

THE CROSS & CROWN



Roger S. Ross, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of California

NOVEMBER 2023

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Grand Commander's Message

Fellow Sir Knights,

I have just returned from our Southwest Department Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Combined York Rite Colorado River Fall Festival. For the first time in recent history, the Powers That Be combined two departments, Northwest and Southwest into one large conference. I applaud this experiment for many reasons. First of all, it cuts down on the amount of travel our international officers must endure. Secondly, it gives those of us representing California a chance to hear from more states who may have other approaches to attempt to solve the shared issues that each of our states face. We obviously had more Templars, and twice as many state Grand Officers in attendance and I believe all were very well accepted and appreciated. I did gain a few ideas which I hope to be able to share with you in the coming months.

Our last activity was Saturday night and early Sunday morning my Lady and I were on the road south to Laughlin, Nevada for the CRFF. Seven and a half hours later we checked into Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel. Bright and early Monday morning the

Chapter Degrees started, followed by the Council Degrees and a Semi-Formal Banquet followed that evening. Tuesday we witnessed a fantastic presentation of the Commandery Orders with California's own Los Angeles Commandery #9 carry the lion's share of duties in presenting the Order of the Temple as well as participating in part in the earlier Orders. All in all, it was a fantastic and stimulating week (including travel days) which I will never forget. There were 35 total Candidates knighted on Tuesday afternoon, representing at least four different states. California only had four of those candidates (I believe) but they all took active roles as walking candidates in the Temple Order.

Although I attempt to keep all of my messages positive, I do have a 'Pet Peeve' that I want to introduce at this time with the prayer that it becomes a positive effort in bringing about what I believe is a necessary change in behavior of all Masonic Bodies in California. As many (perhaps most) of you know, I'm a retired attorney and wordsmith that claims NO computer skills beyond the very basic knowledge of a word processing keyboard. I have tried for years to get someone to create a truly inclusive calendar that all masonic bodies can share but have failed miserably in getting it to happen. Therefore, I now challenge each and every Knight Templar, and all members of other Masonic Bodies to create a personal calendar for minimally 2024 before the first of December. We all know when our Blue Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies Meet. These and most other Masonic organizations have Bylaws dictating Stated Meetings (and Special Occasions) so you should have those on your calendar. Other York Rite groups that meet monthly, quarterly or semi-annually should designate the day of the week and the month(s) of the year so those dates should be unchanging from year to year. If a special occasion arises, please Body Leaders, check with your members a few months ahead of time when scheduling for these events to attempt to avoid conflicts. I know it's difficult to always find a mutually acceptable date but as I always informed by clients, the difficult I will solve immediately, the impossible may take me a few days. My Calendar (for example) is published on our Website. If you want to schedule a Reception, check my calendar and Tom Chavez's and Mike Sherman's published calendars and allow us some travel time between dates. Please don't schedule an affair you would like us to attend in Eureka on Saturday night if another event already exists in San Diego on Sunday morning. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and I'm sure your members will appreciate your thoughtfulness as well. God be with us all and please be careful until we speak again; this world becomes more dangerous daily it seems.

**Roger S. Ross, KCT
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar, California**

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

From the world of Ritual
Sir Knights one and all

Well, we are getting closer to electing new officers. I hope that ALL Sir Knights are ready to assume their new office. And that they have provided a proficiency to their Inspector and have read the constitution, by-laws and have made out a budget. Now is a good time to plan events for the upcoming year.

Well, the Inland Empire has done it again. They conferred the orders in costume. It was a spectacular event. I know the candidates were really impressed, as I was. I believe that when conferring the degrees and orders, they need to have that distinction that remains in the mind of the candidate. Even if you can't afford to do the orders in costume, do something (i.e., spotlighting) to give the candidates something to remember. We want that wow effect.

Last weekend I attended the Colorado River Fall Festival. The degrees and the Orders were outstanding. LA 9 did a great Order of the Temple. I met a group of the best Sir Knights I have had the pleasure of knowing. I needed assistance and these Sir Knights came to my aid without hesitation. To me this is what Masonry is all about. I thank you LA 9 Sir Knights. I will always be indebted to you.

This will be my last article for the Sword and Trowel. I, or should I say my body, has says it is time to retire and sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labor. I have enjoyed over the past 38 years work in the Asylum and meeting so many great Sir Knights. The time has come to pass the torch. I'm

not going away, but that golden chair on the sideline has my name on it. My replacement will introduce himself in the next edition. God Bless, and Be Safe.

