



NEWS for September 2023
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Web Site: www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/

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Greetings Sir Knights!

One item of business that's usually (but not always) done at grand sessions is recognizing the Grand Representatives. It seems over the past few years we've gotten away from this due to rushing through the business just to get to the installation of officers. But not everyone may know how Grand Representatives are chosen, what's expected of them, etc.

The Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Washington recognizes other jurisdictional Grand Commanderies, all of which are recognized by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Grand Representatives have been around for decades. In years past, it was great to see Grand Representatives from other jurisdictions attend our sessions and vice versa. So what's expected of you as a Grand Representative? There are a number of things, some of which I'll provide here.

You will be expected to be an "expert" about the Grand Commandery you represent. Don't let that scare you! It will come with each exchanged bit of information. The more you can learn concerning the history, size, activities, programs, structure and procedures of that Jurisdiction, the better you can fill that role. Developing that information should be a fascinating search.

Along the road toward establishing communications and developing information concerning the Grand Commandery you will find a vast treasure of friendships, kindnesses and meaningful Masonic experiences. Also, you may experience some disappointments, stumbling blocks and frustrations. Overcoming them, though, will also be a challenge well worth the effort.

First, though, it may be well to understand the history and purposes of the Grand Representative System, and how it operates. Originated by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1838, the Grand Representative System was designed to foster and encourage a closer bond of union and fraternal accord between the several Grand Lodges of the world by helping to establish the true spirit of Brotherhood and by promoting the principles of Masonic universality.

Communication is the key to the success of such a system. Conversely, the *lack* of communication can result in its failure. If you are the Representative of a foreign country there may be language difficulties in communicating. In most foreign countries, persons of substance and education have English as a second language. This will help. Do not be surprised if they use words and phrases that sound strange to you. Always bear in mind that they may be thinking in the language of their native land.

So, Sir Knights, YOU have the opportunity to help rebuild this great program and make it even better than it has been. With modern technology (Email, Zoom, Teams, etc.), you have the ability to bring a program developed in the 19th century into the 21st century. Unfortunately, our Grand Recorder, Sir Knight David Aponte, REPGC has a conundrum. The list of Sir Knights in Washington that had been appointed as a Grand Representative in other jurisdictions has disappeared. I know there are a number of Sir Knights that are currently a Grand Representative to another jurisdiction. With that in mind, I'm asking for your assistance. If you know you are a Grand Representative, please contact SK David Aponte, to let him know what jurisdiction you were appointed (some Sir Knights may have more than one). He's been working hard on recreating the records with the hopes that by our annual communication in Wenatchee in 2024 this will be completed. With your information he can reach out to the other jurisdictions to find out who your counterpart is (as they oftentimes change).

Let's see if we can get this program to a functioning level once again and develop stronger ties with our Sir Knights throughout the world.

Sincerely and fraternally,

**SK Bryan D. Bechler, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington**