



Piedmont Commandery #26

Em. Donald L. McAndrews, Commander

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GENERAL ORDER #3 September 2004

The first big item on our calendar for this month is the Stated Conclave on Thursday, September 23, which will be the Official Visit of our District Deputy Grand Commander. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM. For those of you Sir Knights who have not attended Commandery in a long time, please consider making this meeting. You may have been saying to yourself, "I really should try to get to at least one or two meetings." This is the one to make. I would like to see a large turnout for the District Deputy and would consider your attendance a great favor to me personally. You do not need a uniform or knowledge of any signs or passwords. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and support your Commandery.

Sir Knights, two of our new companions received the Order of Malta in full form at Old Dominion Commandery on Wednesday, July 28. We have a new companion who is awaiting the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, and two new petitions which will be presented at our next stated conclave. It is truly exciting to see 5 new members so far this year and I know of at least two more who have expressed an interest in joining. If any Sir Knight knows of a companion Royal Arch Mason who is interested in joining the Commandery, please try to get the petition in at our next stated on Thursday, September 23. We will be scheduling the Orders for the month of October as follows:

Illustrious Order of the Red Cross at Manasseh Lodge on Thursday, October 14, at 7:30 PM.

Order of Malta at our October Stated Conclave on Thursday, October 28, at 7:30 PM.

Order of the Temple at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Saturday, October 30, at 1:00 PM, immediately following the meeting of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research #1949.

This is an exciting time to be your Commander and I appreciate your confidence in my leadership. The membership of Piedmont Commandery is growing. But, I need your support and assistance. We need to continue bringing in new members to keep our Commandery strong and to provide a line of leadership for the coming years. Please talk with your Royal Arch Companions about Commandery. Remember, no one needs more meetings or another organization to join. Focus on our ritual which brings "more light in Masonry." The best way to invite a Companion to join us is to talk about the wonderful orders we confer in the Commandery. Royal Arch Masons are all familiar with truth and Zerubbabel, but many have no idea how the two are related. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is the story of Zerubbabel, giving Royal Arch Companions the full details of this exciting story. The next two orders move from the Old Testament to the New Testament and are particularly Christian. The Order of Malta focuses on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Order of the Temple focuses on our own mortality and our hope in the promises of our Savior. It offers candidates what I personally consider to be the most memorable and striking ritual in all of Masonry. Each Sir Knight comes away with a personally moving experience.

Please forgive me for harping on the same old membership message, but it really is our biggest challenge - it is our future - and it is up to each one of us to do our part. Properly equipped to speak intelligently about our Orders, you will find that what we have to offer our Royal Arch Companions will sell itself!

In His Name I ask your support,