

Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

State of Ohio and Jurisdiction

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THEME: CHIVALRIC MASONRY IN ACTION

April 30, 2015

To the new Elected and Appointed Officers of the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar State of Ohio and Jurisdiction, To the Past Right Eminent Grand Commander S.K. Reginald A. Blake Sr., To the Past R.E. Grand Commanders, Eminent Commanders, Officers and Sir Knights of this Magnanimous Order.

Sir Knights, we are about to embark upon a new journey within this Asylum we call Ohio and its Jurisdiction. Keeping with our normal traditions, I will ask our Excellent Grand Prelate to petition for Blessings from our Heavenly Father before embarking upon this Journey.

To all of you Sir Knights I am thankful for your entrusting me with the leadership of this Grand Commandery. I and my Officers will represent this Order to the utmost of our power so as to bring you pride of being a part of this Ohio P.H. Grand Commandery. I want to thank our Past Right Eminent Grand Commander Reginald A. Blake, Sr. for his three years of service to this Grand Commandery and for his guidance in my direction to this esteemed position within this Magnanimous Order. I also want to thank those other Past R.E. Grand Commanders that inspired me to seek this leadership position: Sir Knights Ray S. Robinson, Waldo Nolcox, Nobel Shoto, Aaron E. Ray, William C. Parker, Embie R. Bostic, James W. Moss, Larry G. Edwards, Jerry D. Springer, Homer Buchanan and others. I am Blessed to be a part of the lives of these Sir Knights. To these distinguished Sir Knights and to all of you, I give a sincere and heartfelt Right Hand Salute.

I feel that inspiring Sir Knights has been lost within our local Commanderies. Our new Sir Knights do not seem to have someone in their Commandery to instruct them on the virtues of Knighthood. There are very few Sir Knights that know the ritualistic work involved in conferring the degrees, doing drills and tactics, marching in parades, forming honor guards and wearing the proper uniforms. This Order is called Magnanimous because that is the type of Mason and Sir Knight you are to be. Maybe the expectations for being a Knights Templar is too high for some to attain. I cannot believe this, but if this is the case, our expectations will not be reduced during this administration. I will be expecting all Sir Knights within this jurisdiction to perform their Knightly and non-Knightly interactions to an even higher level in all of his

dealings within and without the Commandery. You will then be living and practicing the theme of this administration, "**Chivalric Masonry in Action**".

My only requests to you Sir Knights is that you take responsibility to your Masonic and Knightly duties. Show respect to your Masonic and Knightly leadership. Do exactly what you obligated yourself to do within these Masonic organizations. If you are an officer, then perform your duties to the best of your ability. I want all of the Grand officers of this administration to be role models for all of the local officers. I want the local officers to be role models for those non officers within their Commanderies. I want the Grand Officers and the Past Eminent Commanders to assist in keeping their local Commandery afloat and operating properly. I want the Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos and Captain Generals to be the leaders that they are obligated to be. I want the Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens, Excellent Prelates, Sword Bearers, Standard Bearers and Warders to make special efforts to learn their local duties and attend all local and Grand Commandery functions. In this way you can learn about Templarism and help your Commandery to grow and prosper.

Before this year is over, I and my Elected Grand Officers will be visiting every Commandery within this Jurisdiction to see how they are performing and operating. We will be concentrating on those troubled Commanderies and giving support and advice in getting those Commanderies and their Sir Knights back on the right track. Notice will be given prior to the visit so that the Sir Knights will be prepared for the visit.

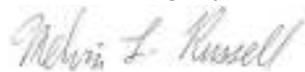
Three events are scheduled this year. There will be a statewide District meeting on October 17, 2015 in Cleveland and a statewide dubbing in Cincinnati on July 18, 2015 as well as the Grand Princess Captain, Grand Royal Advisor's banquet in Cincinnati on the same day.

Several new appointed position have been created in this Administration but one of note is the Eminent Grand Regalia Recorder who is S.K. Richard Johnson. All Knights Templar supplies, books and regalia will be handled by him. Those Sir Knights needing swords, chapeaus, hats, coats, belts, slings, crosses and manuals will be ordered through S.K. Johnson or the Eminent Grand Recorder S.K. Blair by way of your local recorder. All Knights Templar material will be purchased through the Grand Commandery. Sir Knight Johnson will have a price list of all items and he will be working with the Grand Recorder. A five percent markup will be included in our prices and will be placed into the Grand Commandery coffers. Sir Knight Johnson will be on constant lookout to obtain the best prices possible for our items from our vendors.

Finally, Sir Knights, I will need every Eminent Commander to improve his Commandery's performance and maintain that standard of operation. The Eminent Commander is responsible for everything that transpires within his Commandery. Therefore, the Past Eminent Commander's Degree will only be given to those Commanders that have fulfilled the following criteria: their Commandery has met and opened properly for at least 80% of the allotted meetings; they have paid their taxes to the current status; they have sent in their election results and returns; and most of their commandery officers have participated in all of the Grand Commandery functions. These things are nothing new but are expected.

Let us go forth now with a renewed spirit and conviction to keep "**Chivalric Masonry in Action**" within our local Commandery, within our Grand Commandery and within our hearts. Again, Thank you Sir Knights.

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,



Melvin L. Russell
Right Eminent Grand Commander