

# CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

*A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin*



Sir Knight

**DAVID W. STUDLEY, KGC**

**Right Eminent  
Grand Commander**

P.O. Box 298  
Mountain Ranch, CA  
95246

Studleylaw66@gmail.com

(209) 304-6950

## “Sage Advice: What’s Really At Stake?”

*by SK David W. Studley*

### A Masonic Brother and good friend

recently whispered what he believed to be good counsel in my ear, warning me that I’d misjudged my audience when I discussed the issues facing California Sir Knights at the upcoming Special Conclave in Ft. Wayne. He suggested that most readers of the California Supplement preferred the typical pabulum about the lovely weather, daffodils abloom, the hills verdantly green, a season of renewal and hope.

Well, he’s right in one respect: Easter is soon upon us, a special date for we Christian Knights and all who celebrate Jesus Christ as our savior. To all, I wish you a very enjoyable Easter season, a time when our Faith is restored, a time when all of us remember and celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection. God has blessed us all.

But returning to my original point. While my friend’s advice was certainly well-intentioned, I respectfully disagree with his premise. He argued that when an audience has no influence over the outcome of a dispute, then it is unlikely that it will be interested in the details. I disagree, at least so far as our Sir Knights of California are concerned. That is why I told you about the issues we face in Ft. Wayne and why I believe all of you have a stake in the outcome.

We Members of the Grand Encampment who are eligible to vote at the Special Conclave carry the representative wishes of all California Sir Knights to Indiana. The elected Grand Officers in the progressive line are eligible to cast ballots, and I am pleased to report that all 4 of your

sitting representatives will attend in person or by proxy. In addition, Past Grand Commanders who attend in person are also eligible to vote and at least 8 have registered to attend. The views of California Sir Knights will be well represented in Ft. Wayne.

So, with a nod to my Brother's sage advice – don't get bogged down in details – let me summarize the fundamental issue of the Special Conclave:

—  
**whether ultimate authority in the Grand Encampment lies with its Members or resides in the hands of the Grand Master?**  
—

Are we to be an association of Members empowered to decide all important issues according to our Constitution or do we exist merely to serve the dictates of the Grand Master while in office? If you believe, as do I, that power lies with our Members, those elected Sir Knights who can protect the rights of those not enfranchised to participate directly in the process, then the proposed conclusions of the Special Conclave fall neatly in place.

You need not agree with me on the outcome of each vote but that just serves to buttress my central point. It is your opinion that matters, not the imperious direction of whomever sits in the East at Grand Encampment. Let your elected representatives know what you're feeling; talk to them and educate them regarding your views. My personal email appears in the Masthead. Together, we can preserve this institution and advance the Christian principles that unite us in brotherhood.



Courteously and Respectfully,

*David W. Studley*  
Grand Commander

**Did You Know?**

**all 4 of your sitting representatives of your Grand Commandery, and at least 8 Past Grand Commanders, will attend the Special Conclave in person or by proxy.**



Marty M. Cusing, KTCH | California Knights Templar Editor | [martycusing@gmail.com](mailto:martycusing@gmail.com)

Philip A. Hardiman, KTCH, KCT, KYGCH, PGHP  
Grand Recorder | Grand Commandery California Knights Templar  
1123 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

[sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org](mailto:sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org) | (916) 712-4814

[www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org)