



**NEWS for May 2024**

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**Web Site: [www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/](http://www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/)**

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## **Sir Knights—**

**As the Templar year winds down, I want to thank every Sir Knight in Washington for making this a very successful year. The goal of 100% participation in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation was accomplished and for that I am forever grateful. The willingness of the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction to step up and make this a priority is amazing. The hard work is now done, but it's up to each Commandery to ensure they remain at 100%. If your Commandery hasn't changed their bylaws to require each new or affiliating Sir Knight to purchase a life sponsorship, please work with your Commandery to ensure this is part of your operations.**

**I want to commend the Sir Knights who put forth the effort to form a new Commandery in Fall City to be known as Falls City Commandery UD. I wish them much success in this, the first new Commandery in Washington since Cowlitz Commandery No. 29 was chartered on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1948. Approving Palestine Commandery No. 8 and Hesperus Commandery No. 11's request to merge was not something I wanted to do, but when it's evident members don't want to participate it doesn't make sense to carry a Commandery on the books. We have lost a piece of history with this merger, something we will never get back, but I'm hoping those active members of what was Palestine Commandery No. 11 will make the effort to support the members of Hesperus Commandery No. 8.**

**I had the opportunity to travel to different jurisdictions throughout the year which I enjoyed immensely. I would encourage all Sir Knights to take some time and visit with other Commanderies not only in Washington but other states as well. Not only does one have the opportunity to meet with other Sir Knights, but to see how things are done outside of our jurisdiction.**

**If we are to not only survive but thrive, we need to continue to change the way we do business. Oftentimes we forget that ALL fraternal organizations need to be run AS a business with transparency for its members. We have a Constitution which directs the way we do things in Washington, and the Grand Encampment has a code we need to follow. I've heard from some individuals we need to go back to having full-day sessions to accomplish our business. However, if we are going to attract younger people, we have to be cognizant of their work schedules, their familial commitments and other outside activities. There has to be a balance.**

**Thank you to all the Sir Knights for making me feel welcome during my official visits. I appreciate the dialogue generated by the Sir Knights when discussing our amazing history in Washington. You are all a part of the history of the Grand Commandery of Washington and will continue to be so for years to come. You have the opportunity to create your own history as well and I encourage you to do so.**

**Sir Knights, as my year comes to a close and a new corps of officers assumes their positions, I hope all of you will continue your hard work for your Commanderies and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington.**

**Sincerely and fraternally,**

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