



NEWS for October 2026
SK Joseph L. McAlister, REGC
Web Site: www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/
SK Bryan D. Bechler, REPGC, IKT, COH, KCT, MSA
Editor: bry.kat@frontier.com

Greetings Sir Knights!

Fraternal organizations like the Knights Templar thrive on connection, shared values, and a commitment to mutual growth in our unique traditions. The lifeblood of any such Commandery is its membership, and effective recruitment is crucial for continued vitality and impact. Here's a guide to help your Commandery attract and welcome new members, focusing on the distinct aspects of the Knights Templar.

1. Define Your "Why"

Before you can recruit others, you must clearly articulate what your Commandery offers. Is it the continuation of ancient traditions, a deeper understanding of Masonic principles, a commitment to charitable endeavors, or the unique camaraderie of the Chivalric Orders? Understand and effectively communicate your unique value proposition, particularly as it distinguishes the Knights Templar from other Masonic bodies. This clarity will resonate with potential members who are seeking what you provide.

2. Engage Your Current Sir Knights

Your most powerful recruiters are your existing Sir Knights. Encourage them to share their positive experiences and the benefits they've gained from their journey in the Knights Templar. Personal testimonials and word-of-mouth referrals often carry more weight than any official recruitment campaign. Foster a welcoming environment so that current Sir Knights are

eager to introduce new Master Masons who are interested in the Chivalric Orders.

3. Highlight the Benefits, Not Just the Activities

While convocations, asylum meetings, and events are important, focus on the outcomes of those activities. Instead of just listing "stated conclaves," explain how these gatherings foster "a deeper understanding of the Christian virtues and opportunities for service." Emphasize personal growth through the Orders, leadership roles within the Commandery, and the lasting brotherhood forged through shared commitment and ritual.

4. Leverage Diverse Outreach Channels Within Masonry

Your outreach is specifically to Royal and Select Masters. Utilize a mix of traditional and modern methods within the Masonic community:

- **Blue Lodge, Chapter, and Council Presence:** Ensure a visible and respected presence at Blue Lodge meetings, Royal Arch Chapter Convocations and Cryptic Assemblies.
- **Present information about the Knights Templar.**
- **Masonic Publications/Websites:** Place articles or advertisements in Grand Lodge or Grand Commandery publications, and ensure your Commandery's website is informative and highlights the unique aspects and benefits of joining.
- **Masonic Social Media Groups:** Engage in relevant online forums and social media groups where Master Masons might be seeking further light in Masonry.
- **Informational Events:** Host specific informational sessions or presentations about the Knights Templar for interested Cryptic Masons, perhaps in conjunction with Royal Arch Chapter events.

5. Create a Structured and Welcoming Process

Once a Cryptic Mason shows interest, have a clear, engaging, and timely process for follow-up. This might include informal gatherings, an opportunity to speak with Sir Knights, or a clear explanation of the petitioning process. Ensure every step is designed to make potential members feel valued, informed, and comfortable with the commitment involved. Transparency about expectations and the journey through the Orders is key.

6. Focus on Retention from Day One

Recruitment doesn't end when a Master Mason becomes a Sir Knight. A strong focus on member retention, starting from their very first interaction and throughout their early years, ensures a healthy and growing Commandery. Provide new Sir Knights with opportunities to get involved,

connect with their brothers, and experience the full value they were promised in their journey through the Knights Templar.

By implementing these strategies, your Commandery can build a strong, vibrant membership that ensures its legacy for years to come.

In His Name,

**SK Joseph L. McAlister, REGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Washington**