



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



State News for February, 2024

Editor: Terry Pea terrypea@gmail.com

Website <http://oregonyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Commander: Dale Imbleau, REGC

Greetings, Sir Knights.

It is February and it is usual to speak of Valentines Day and the ones we love. Those we love should be at the foundation of our lives on a daily basis. No special day should be set aside for this as we are not promised tomorrow and the last words from our lips each day should be an affirmation of our feelings. So, for that reason, I will leave my comments on love on this reminder.

Over the last couple of years, we have lost a number of senior members. As Ash Wednesday approaches we should take the time to look at our own mortality and make plans should we suddenly depart this life. We need to ensure that those we leave will not be burdened by our passing. We should make plans, if we are able, to contribute to our organizations and charities. We should take the time to heal old wounds and reconnect with the world. This is not only part of the Christian calendar, but it is a reminder that our days are numbered, and our tally will end all too soon.

While not everyone observes Lent, we should take the spirit of this season to follow the spirit of the Lenten season. Lent is giving up something we enjoy for a period of time in order to count the blessings we receive in this life. It is also a time for us to focus on charity. To take a few minutes of your week and clean out your closets of unused clothing to distribute it to those who have little. To make a choice to skip one cup of beverage a day for six weeks and set the cost of it aside to donate to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. How you make your contribution is up to you, but it is time to make the effort to reach beyond yourself and help others.



I would like to encourage all Knights to be thinking about attending the Grand York Rite Sessions to be held at the Mill Casino in North Bend on April 4 (Grand Chapter), April 5 (Grand Council) and April 6 (Grand Commandery). This is the time for all the members to hear how we are doing and what we are doing. It is the time to find out what we plan to do in the future and how we are going to accomplish this. New officers will be chosen and we have the opportunity to think about who we want to lead us into the future. Find out what the proposed changes are for the ritual, funds, etc. as they are all open for discussion and voted upon at these meetings. I would think that we (as members) would be interested in our future so much that the chance to help guide and direct the later years would be enough incentive that we would take the opportunity to be there to let our thoughts and ideas be known.

While we are speaking of contact I would like to take this time to chat about communications. This is one of the key points of success or failure in any organization. What we communicate, and how we communicate it, is the difference between a full asylum or an empty hall. It is not just the officers of the Commandery that need to communicate to our members, but the members must communicate to our officers. They can't tell your needs or dislikes if they never hear them. It is impossible to fix what is wrong if it is not brought to someone's attention. And the person you need to bring the attention to is someone who is in a position to fix the problem. Chatting along the sidelines or coffee table may make you feel better, but bringing it to the attention of someone who can enact changes will make everyone feel better.

Communication improvement is not only needed within our Commanderies, but with the other bodies of the York Rite. Knowing what the other bodies are doing not only helps avoid conflicts, but it allows for people to support the other bodies' events. This goes even further in that we should reach out and not only invite others to our events and the other York Rite bodies, but all other facets of our Masonic Family, be they blue Lodge, youth groups, Eastern Star, Amaranth, or any of the other appendant or concordant bodies of our Fraternity. The more we communicate with them, the more we will hear from them.

Courteously,

Dale E. Imbleau, Grand Commander

