



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article as a Microsoft Word document. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

Upcoming Events:

Washington Grand York RiteMay 15-16
Montana Grand York RiteJun 4-6
Colorado Grand York Rite..... Sep 10-12
Wyoming Grand York Rite..... Sep 17-19

Recap of the Grand York Rite of Idaho

By Barry E. Newell

The 2026 Grand York Rite Sessions of Idaho brought together Companions and Sir Knights from across the jurisdiction for several days of fellowship, honors, memorial observances, and the annual business of the York Rite bodies. The sessions culminated in

the 123rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Idaho.

Thursday's activities featured meetings of Tri-Valley College No. 178 of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Syringa Order No. 121 of the Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, Idaho Chapter of the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, and Idaho Priory No. 13 of the Knights of the York Cross of Honor. The evening concluded with the Templar Honors Dinner recognizing those Sir Knights and Ladies honors of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, including the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, Companion of the Temple, Knight Commander of the Temple, and Knight Grand Cross.

Friday morning opened with the Public Opening and the 22nd Joint Business Session, demonstrating the unity and cooperation shared among the York Rite bodies in Idaho. This was followed by the conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood. In the afternoon, the 118th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Idaho was held.

Friday evening carried a reflective tone with the annual Memorial Service,

honoring those Companions and Sir Knights who had passed on during the preceding year. The evening concluded with the Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner.

Saturday morning saw the 93rd Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Idaho, where Cryptic Masonry in Idaho continued its work to preserve and advance the traditions of the Council degrees. Congratulations to Companion Jeremy Vaughn for receiving the General Grand Cross of Honor, Order of Zabud.

The sessions culminated Saturday afternoon with the 123rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Idaho. Sir Knight Steve Hall presided over the Conclave as the Grand Commandery conducted its annual business and received distinguished guests from throughout the Northwest. Among the honored visitors were the Right Eminent Grand Commanders of Montana, Washington, and Oregon, as well as the Northwest Department Commander representing the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

During the Conclave, one significant resolution was adopted that substantially revised the article on the Committees of the Grand Commandery. The measure represented an effort to modernize and improve the committee structure and administrative functions of the jurisdiction.

The Grand Commandery also elected and appointed its officers for the ensuing year. Sir Knight Matthew D. White was installed as Right Eminent Grand Commander and will lead the Grand Commandery during the coming year. Assisting him will be Sir Knight Clinton A.

“Bud” Wethered as Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight John E. Warner as Eminent Grand Generalissimo, and Sir Knight William F. Cook as Eminent Grand Captain General.

Additional officers elected or appointed included Sir Knight Keith C. Brooks as Eminent Grand Senior Warden; Sir Knight Norman C. Lane as Eminent Grand Junior Warden; Sir Knight Robert K. Perry as Eminent Grand Prelate Emeritus; Sir Knight G. Arthur Shoemaker, PGC, as Eminent Grand Treasurer; Sir Knight Barry E. Newell, PGC, as Eminent Grand Recorder; Sir Knight Robert A. Farrow as Eminent Grand Standard Bearer; Sir Knight Michael E. Keas as Eminent Grand Sword Bearer; Sir Knight Eugene B. Sullivan as Eminent Grand Warder; Sir Knight Ronald J. Wood as Eminent Grand Sentinel; and Sir Knight J. Sherwin Wilson as Eminent Grand Musician.

The 2026 Grand York Rite Sessions demonstrated not only the enduring strength of York Rite Masonry in Idaho, but also the strong fraternal bonds shared among the Companions and Sir Knights of the Northwest. Through solemn remembrance, charitable reflection, fellowship, and the continued labor of the Craft, the sessions reaffirmed the commitment of Idaho York Rite Masonry to its traditions, its Christian chivalric principles, and its future growth.

