight Templar Museum to a **Virginia Masonic Family Museum**, thus supporting the theme of **“Proud Member of the Virginia Masonic Family.”**

This broader family museum theme will be absorbed as a subsidiary under the Grand Lodge Allen E. Roberts Masonic Library and Museum of Virginia, Inc. but have a separate Board of Directors.

Releases the Grand Commandery from paying years of rent and utilities for space they don't use and haven't used in many years. The Grand Commandery will continue to have the current museum space and the Bicentennial Room with the time capsule. All other space will be offered up to other masonic organizations, approved by the Grand Lodge, as display space.

MAHOVA Board of Governors agreed to release the Grand Commandery from paying them their monthly lease from the York Rite Building (YRB), instead, to pay the monthly lease amount back into the Knight Templar Museum Fund for the 2024 year. This will build up that fund to help pay for the renovations to the building such as the HVAC system, and other museum environment improvements.

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia notified MAHOVA they would be vacating the York Rite Building effective September 1, 2024.

The Grand Commandery successfully changed the responsibility for payment of the YRB utility bill from the Grand Chapter to the Grand Commandery, Grand Recorder. The Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter will continue to co-pay the monthly utility bill through September 1, 2024.

I have received reports from the Grand Commandery Trustees that they are not receiving the monthly lease payment from the Grand Treasurer, however the Grand Recorder has stated he is sending a warrant to the Grand Treasurer to make the payments. This needs to be verified and completed.

During the 202nd Grand Stated Conclave, Proposition to Change Section 17 regarding the Museum Fund, 2024-02, passed unanimously by the voting delegates. This allows “the earnings on the current funds held for use of the York Rite Knight Templar Museum shall remain in the Museum fund to be used to fund improvements and chattels to the building. Upon agreement between the Grand Commandery and the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the Museum fund shall be closed and any residual monies shall be turned over to the new Museum, LLC.”

Financials:

Income:

The KT Museum Fund had a starting balance of approximately \$23,000.

2024 monthly lease payment: \$571, annual contribution to the KT Museum Fund: \$6,852

Richmond Commandery No. 2 is scheduled to make a donation to the Museum Fund in August in the amount of \$5,000.

The Grand Commander has authorized \$10,000 to be deposited in the Museum Fund from a larger donation recently received by the Grand Commandery

Expenses:

Annual Utility cost is \$6,000: split between Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter. average monthly cost to the Grand Commandery is \$300

Damaged Artifact:

During the 202nd Grand Stated Conclave, The Ark of the Covenant that sits atop the time capsule in the Bicentennial Room at the Museum, was used as a visual aid, was to be carried by 4 Sir Knights, was dropped and caused to be damaged. It is my opinion we need to replace this item as attempting to repair it will not be aesthetically pleasing in a museum environment. The replacement cost will be approximately **\$1,000**.

Phase One Renovation:

Inspection and design of a whole building heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) system

Fund raising campaign to help identify existing funds and pay for this new HVAC system.

Negotiated a successful agreement to cover the cost to purchase materials and labor to install 6 new Mitsubishi mini-split systems. These systems come with a warranty and a maintenance agreement.

The total cost to the Grand Commandery was **\$15,000**. This has been paid to Tom Hannifan at New River Heating and Air in Radford, VA. The additional cost was covered by our doner. Much of the labor was completed by Mike Butler, Director of Facilities, MAHOVA, and his staff.

This project is about 80% completed. Completion is expected by September 1, 2024.

Phase Two Renovation:

Removal of 2nd floor, 4 glass windows, 9' x 7', and brick in both sides to match the existing brick. This cost proposal received is **\$24,900**. This project will not only assist in the operational efficiency of the new HVAC systems but will allow for additional museum wall displace space and enhanced security.

The Grand Commander has authorized an additional \$10,000 to be deposited into the Museum Fund from a donation recently received by the Trustees. With this additional funding, there should be enough funding in the museum fund to cover the cost of this project.

This project should begin in late September/October 2024.

