

Grand Commandery of Oregon

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Sir Knights,

The summer is winding down and September is around the corner. Many of us will be returning to work both inside the fraternity and out. Today is a day of revival, revival of our support for Christianity, revival of our Tactics and Drill Work in opening and closing our Commanderies, and revival of our support of Christian fellowship and philanthropy.

Continue supporting the houses of worship in your local communities. Remember, we are a Christian Order. Consider attending church once per month in uniform. Promote our Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation.

New Sir Knights are being created this month. Each of them will need to be instructed in protocol, the use of the sword, asylum tactics and ritual, and proper composition of the uniform. At the same time, many of us have scarcely had the opportunity in the past few years to open Commandery with the full ceremonies and a full complement of nine Knights so we have grown rusty in our own practices.

I have instructed our Inspector General and District Supervisors to prepare and eventually present a program for 'District Schools of Instruction' modeled on a similar concept employed by the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Oregon. These schools of instruction should cover the basics of Asylum Tactics and Instruction and are intended to be presented to the officers of Commanderies who, it is hoped, will carry those instructions back to their Commanderies and provide similar instruction at a more local level for their own benefit and for the benefit of less informed members.

Much of the draw to the York Rite and to Commandery in particular is the attention paid to our tactics and ritual. The lesson of the Almighty Force and the importance of Truth in the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the ancient tradition of the Mediterranean Pass, the history of valor and spirit and zeal in the service of Christ expressed in the Order of Malta, and the journey of the pilgrim to the Holy Sepulchre leading to his full admission to the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple are lessons we must preserve. We must perform them with the zeal and fidelity which we are taught to hold in our hearts and with which our forebears intended them to be performed.

Many Commanderies are able to reach the minimal five Sir Knights for a business quorum but are unable to open full form without a full complement of nine officers. The laws of the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery of Oregon direct that in such cases, the Commandery will be opened short form. However, I would urge in such cases that time be set aside during the stated conclave to practice forming the lines for rehearsal and forming the triangle.

How appropriate it is that an organization founded on shining the light of Christ upon the world also supports restoring light and vision to those who are without it. While we no longer directly fund operations to patients, our Knights Templar Eye Foundation now provides ophthalmology research grants which, it is hoped, will create remedies and cures for a variety of eye conditions. In the future, blindness may become a thing of the past and all will be able to see the Sign of the Cross and read the Holy Bible. Hence, Sir Knights, we must continue our steadfast and generous support for this wonderful philanthropy. Please give to the extent you are able to give without undue inconvenience to yourselves.

Courteously submitted,

Ryan Winters, KCT

Grand Commander

of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, KT