



Grand Commandery of Michigan

"Together, for a Better Tomorrow"

Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies:

Many times I feature articles relating to the Sir Knights, programming, membership, and the like. This month I'd like to change things up and focus on an organization that is near and dear to our Most Eminent Grand Master's heart, the Social Order of the Beauceant.

The Order was created because of the Sir Knights in Denver, CO feeling the need to grow their membership. The time was the early 1890's and they were about to host the 25th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. At the time, there was only one commandery in the state and they had 300 members. They needed help and the wives agreed to provide that assistance.

The first meeting was held in February of 1890 and adopted the name "Some of Our Business Society." Its sole purpose was to provide aid and social activities for the sir knights and ladies who were about to attend the triennial. Well, needless to say, they so enjoyed the experience, they never disbanded, and their mission evolved to "make life purer, better, and sweeter for others."

For years the "society" remained small, that is until the triennial of 1913. That is when they decided to expand and initiate members from other cities. This is also when they decided to change their name. While they wished to keep the same letters, SOOB, they needed something more appropriate to Templary. They discovered a banner used by the ancient templars and the "Social Order of the Beauceant was created. At their height, they expanded to over 15,000 members. Today there are less than 2,400 with 54 assemblies in 29 states.

The Order consists of wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of sir knights. While their mission is still to assist the sir knights, they have expanded to promote friendships amongst the craft and raise money for the philanthropy adopted by the knights, the Knights Templar Eye Templar Foundation.



Grand Rapids, MI, Assembly No. 68

Michigan has one of these chapters. It is based in Grand Rapids at the Masonic Temple. Members from all over the state gather on the second Friday to prepare a delicious homecooked meal for the Sir Knights of DeMolai Commandery. While the men are in their conclave, the ladies meet and plan activities to promote the Order.

While the membership is low, the Order was able to generate and donate nearly \$500 last year alone to the eye foundation. These ladies collaborate with the Supreme Assembly and members from Michigan are on the Supreme Council, as well as various committees.

Anyone interested in becoming a member, starting a new chapter, or has general questions can contact Karen Coburn at 231-329-4895. She is the president of the Order in Michigan.

God Bless and safe travels to wherever the journey take you!

Gary L. Paquet, Grand Commander

July Birthdays:

The happiest of birthdays to all.

- 7-1 S.K. Donald Trumbull, PGC
- 7-15 S.K. Paul Roggow, PCG
- 7-16 S.K. Donald Murphy, GCG
- 7-21 Lady Jeanne Whiting
- 7-23 Lady Sandy Costello
- 7-29 S.K. James Rutherford, GJW

