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Grand Encampment Recap

Sir Knights,

Last month, the elected officers of the Grand Commandery along with Past Grand Commanders SK Jim Herndon, SK David Grindle, and SK Jeremy Vaughn attended the 68th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA in Minneapolis, MN.

The session was kicked off on Sunday, August 15, 2021, with the Divine Services led by the Grand Prelate followed that evening by the Grand Master's Reception after which many of us went to the Hospitality Suite hosted by Jack Harper and the Grand Commandery of Texas.

Monday morning was the public session of the Grand Encampment which included a large number of introductions. We had the presiding officer or their representative for the Social Order of the Beauceant, DeMolay International, Red Cross of Constantine, George Washington National Masonic Memorial, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Knight Masons, Royal Order of Scotland, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite (both Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction), General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar - Prince Hall Affiliation, Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and Grand Lodge of North Dakota as well as the Grand Commanderies that form this body.

The Grand Master announced that SK W. Bruce Pruitt, Past Grand Commander of California, was to be made an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment to which the Sir Knights enthusiastically approved. SK Pruitt was also elevated to Grand Cross Templar (GCT). The afternoon session started with the Grand Master's allocation. After its approval, we moved into the Resolutions (and there were 28 of them). Most of the Resolutions were housekeeping resolutions, but some made some notable changes. Here is a brief synopsis of the notable resolutions that passed or failed:

Resolution 2021-06 and 2021-07 both passed which allow for virtual Grand Conclaves and virtual Conclave meetings. Resolution 2021-14 passed which allows a Sir Knight to be an elected officer in more than one Commandery but not Commander of multiple Commanderies. Resolution 2021-16 passed which allows for the formation of Holding Commanderies in the event of Commandery demise or merger. Resolution 2021-17 and 2021-18 passed which allows for the creation of special purpose Commanderies and auxiliary units. Resolution 2021-20 passed which allows for Templar aprons to be worn. Resolution 2021-21 failed which would have created a uniform petition with an attestation of faith. Resolution 2021-

23 passed which rescinds Resolution 2012-01 and Duane Decision No. 5 concerning the Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cité Sainte.

Monday night, the dais officers and wives of the Grand Commandery of Idaho and our Jr. Past Grand Commander went to the Lyon's Pub in Minneapolis to have a "Family Dinner". The food and fellowship were excellent.

Tuesday morning's session started with the Committee on Charters and Dispensation. Sadly, the charter of the Grand Commandery of Croatia has been suspended for failing to file annual returns with the Grand Encampment. However, there is good news, we chartered Commanderies in Venezuela, Peru, Paraguay, Honduras, Lebanon, Ecuador, and Costa Rica. The Grand Encampment then recessed so that the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Corporate meeting could be held where the necessary business was conducted and the Trustees elected, then it was back to the resolutions. Congratulations to SK Jim Herndon for being re-elected as a Trustee for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Elections for the officers of the 69th Triennium were held in the afternoon:

Most Eminent Grand Master: SK Michael Johnson

Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master: SK David Kussman

Right Eminent Grand Generalissimo: SK Jeffrey Bolstad

Right Eminent Grand Captain General: SK Jack Harper

Right Eminent Grand Treasurer: SK Bobby Simmons

Right Eminent Grand Recorder: SK Larry Tucker

With Wednesday morning came the installation of officers. Congratulations to all of the new officers, but particularly to SK Jeremy Vaughn who was installed as the Northwest Department Commander.

