



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia Piedmont Commandery No. 26 Templar Times

Commander

Charles E. McNoldy

Generalissimo

Dallas W. Brumback, Jr.

Captain General

Robert Mayer

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Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2006

Eminent Commander's Message

Sir Knights: I sincerely trust that you and your family had the most joyous Christmas Season and that Santa delivered all the gifts that you had on your "Wish List"!! I now wish for you a very Happy New Year- one that is extremely joyous and very profitable in all ways, not just monetarily!

Your Commandery held its annual Christmas Observance at the end of the Stated Conclave of 22 December with 13 Sir Knights in attendance. We were honored with the presence of three district deputies in the persons of SK Paul S. Newhall, Eminent District Deputy Grand Commander for the 3rd Chivalric District; SK and Right Excellent Cornelius J. Van Aalst, District Deputy Grand High Priest for the 17th Capitular District; and SK and Right Worshipful Robert B. Williams, District Deputy Grand Master for the 4th Masonic District. To the

knowledge of the SKs assembled this is the first time that we have had the honor of their presence at the same conclave. I am deeply grateful for their attendance and their service to our cause.

Prior to the opening of the 22 December conclave, a very delicious meal was served by Wimodausis Chapter #106, Order of the Eastern Star. All SKs present deeply appreciated this meal!

During my year, it is my practice to award an attendance gift to the sir knight who has the "lucky number" at the end of the conclave. Remember you cannot be the recipient unless you attend the conclave. The gift for December was given to SK James B. Bartley and I thank him for his attendance.

The Stated Conclave scheduled for 26 January will be both Past

Commanders Recognition Night and "Advance Night" for the current line officers. If you are a Past Commander and plan to be at this conclave I would appreciate an email or telephone call to that effect so proper planning may be conducted.

In His Name

Charles E. McNoldy
Eminent Commander



News Bits

From the Desk of the Recorder:

Please check the dues card in your wallet to ensure that it states 2005. We have some SKs that have not paid for 2005. The 2006 dues are now payable, so please write a check for \$35.00 and send it to me. Remember your dues pay for the meals that are provided prior to

the opening of our stated conclaves. Please consider including \$30.00 with your dues as a tax deductible contribution to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation so we may provide eye care to those who are not able financially to do so!

Sick or in Distress:

SK William K. Edwards, Master of Manasseh Lodge #182, recently underwent surgery on his heel. In a telephone call to him, he stated he was doing very well, however, he will be on crutches for about ten days. Please keep SK and Worshipful Brother Bill in your prayers.



Commandery Officer Listing

Eminent Commander

Charles E. McNoldy

Generalissimo

Dallas W. Brumback, Jr.

Captain General

Robert Mayer

Treasurer

Douglas L. Jordan, PDDGC

Recorder

James B. Bartley, EPC

Prelate

Rev. Edwin P. Elliott, Jr., EPC

Senior Warden

William K. Edwards

Junior Warden

Chuck Covarrubias

Sword Bearer

David C. Stanley

Standard Bearer

Jay Patterson

Warder

David T. Lang

Sentinel

C. J. Van Aalst, Jr.

Guard No. 1

Robert B. Williams

Guard No. 2

Frank Wyckoff

Guard No. 3

Vacant

Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar of Virginia
Piedmont Commandery No. 26

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Recorder26@VaYorkrite.Org



District Deputy Grand Commander

SK Paul S. Newhall

Committee Listing

Membership & Attendance:	Jeffrey S. Holbrook
Audit:	Dallas W. Brumback, Jr.
Finance:	Robert A. Mayer
Ritual:	Donald L. McAndrews, EPC
KT Eye Foundation:	Jeffrey S. Holbrook
Holy Land Pilgrimage:	Rev. Edwin P. Elliott, Jr., EPC
Awards:	James B. Bartley, EPC