2025 Projections:

Phase Three Renovation:

Interior lighting, painting, and flooring

Clean out old Grand Recorder's 1st Floor Office

Phase Four Renovation:

Audio / Visual Design and Installation

Design and Build Out Recording Studio Room

UPDATE for the 3rd Quarter:

Phases 1 and 2 have been completed.

The Grand Commandery paid the final utility bill as of December 31, 2024. Effective January 1, 2025, the utility bill for the YRB was transferred to MAHOVA.

The Grand Commandery should have transferred the final monthly rent payment to the Museum Fund for 2024

As of this date, I have not received confirmation that the Grand Commandery Recorders Office on the first floor of the YRB has been vacated. This must be completed prior to beginning renovation of the first floor.

MAHOVA completed the clean out of the 2nd floor for the items and furniture left behind by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. The bill for the dumpster and man hours was sent directly to the GRAC Secretary for payment.

The Grand Commandery will continue to occupy the existing Knight Templar Museum on the first floor as well as the "Bicentennial Room" on the first floor.

All other space will be dedicated to, and support of, the other Grand Lodge supported bodies of Virginia masonry as agreed to in the concept paper thus supporting "Proud Member of the Virginia Masonic Family."

Submitted: 15 February 2025

REVENUE	2025-2026	
	Proposed Budget	Notes and Comments
100 E. Cary Knight Endowment Fund Revenue; Sec 17 (E), C&S	\$ 15,894.29	As per Constitution and Status
101 Capitation Tax Income; Sec 17 (E), C&S	\$ 20,590.19	Per GREC; will update upon completion of capitation
102 PLM Revenue (Income); Sec 17 (E), C&S		
A. Constituent Commanderies	\$ 11,556.81	Actual PLM Income to Constituent Commanderies for next Chivalric Year (as of Dec 31) See Line 300 A
B. Grand Commandery	\$ 4,635.00	Actual PLM Income to Grand Commandery for next Chivalric Year (as of Dec 31)
C. Grand Encampment	\$ 2,826.00	Actual PLM Income to Grand Encampment for next Chivalric Year (as of Dec 31) pymt due by July 1 Line 300 B
103 General Fund Earnings (Income) Sec 17 (E), C&S	\$ 16,773.04	Income earnings from General Fund Investments C&S (as of Dec 31)
104 Baldwin-Brown Earnings (Income) Sec 12E C&S (change 17 (E))	\$ 13,468.34	Income earnings from Baldwin-Brown Investments C&S (as of Dec 31)
109 Annual Stated Conclave Banquets		
A. Sir Knights and their Guests	\$ 12,000.00	Monies received for banquets and luncheons from those attending based on history
117 Veterans Awards	\$ 195.00	25 year certificates and pins (50 year pd for by Grand Commandery) - review this process; consider removal
200 Creations (Estimate 70)	\$ 4,200.00	Based on past Calendar Year (Jan 1 to Dec 31) accrues to next Chivalric year (as of Dec 31) - MMS confirmed
201 Eye Foundation Contributions from dues		51 payments from Sir Knights who do not have Life Sponsorships (as of Dec 31) See Line 355 B
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 102,138.67	Income from Lines 100 to 202
EXPENSES	Expense Notes	
300 Grand Encampment Capitation	\$ 13,283.00	Per Capita @ \$9.00 per dues paying Sir Knight as of CY December 31 of the preceeding year
301 PLM Distribution		
A. Constituent Commanderies Distribution	\$ 11,567.81	From Line 102 A (need to compute from Grand Recorder numbers)
B. Grand Encampment Distribution	\$ 2,826.00	From Line 102 C (need to compute from Grand Recorder numbers)
310 Grand Recorder Expense		
A. Salary	\$ 7,278.33	Per agreement between GR, Dep Gr Cdr, Finance Committee and per approval of the SKs; updated based on inflation and rounded.
B. Payroll Taxes - Medicare	\$ 102.50	Based on Medicare Rate form Medicare Calculator
C. Payroll Taxes - Social Security	\$ 438.28	Based on SSA Tax Rate from SSA Calculator
D. VA Unemployment Insurance	\$ 19.79	Based on VA Tax Rate from VA Calculator
E. DDGC Conference Materials (formerly 326)	\$ 200.00	Materials and other expenses associated with DDGC Select Conference
315 Grand Recorder Office Expenses		
A. Grand Recorder Office Supplies and Postage	\$ 1,000.00	Per agreement between Gr. Recorder, Dep Gr Cdr and Finance Committee (average over years)
