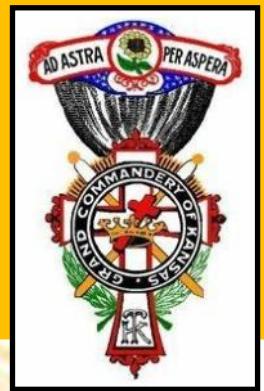


Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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February, 2026

Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Deputy Grand Commander

Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

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



Since we are already a full month into this new year, it is time to look at the planning and the events which will be coming up soon. Kansas has been very fortunate in that our members are extremely active in freemasonry throughout the state. The York Rite, alongside the other appendant and concordant masonic bodies within the state, provide their members with different experiences and opportunities for service.

The Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM, will be held in Manhattan again this year. The dates are March 20 & 21. Once again, the Knight Templars of Kansas will be offering the requisite arches of steel for the installation and the public opening as we have done for the last several years. All Knight Templars in Kansas are invited to attend and to participate. Please wear your Class A Knight Templar uniform and chapeau. More information will be available soon.

The 158th Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will take place on Saturday, May 2, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan. The public opening starts at 8:00 AM and the Grand Session will start at approximately 9:00 AM. Installation will be held once the session ends, at approximately 11:00 AM.

The Past Commander's Association of Kansas will hold their annual meeting and induct new members on Thursday, April 30, at the Bluemont Hotel. All who are either Past Commanders or currently serving as Eminent Commander are eligible. Please see the Grand York Rite website for more information on how to register and a complete schedule.

Keep doing all that you are doing for our wonderful Order of Christian Knighthood. I personally appreciate each of you for your zeal and your diligence. Continue to make our Order one which is respected and looked up to throughout the world.

May the Lord God bless and hold each of you during all your endeavors.

Patrick C. Carr



Order of the Temple Conferred in Newton

On Friday, January 16, 2026, the Order of the Temple was conferred in Newton on four Knights of Malta who were qualified to take the Magnanimous Order of the Temple.

Askelon Commandery No. 6 joined Mount Olivet Commandery No. 12 to confer the Order.

The three new Knights were members of Mount Olivet Commandery. The one new Sir Knight expected from Askelon Commandery fell ill and was unable to attend the conferral. He will be invited to the next conferral when it is scheduled.

This marks a wonderful time for Templary in Kansas. It is exciting to see one of the constituent Kansas Commanderies coming together with another to confer the Orders. In many locations in Kansas, our Commanderies wait for a state-wide conferral to bring and knight their new members. This is another example of the growth we are seeing across the state in Templary.

Congratulations to the new Sir Knights and to both Mount Olivet and Askelon Commanderies for coming together and providing a beautiful and quality knighting to your members.



2027 Triennial Drill Team Competition

Sir Knight Justin Crippen, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Kansas, is also serving as the Captain of the Kansas Knight Templar Drill Team. It is his desire to form a drill team to compete at the 2027 Grand Encampment Triennial session in California. If you are interested in marching, and in the Knight Templar Drill Team, please contact Sir Knight Crippen for more information.

Grand Commander's February Schedule

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Fred Kemp, has been busy this year making Official Visits to the several constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas. The Grand Commander only has two Commanderies left to visit and he will have met with all 15 of the constituent Commanderies within the state.

For February, the Grand Commander will be visiting Hiawatha Commandery No. 13 on February 12, 2026.