Upcoming Programs

Piedmont Commandery No. 26

26 January	Dinner	6:30 PM
	Past Commanders Night	7:30 PM
	“Advance Night”	

Old Dominion Commandery No. 11

25 January	Stated Conclave	
18 February	Conferral- Order of the Temple	

Arlington Commandery No. 29

6 January	Stated Conclave	7:30 PM
4 February	Conferral- Order of Red Cross	9:30 AM
4 February	Conferral- Order of Malta	1:00 PM



A Look Back 45 Years — 138th Grand Conclave, May 1960

As a new knight I've heard a lot of talk about how the numbers are dropping and "if we don't do something soon, we'll just cease to exist." So, I decided to do a little research. Since I was born in May of 1960, and happen to have a copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia for the 138th Annual Grand Conclave held in Bristol, VA from May 12th to the 14th of that year, I decided that this was as good a place as any to look for information. According to the Report of the Grand Recorder at the 138th Grand Conclave, there were 30 commanderies in Virginia at that time. The change in membership from February 1959 to February 1960 was reported as follows:

Created: 218
 Affiliated: 12
 Reinstated: 12
 Total Gain: 242
 Withdrawn: 34
 Suspended (NPD): 59
 Deaths: 141
 Total Loss: 234
 Net Gain: 8

In looking at these numbers we can see a pattern that remains to this day. Namely, that death is out number one drain on membership! OK, I'm not going to try and fix that one in this article. So, let's look at number two. Not surprisingly, the number two drain on membership also looks familiar — demits and non-payment of dues. At a combined total loss of 93, this was a significant problem in 1960. As a matter of fact, the incoming Grand Commander, Rt. Em. Roberts Hale Harrington, listed a "new approach" toward increasing membership as his first priority during his remarks more than 45 years ago.

I've used this backdrop from 45 years ago to address membership as I have no wish to have anyone view this article as an indictment of current leadership or policies. However, I think we can all agree that membership issues seem to be much the same now as they were 45 years ago. So, what can we do to implement our own "new approach" to membership growth? Here are a few thoughts:

1. Have an outline of what your commandery does and be sure everyone knows it. When I first became a knight I asked a senior officer in the commandery "OK, now that I'm a knight, what is the mission of the commandery?" His answer still rings in my ears; "the commandery exists to make knights." Well now, that can account for a few demits and NPD right there. If the only thing the commandery does is "make knights," then those knights who are not interested in ritual are going to wander off and drop out.

2. Communicate, communicate, communicate! It does no good at all to have a great slate of ritual, education, and community service if nobody knows about it! Moreover, if nobody is coming to the conclaves, how are they going to find out what they are missing? Use newsletters, e-mail, and online groups (yes, join our Yahoo Group) to get the word out and get folk involved!

- Editor



Knights Templar



Editorial Notes

The Piedmont Commandery Templar Times is edited and produced by SK David T. Lang. Publication of Templar Times is monthly unless otherwise ordered by the Eminent Commander. Please send all submissions and suggestions to the editor in MS Word document, RTF, or text format at dtlang@mac.com. The editor may also be reached at 540-822-3044 or by mail at P.O. Box 35, Lovettsville, VA, 20180. Newsletter contents are not copyrighted unless specified. Permission to reprint is granted to any official Masonic publication as long as both the author and Templar Times receive proper credit.

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Upcoming Events for January

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|---------------|---|----------------|
| 10 Jan | Bethel #21, Int'l Order of Jobs Daughters | |
| 11 Jan | C.A.Sinclair Daylight Communication | 11:00 AM |
| 11 Jan | Prince William Chapter, Order of DeMolay | |
| 13 Jan | Manesseh Lodge #182, Entered Apprentice Degree | |
| 19 Jan | Destiny Court #14, Order of the Amaranth | |
| 21 Jan | Destiny Court #14, Installation of Officers | 7:30 PM |
| 24 Jan | Bethel #21, Int'l Order of Jobs Daughters | |
| 25 Jan | Prince William Chapter, Order of DeMolay | |
| 26 Jan | Piedmont Commandery #26, Knights Templar | 7:30 PM |
| 27 Jan | Manasseh Lodge #182, Master Mason Degree | |



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