C. Proceedings Published	\$ 500.00	Money needed to publish the Proceedings as required by Grand Encampment
D. Certificates	\$ 250.00	Certificates for Awards and Presentations
E. Post Office Box	\$ 450.00	review with Grand Treasurer
317 Capital Improvements		no capital improvements planned for 2025
320 Grand Treasurer Expense		
A. Salary for Grand Treasurer	\$ 1,819.59	Per agreement between Gr. Treasurer, Dep Gr Cdr and Finance Committee; inflation rounded up
B. Payroll Taxes - Medicare	\$ 32.02	Based on Medicare Rate form Medicare Calculator
C. Payroll Taxes - Social Security	\$ 136.94	Based on SSA Tax Rate from SSA Calculator
D. VA Unemployment Insurance	\$ 3.19	Based on VA Tax Rate from VA Calculator
E. Office Expense	\$ 1,000.00	Office Supplies, Quick Books, IRS Filing 990, and Postage
325 Retire/Replace Grand Officer Jewels		
A. Jewel Replacement	\$ -	no approval for this expense at least
330 Grand Commander - Expense Reimbursement		
A. Expense Reimbursements	\$ 11,254.43	Grand Commander Expense Stipend agreed upon Last increase 2021; inflation adjuted and rounded. NU so far in 2024
B. Visits to other Grand Commanderies	\$ 3,087.00	Expense of attending other Grand Commanderys' Stated Conclaves in the Department
335 Grand Encampment Triennial Fund (in year of Grand Enc Only)	\$ -	
336 Drill Team Expense		
A. Drill Team Expense	\$ 1,000.00	Required by Grand Encampment
350 Leadership & Education Committee	\$ -	all expenses are simply passed through from revenue received
351 Membership Committee		no funding requested for this line item for 2025
A. Publications	\$ -	
B. Postage	\$ -	
C. Online Leadership Course Maintenance Fee	\$ -	
352 IT Committee & Web Site Expense	\$ 3,550.00	
360 Grand Commandery Stated Conclave Proceedings - Digitized	\$ 200.00	Approved by contract and Special Conclave - GW annual maintenance expense (contract)
361 Jurisprudence Committee		
A. Grand Encampment Publications	\$ -	No expenses in 2023 or 2024 and none requested for 2025
B. Postage	\$ -	
370 Insurance		
A. Fidelity Bond	\$ 2,000.00	Required for Grand Recorder/Gr. Treasurer/Finance Committee/Dias Officers/Baldwin-Brown/HLP/ Edu
380 Stated Conclave Expenses 2024		
A. Banquet	\$ 15,000.00	Contract requires \$15k/year spend (through 2027)
B. Protocol	\$ 15,000.00	Invitation Protocol list reviewed annually by income and reciprocal protocol from other Grand Jurisdictions
410 Museum Maintenance		
415 Awards & Trophies		
A. Grand Encampment Awards	\$ 1,300.00	Knight Commander of the Temple and Companion of the Temple
B. Grand Commandery Awards	\$ 500.00	Expense pertaining to awards and presentation
C. Engraving	\$ 350.00	Engraving and plates
430 Mid-Atlantic Dept Conference	\$ 2,000.00	\$400.00 each for 5 Officers. Required attendance by GEKTUSA
438 Youth Organizations		
A. Donations		
a. DeMolay	\$ 400.00	Donations made by Grand Commandery at Annual Conclave by Check.
b. Job's Daughters	\$ 200.00	Donations made by Grand Commandery at Annual Conclave by Check.
c. Rainbow for Girls	\$ 200.00	Donations made by Grand Commandery at Annual Conclave by Check.
B. Certificates	\$ 200.00	Certificates of Merit or Recognition for any Youth Organization (Boy Scouts, Scouts, Girl Scouts etc.)
439 E. Cary Knight Fund Distribution		Note: Balance from E. Cary Knight Fund (50%) is in Operating Revenue Line 100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 97,148.88	Total Lines 300 - 439
	\$ 102,138.67	total income expected 2025
	\$ 4,989.79	to be transferred to trustees if not needed

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

2023-2024

Sir Knights,

This has been a good year of learning and progress, and I have enjoyed working with our Deputy Grand Treasurer Jason Taliaferro, who has performed outstanding service. The holding accounts for the various Permanent funds that avoid any commingling of permanent and operating funds have been in use all year. We also established ACH transfers, and many Knights have made endowment contributions directly to them. We have also established Quickbooks Online with five allowed users.

