



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



State News for January 2024

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Greetings, Sir Knights

This is one of the hardest messages I have to write. I have sat, and looked at this and started writing a number of times only to restart again. We have reached the close of the year and are starting a new one facing the uncertainty that comes with each new endeavor. We have passed through the darkest time of the year and each day brings us more light. We must forever move forward.

But let us take time to look at the losses of the past year. In the last year, as a vote of the membership, we have lost Pilgrim Commandery. No longer do we have a presence in Central Oregon. In August we lost Sir Knight Lawrence O. Weaver, Past Grand Commander and just this last month we lost Sir Knight Stanley C. Miller, Past Grand Commander. With their loss many years of experience and mentorship have perished. Just within the past few days my wife has lost a family member to add to that burden. Placing our losses behind us we must forever move forward.

Loss has two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. The face looking back sees both the good and the difficult. It is up to us to take the good, those things that we remember with joy, and release those that we have difficulty with. The good things we will want to share with fond remembrance. The difficult things are for moments of sober reflection, for we would not find them difficult if they did not reflect something within ourselves that we do not like. It is much easier to take on the forward face of loss as it creates opportunities, for we would not feel the loss if there was no importance placed upon that which was lost. It is simply for us to determine what that was and help find the people to fill that void.



While we will have to pass through this period of change, we need to keep our eyes on the growth that the new year will bring. The storms of winter create great disruptions. Floods over-spill the banks of rivers, slides bring rock and mud down to the valley floor, and the waves breaking against the coast erode the banks. This is as it has been and will continue to be, but afterward there will be new growth. So should we take this time to carefully plant our seeds in hope of new growth within our Commanderies. For in the dark of winter we can assist the new officers of our Lodge in moving forward in our Blue Lodges by mentoring them. We can be the examples of the Mason's Mason and provide them wise counsel and support. Now is the time to discuss in all of your Masonic Bodies the plans for the new year and find the expectations of the membership so you can address their needs.

As we are entering the last 4 months before our Grand Conclave, I ask you to remember that the Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General are all required to attend. Please make your plans to be at the Mill Casino in North Bend on April 4, 5, and 6, 2024, as there will be a number of weighty decisions that will need to be made. This is an opportunity to meet with others from across the state and network as well as to meet those from out of state who attend. It will be a chance to bid a fond farewell to Sir Knight Dalvin Hollaway, who will be retiring from his position as Grand Recorder. And for those who plan on proposing legislation you have until the middle of the month to send it to the Grand Recorder.

January 6th is the twelfth night of Christmas, also known as the Epiphany. This can be found in the 2nd Chapter of Matthew verses 1 through 12. In your daily devotions take some time to contemplate this. How these three learned, wealthy men went out in the world to find a child born of lowly estate. Traveling based upon the faith that what they read in the stars was worthy of their questing. Let us take this example upon us as Christian Knights and deliver the gifts of our labor upon those of low estate. For this, our rewards will be assured when we lay down our working tools to enter the Temple above.

Courteously,

Dale E. Imbleau, Grand Commander