Sir Knight Jim Baum
Grand Inspector General
jamesgbaum@msn.com
760-885-0256 (leave a message and I will get back to you.)

GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank. The Officers' Conference is set for March 1-3, and Grand Sessions for May 16-21. In May, the Grand Council Assembly will meet on the 17th with the Thrice Illustrious Master conferred in the afternoon and installation in the evening. The Grand Council Family Dinner will therefore occur on Thursday night, the 16th, at a place TBD. After the installation the Grand Commandery will enjoy its Family Dinner. On Saturday the Grand Commandery Conclave will meet, with the PCA conferred in the afternoon and installation in the evening. After the installation the Grand Chapter will enjoy its Family Dinner. Sunday will be much like it has been in past years, with the Drill Team, Vespers and the Grand Banquet enjoyed by all, with a side-degree conferred for everyone's entertainment after the Banquet. The Corporation meeting is also scheduled for 8:00 am Sunday morning. Grand Chapter will hold its Grand Convocation on Monday, followed by the Order of High Priesthood and installation in the evening. Trustees will stay over to Tuesday for a Corporation meeting. The Golden State Chapter of Research will meet on Sunday or Monday, TBD.

TEMPLAR RITUALIST

How many of you think you know much about the rituals of the Orders? There's a NEW way you can test yourself. Grand Encampment has established a Learning Management System, which you can access at: <http://templared.org/moodle/>.

Give it a try. Several new modules have been added to the TEMPLAR RITUALIST module – HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR; and the COMMISSIONED TEMPLAR CHAPLAIN PROGRAM. You will have multiple choice quizzes to take in each Course and an opportunity to show off your excellence by submitting essays for everyone's edification! The three modules available can all be found at the Grand Encampment site: www.knightstemplar.org.

The Editor

RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Recorders new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.



THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP.

ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$115.00 plus shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$125.00 plus shipping for sizes 50 to 59, also in short, regular, and tall; and \$135.00 plus shipping, for sizes 60-69. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 502-3224; or at his website:

www.mpenterprises.weebly.com; or
directly to his email at
maxluy@hotmail.com.

GRAND COMMANDER'S CALENDAR OCTOBER 2023 – MAY 2024

| Date | Event | Location |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Nov 29, 2023 | Awards Ceremony | Foothill Commandery |
| Dec 18, 2023 | Christmas Observance | Department 4 |
| Feb 10, 2024 | 4-Way Reception | Auburn |
| Mar 1-3, 2024 | Officers' Conference | Burbank Marriott |
| Mar 9, 2024 | 3-Way Reception | San Diego 6:00 pm |
| Mar 10, 2024 | 3-Way Reception | San Bernardino |
| Mar 15-31, 2024 | Hawaii Cruise | Pacific Ocean |
| May 16-21, 2024 | Grand Sessions | Burbank Marriott |

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below, or go to the Grand York Rite website calendar at:

<http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.html>

TAX REPORTING

Robert Wellington of Orange County Chapter No. 73 is willing to assist Chapters with guidance to restore their tax exempt status, if needed. If you would rather speak to a brother, Companion and Sir Knight, than an IRS or FTB agent, feel free to contact Bob at rozekroy@gmail.com

GRAND COMMANDERY CONTACT INFORMATION

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WWW.YORKRITECA.ORG ***NEW***

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website: WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES
Website: WWW.CA-GYRS.OR

SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS -- REVISED

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org. The new website will require you to have a userid, and to have established a password. Once you LOGIN, you will see a long white line, above which you will see:

ROYAL ARCH FORMS CRYPTIC COUNCIL FORMS COMMANDERY FORMS

Then click on the appropriate FORMS. In ROYAL ARCH FORMS, scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection** – You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.
2. **Membership control** – Membership information is now managed in the MMS system – Masonic Membership Solutions. Important changes to your membership include new members, suspensions, demits, and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.
3. Do not cavalierly suspend members for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: See Section 201 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/documents/royal-arch/ROYAL_ARCH_Constitution_2022_final.pdf

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/cryptic-council/pdf/Grand_Council_Constitution_2022.pdf

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202022.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th for Chapter and Councils (and April 1st for Commanderies) does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year numbers of active members in MMS. This is the source of your Per Capita bill. Without good data on your membership in MMS you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. Do so before the end of the year. **But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS so you can enter deceased and suspended data.**
5. **Insurance** -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.
6. **Lodge Book of Marks** – Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.
7. **Minutes** – Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s). **Also, please send the candidate class names to the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.**
8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the May meeting, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend; and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of the Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members, however, cannot issue proxies. The appropriate Chapter forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials." Or, alternatively, the forms for all three bodies can be found at www.ca-gyrs.org.
9. **Order of High Priesthood** – Be sure the current HP and PHPs know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander's Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the www.ca-gyrs.org.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Ways to Give Financial Support