Your Grand Commandery has had a successful financial year. In round numbers, we have received the below permanent donations. Details of Operating Fund receipts and expenditures will be provided in the Proceedings. The Grand Commandery continues to live within its means.

Holy Land Pilgrimage	\$ 12,000
Permanent Life Membership	\$ 10,500
Baldwin Brown	\$ 3,000
<u>Education Fund</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total	\$26,000

I would like to express my deep and grateful appreciation to Sir Knight Scott Lyons Fielding, Right Eminent Grand Commander, for nominating me for this extremely important post. It has been a pleasure serving him and this has been a most meaningful year for me. My sincere thanks to the Constituent Commanderies, and the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Virginia for their support during this last year.

Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,

Thomas L. Varner Jr.
Grand Treasurer

The Grand Commandery Youth Committee worked effectively this year to carry out the Grand Commander's program of supporting the DeMolay, Job's Daughter, Rainbow, and Scout programs. Our goals this year were to promote the Knight Templar Youth Certificate program, to assist Commanderies in making youth group visitations and developing youth programs, to promote the Knight Templar Outstanding Youth Award, and to support the Grand Lodge Divisional Leadership Conferences.

More effort is needed in the next year to promote and issue Youth Certificates. Appomattox No. 6 again provided support for Petersburg DeMolay Chapter. Brother Brady Shrieves, a member of Kempsville DeMolay Chapter, received the Knight Templar Outstanding Youth Award.

The Committee wishes to recognize Grand Commander Scott Lyons Fielding for his outstanding support of youth during the past year.

Sir Knight Thomas L. Varner Jr., Chairman
Sir Knight Herbert G. Turner Jr.
Sir Knight Jeremy B. Utt
Sir Knight Christopher W. Douglas

Fraternal Relation Report 2024-25

To: The Right Eminent Grand Commander,

During this Chivalric year, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia maintained an excellent Fraternal Relations with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Virginia, the Mid-Atlantic Department Grand Jurisdictions as well as the Grand Encampment Knights of Templar of the U.S.A. and its subsidiary Grand Commanderies worldwide.

For several years, the Grand Commandery participated in various Masonic events focusing on visibility along with other Masonic Families in the Grand Lodge of Virginia Annual Communication and at the Annual District Leadership Conferences throughout the state. With this effort by the Grand Commandery, fellow Masons became aware, and inquiries were made about the York Rite Freemasonry, specially about the Knights Templar.

As the chairman of the Fraternal Relations and at the same time the Grand Representative of Grand Commandery of Virginia near the Grand Commandery of the Philippines, I experienced the love, honor, respect and camaraderie of everyone every time I visit the Grand Commandery of the Philippines. Several Grand Encampment Line Officers and I attended the Annual Grand York Rite Assembly held on the 2nd weekend of October 2024, at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. I am honored to attend their Grand York Rite Session for several years now with other Grand Jurisdictions. 2024 was a memorable year because the First Asia Pacific Department Conference was held. It was well attended and very successful. It was an awesome and humble experience. This year 2025, in October, SK David Kussman, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America is scheduled to attend the Grand York Rite Session in the Philippines.

The Committee received no requests for recognitions from any other Jurisdictions, nor for any other matters.

The Committee thank the Right Eminent Grand Commander for this appointment and always a pleasure in being a part of maintaining fraternal relations with our brethren in different jurisdictions in the country and all over the world.

Courteously submitted,



Romulo M. Capuno, KCT
Right Eminent Past Grand Commander
Knights Templar of Virginia
April 13, 2025