

# Templars of the Plains

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas



## From the Grand Junior Warden

Sir Knight Kelly J. Long, KCT, Eminent Grand Junior Warden

*The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.*



Sir Knights, It is hard to believe, but we are now entering the autumnal portion of the year. The triple digit temperatures seem to have finally broken, giving way to the autumn rains, migrating birds, more temperate weather and the changing of the leaves on trees.

One of our regional events that happens just before autumn every year is the South Central Conference of York Rite Masons from the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. This year the host state was Arkansas and we met in Little Rock on September 18th and 19th. The Commandery session was held on Saturday, September 19th, morning and afternoon, and facilitated by the Grand Encampment.

The usual reports were all given from each Grand Commandery from each of the six states. Our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, gave the report for the Grand Commandery of Kansas. All gave excellent reports. So, all in all, everything was about what we expected to hear.

Reports and updates were given on the three York Rite charities, including RARA, CMMRF and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. I will not go into the technical details of these three charities, however, an excellent presentation on the accomplishments and projects of the CMMRF was given by Dr. Joe Rouse. The work being done by the researchers financed by CMMRF grants are indeed incredible.

We still have the bulk of the fall season yet to enjoy, followed by the winter snow to shovel (we can only hope for the moisture). The big Masonic events are not yet done, either. It will soon be time to start thinking about Masonic Week which is coming up in the first week of February 2027.

I look forward to seeing y'all on the yellow-brick Masonic Road to Light!

Travel well, Sir Knights!

*Kelly Long*

**October, 2026**

**Patrick C. Carr**

**Right Eminent  
Grand Commander**

**2026-2027**

# South Central Department Conference

The 2026 South Central Department Conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Saturday, September 19, 2026. The Grand Commandery of Kansas was well represented again this year at the Conference. Those who attended included Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Justin D. Crippen, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Dale R. Morrow, Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Sir Knight Andrew G. Mosley, Eminent Grand Captain General, Sir Knight Allan D. Jackson, Right Eminent Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Kelly J. Long, Eminent Grand Junior Warden, Sir Knight Wayne H. Rolf, Right Eminent Grand Aide-de-Camp, Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Chad M. Thomas, Eminent Past Commander.



There were several presentations during the day. The Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, Sir Knight David J. Kussman, brought greetings to start the Department Conference. He was followed by Sir Knight Jack Bolstad, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master, Sir Knight Jack Harper, Right Eminent Generalissimo, and Sir Knight Larry Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder. Each presentation dealt with a unique issue within Templary and they were educational and informative.

The Grand Encampment Officers were joined in group meetings by the individual officers from each Grand Commandery present. During these meetings the Grand Encampment Officers entertained questions and spoke at length about different parts of Templary each of the officers would need to understand in their present offices of responsibility.

Sir Knight Justin Crippen addressed those in attendance and spoke about the planning documents provided to each Grand Commandery at the 2025 South Central Department Conference in League City, Texas. This document was intended to be filled out to assist in facilitating strategic planning within each Grand Commandery. The dais officers from the Grand Commandery of Kansas used the Securing Our Future plan as a model and entered that information into the supplied document. Sir Knight Crippen explained how Securing Our Future is an integral part of the strategic planning for the Grand Commandery of Kansas.



The Right Eminent Grand Commanders from each Grand Commandery within the South Central Department were on hand, along with the REGC of Nevada, and were photographed with the Most Eminent Grand Master. The only one missing from the photograph is Sir Knight Troy Cole, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arkansas. Sir Knight Cole was called away at the last minute to

discuss some business pertaining to the conference and its planning and was unavailable to be in the picture. Sir Knight Cole, and his staff, planned and executed an excellent conference in which everyone enjoyed themselves.