



NEWS for August 2024
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Sir Knights—

Are we Weaker or Less than we were before?

Welcome to August and the Dog Days of Summer. I am not sure about where you are, but my July was filled with temperatures at 100 and above for a good part. I Hope you are staying cool and hydrated.

Now, regarding my headline. An argument can be made that our numbers are fewer than before. But my thoughts are more do we still have the same resolve to spread the Templar Message. To share the spirit of camaraderie, the pride in saying I AM A KNIGHT TEMPLAR. I don't want to preach membership to you, we all know the problem is there and we all are working on it to the best of our abilities.

Are we carrying out the traditions set by the Sir knights that came before us? Small things mean a lot. We often don't notice this until it is too late (toilet paper is a fine example). All joking aside, did your commandry use to have a calling committee that made calls to members and now you don't? Did you use to have dinner before meetings or a dessert afterwards but it just kind of stopped? MEC Alan Spreen talked about Newsletters or cards that used to get mailed to members that no longer seem to exist. If you can relate to any of

what I have just mentioned I am willing to bet your problem isn't getting members, it is retention.

How do we fix that, you ask? Well, I may not have all the answers but I can say the easiest way to start is to get back to basics. Create that calling committee. Split it up among your officers to call a part of the roster to see if a SK is in need of a ride. Have that meal before your meeting or a treat afterwards. We all know more work gets done and more relationships cultivate around the dining table than any other part of a lodge building. And I know it is the easy way out to say we email information but how about at least quarterly sending out an article on how things are going what the commandry is planning. A little bit will go a long way I promise you.

I would like to give a special thank you to Sir Knight Jason Reeder for an outstanding job cooking at our annual picnic. Thank you to all who attended The Gordian Knot degree. It is one I will remember for a long time to come. Thank you to those who made that possible. Also, I am still looking for Sir Knights that are interested in being a part of our Drill Team/Honor Guard. Please contact either SK John Vivian or myself.

As usually happens there are some fake emails going out. I can promise you if I need to speak to you, I know how to get in touch with you. I don't need the gift cards but hey if you insist on sending them at least make sure it is to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation because that is where it helps the most.

And last but not least be well and God Bless you.

Sincerely and fraternally,

**SK Barron J. White, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington**