

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin



Sir Knight
ROGER S. ROSS
 KCT

165th Right Eminent
Grand Commander
 Knights Templar of California

P.O. Box 15343
 Anaheim, CA 92801

rogesq25@sbcglobal.net
 (714) 350-4141

**All organizations must grow-
 action is necessary for our
 California Commandery to thrive.**

by Sir Knight Roger S. Ross

Fellow Sir Knights,

Please allow me to begin my first message to all California Knights Templar by thanking each and every one of you for supporting me for the last eight years as I progressed up the Grand Commandery line. I will be forever grateful that you had the faith and confidence in me to grant me the honor of being elected as your Grand Commander for the 2023-2024 Chivalric Year. My special thanks go out, of course, to *Right Eminent Past Grand Commander* Thomas Thomas for initially nominating me as *Grand Sword Bearer*, and for his and his Lady Pam's encouragement and great assistance in helping me perform my duties and learn the responsibilities to fulfill the position which I now hold. I will never be able to repay them for the confidence they built in my Lady Lynn and myself that we could "do the job", and do it well. I also owe a great "Danke" and acknowledgment to Orange County Commandery for backing me all the way, and Whittier Commandery who have given me complete backing since I associated with them.

I have a number of goals this year, some are completions of projects started by my fantastic predecessors, some are aims that I hope to complete this year and some are long-range campaigns that I hope and expect will be carried on by my successors in the years to come. Probably the most important job that we all have,

and that we will continue to have eternally is Membership. I know that's a tired litany, but it is an existential fact that all organizations must grow, or at least maintain their status quo or they will perish. I plead with every single member of the California Grand Commandery that each of you will commit yourselves to two small tasks.

1 First, bring in one new Sir Knight this year to replace yourself.

2 Secondly, contact one present member of your own Commandery that you have not seen in a Conclave since the Covid fiasco. Ask him to return to duty ... even suggest that you will accompany him to your next meeting. These Sir Knights are still paying their dues, please encourage them to at least be sideliners in a Conclave a few times a year. This will help give our officers confidence in perfecting their ritual and may even entice a few of our "retired" members to come back into the fold.

The first act will increase (or at least sustain) our total member numbers and the second will encourage participation from members who have fallen inactive for whatever reason. Both of these actions will help increase our active membership - which is necessary for our California Commandery to thrive.

I have promised our *Grand Master* of Knights Templar that I will exert special effort to have our members support our Knight Templar Eye Foundation: that great charity that supports research and development to aid and/or enhance the eyesight of children around the world. I specifically challenge each Commandery within the great state of California to reach 100% participation in Life Memberships of our members.

I also made a vow to our Grand Prelate that I will ask at every reception, and any other opportunity I have to speak with my fellow Sir Knights, that they consider funding (at least partially) a minister for the Holy Land Pilgrimage - another of our great Charities.

Finally, although it's not a charity, it is a form of outreach to include our ladies whenever possible in social situations. We have a ladies auxiliary known as the *Beauceants*. We are down to one assembly in the entire state. Our *Grand Master* of Knights Templar and myself are committed to increasing the size and power of this group. I'll discuss this in future missives.



On June 10th of this year, we will constitute the Beauseant Commandery U.D. as a fully chartered Commandery. This is the first time we have Constituted a new Commandery since REPGC Thomas constituted Morris Siminoff Commandery No.80 the year I was appointed to the Grand Line in 2017. This will be in Escondido, CA and all are invited.

Our Grand Sessions in 2024 will run in May from Friday through Monday, a change from our long established Sunday through Wednesday calendar. Please try to attend so we can make this transition a success. There will be much more information as the time grows closer to that date.

Once again, thank you Knights Templar of the California Commanderies, I look forward to an exciting and eventful year and I hope you will join me at every opportunity.



Fraternally,

Roger S. Ross
Grand Commander



**For more information,
click and visit**

knightstemplar.org



2023 - 2024 GRAND OFFICERS

GRAND COMMANDERY

Knights Templar of California

Marty M. Cusing, KTCH | California Knights Templar Editor | martycusing@gmail.com

H. Bud Ramsey, KCT, KYGCH, REPGC
Grand Recorder | Grand Commandery California Knights Templar
2486 N. Mountainside Drive
Los Banos, CA 93635-8825

grand.recorder.kt.ca@gmail.com | (408) 838-3730

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org