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

Name of donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

If donor is a Sir Knight give location:

State: _____ Commandery Name: _____ No. _____

Please apply my donation as follows: (Place an X in the appropriate box)

- \$30.00 Life Sponsor (For Sir Knights only)
- \$50.00 Associate Patron (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)
- \$100.00 Patron (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)
- \$100.00 Grand Commander's Club *
- \$1,000.00 Grand Master's Club *
- \$10,000.00 Golden Chalice (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) **
- \$25,000.00 Grand Master's Sword of Merit (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) **
- \$ _____ General Contribution

Check or money order enclosed (Payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.)

Please charge to my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Memorial or In Honor Contributions please fill out the following:

In Remembrance In Honor

Name of Person: _____

Please Notify: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If a Commandery is to receive Remembrance or Honor credit please supply:

State: _____ Commandery Name: _____ No. _____

** Grand Master's Club and Grand Commander's Club may not be purchased in the name of any organization, only individuals. Members of the Grand Commander's Club may add to their donations until they reach a total of \$1,000 to receive membership in the Grand Master's Club. (As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be awarded.)*

*** If requested at the time of the initial gift, the donations may be applied to the Permanent Donor Fund.*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. welcomes gifts and Bequests as well as Gifts of Securities and Life Insurance. If you desire in planning your estate to make a gift to be used by The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. for its charitable programs, regardless of the form which your gift may take, the proper words to be used on any gift or check is "The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc."

The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Organization under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 271118
Flower Mound TX 75027-1118
Phone: 214-888-0220 Fax: 214-888-0230
E-Mail: Manager@ktef.us
www.ktef.org

Fillable Form is at:

<https://www.ktef.org/donation-selection>

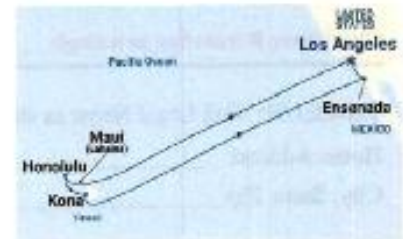


CALIFORNIA COMMANDERY HAWAII CRUISE

March 16-31, 2024

15-DAY HAWAII CRUISE ROUND TRIP LOS ANGELES

Prices starting at only \$1,399 per person



Join Roger and Lynn Ross on this fantastic, fun-filled journey to our 50th state. Cruise with your sisters and brothers of the California Commandery, as we sail the blue waters of the Pacific, and visit the beautiful islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. You will have more fun than you can imagine, and make life-long memories. You don't want to miss this cruise. Sign up today! This cruise is open to everyone.

Here's our Itinerary:

| | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 3/16 | Los Angeles | 3:00 pm sailing |
| 3/17-20 | at sea | |
| 3/21 | Honolulu | 9:00 am arrival |
| 3/22 | Honolulu | 10:00 pm sailing |
| 3/23 | Lahaina, Maui | 7:00 am - 6:00 pm |
| 3/24 | Kona, Hawaii | 7:00 am - 6:00 pm |
| 3/25-29 | at sea | |
| 3/30 | Ensenada, Mexico | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| 3/31 | Los Angeles | 6:15 am arrival |



Aboard the beautiful Discovery Princess

Here's Our Discounted Group Pricing:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| Inside Stateroom | Category IB | \$1,399 |
| Balcony Stateroom | Category BD | \$2,759 |
| | Category BC | \$2,839 |
| | Category DB | \$3,269 |
| Mini-Suite | Category MC | \$3,859 |

Prices shown are per person, double occupancy. Additional costs include \$161 per person taxes and port fees. Air fare, transfers, tours, and gratuities are not included. Fares may be upgraded to Princess Plus or Princess Premier for an additional charge. **Travel insurance is an additional cost and is highly recommended.**

Discovery Princess®, launched in 2022 is the third vessel designed from the ground up with Princess MedallionClass® and the final Royal-class ship. Enjoy 270-degree sweeping views from our largest balconies at sea, unwind in ultimate comfort at The Sanctuary, and indulge your senses with world-class dining options from Michelin-star and renowned chefs. Plus, Princess live entertainment presents spectacular new productions that can only be seen in our state-of-the-art Princess Theater. With our effortless, personalized service of the MedallionClass® experience, your real vacation has just begun!