

THE CROSS & CROWN



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

OCTOBER 2023

Vol. III No. 5

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Grand Commander's Message

Fellow Sir Knights,

Great news ! Our new Website should be up and running by the time you read this. You can reach it at yorkriteca.org . Once there you can go to any of the York Rite Bodies. Give it a try and see how you like it. If you have a problem or have any ideas that you believe might be of interest to others, let me know and I'll tell you who to contact if appropriate. I am approximately 1/3rd of the way through my year and all is going very well. As I have stated before at the end of September I will be in Waco, Texas for the Beauceant Supreme Assembly. As many of you know, and unfortunately too many of you probably don't know, the Beauceant is the Ladies Auxiliary to the Knights Templar and consists of the wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of our Sir Knights. At one time we had 22 Assemblies in California, today we have only one left which meets in Southern California. Our Grand Master of the Grand Encampment is encouraging us to help restore this fantastic organization so I urge all of you to speak to eligible ladies of your acquaintance and start a list locally

in each Commandery or group of Commanderies in close proximity to each other. When you get twenty ladies willing to start a local assembly, please contact me and I will get the wheels rolling through the Supreme Assembly to form a new assembly. I know the one down south here has been very helpful to the Commanderies in Department II and occasionally Department I. Let's give it a try Sir Knights !

I was disheartened to see a fellow Knight state uncategorically "No, the Knights Templar did not found the Freemasons....there is no historical evidence to support this claim." I have eaten breakfast at least twenty times in the month of September but THERE IS NO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT CLAIM! As I have stated before it's not likely that a Secret Organization that has been condemned in Europe and had it's members tortured and executed are going to reduce to writing where they went and how they re-formed their organization and what they called it ! The only evidence available will be circumstantial. As I promised last month, here are a few more Authors and Books for your perusal if you are interested in Ancient Templar history and it's potential ties to the formation of Freemasonry. Robert Lomas, who became a Freemason in 1986 has written a series of books, some alone and some with Christopher Knight, that are all very compelling to those of us on this journey of potential discovery. The Hiram Key, Turning The Solomon Key, and Turning the Templar Key (Subtitled The Secret Legacy of the Knights Templar and the Origins of Freemasonry) are 3 great examples. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry by S. Brent Morris (a 33degree Mason) and Freemasons for Dummies by Christopher Hodapp both have interesting sections dealing with the possible Templar/Freemason connection. I am now chasing down books written by Sanford Holst like Sworn In Secret : Freemasonry and the Knights Templar which have been recommended to me but I have not yet read. Conrad Bauer and Patrick Auerbach are two other authors coming highly recommended. I invite any and all Sir Knights who have read other books along these lines to contact me and let me know your opinions.

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

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

Sir Knights one and all -- From the world of Ritual

October is here, the weather is changing to colder and festivals have started up again. My sources tell me that Lodges are still working hard to catch up on new Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees. If you are not

part of the Lodge degree team, it would be appropriate to attend wearing your York Rite coat to show support. It would also give the candidates opportunity to ask about the York Rite.

I know that all who are anticipating to advance are studying hard and are ready to qualify. I know for those in

Commanderies that are still using the five man opening, it is somewhat difficult not being able to perform a full form opening in a conclave, but I am sure that each of you will give it your best to encourage more Sir Knights to attend. Our inspectors are here to help.

Having recently attended a meeting and a festival, it does seem a little strange. One forgets the feeling of being able to grip the hand of a fellow Sir Knight.

I have been asked what the procedure is to elect companions who desire to become Templar Knights in between conclaves. The Commander can call a special conclave just for the purpose of electing them.

Remember that to increase attendance, you must create an information time.

As always, I am at your service.

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

CRFF

What the hay is CRFF you ask??
Well, it's the acronym for the Colorado River Fall Festival. All York Rite degrees and orders are conferred over a two-day period. This year the conferral is planned for October 22-24. That's three days you say??!?? Well, yes – the 22nd is a Sunday, when all candidates must arrive for orientation by 7:00 pm. Chapter Degrees start early on Monday morning, Council Degrees in the afternoon, with an excellent banquet provided Monday evening. Commandery Orders are conferred on

Tuesday, the 24th.

If you have candidates waiting, consider CRFF – the conferrals are arranged at the Riverside Hotel, owned by the Don Laughlin family. Don was a Mason. The arrangements are very good, especially in this inflationary period – you will not be disappointed. Go to the following website to get the Registration Package:

<https://crff.org/index.php/new-register-now>

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ORDERS

Several Festivals are upcoming for the Summer and Fall. See Flyers at the end. Of particular note are:

Inland Empire (San Bernardino)

October 7, 2023

East Bay (Alameda)

Oct 7, 2023 at 8:00am
Oct 14, 2023 at 7:30am

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.

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
Oct 1 – 10, 2023	Grand Conclave	Ohio
Oct 7, 2023	Templar Orders	San Bernardino, 9:00 am
Oct 14, 2023	3-Way Reception See Flyer	Santa Monica
Oct 19-23, 2023	SW Regional Conference	Salt Lake City, UT
Oct 22-24, 2023	CRFF	Laughlin, NV
Oct 27 - 29, 2023	Grand Lodge	San Francisco
Nov 29, 2023	Awards Ceremony	Foothill Commandery
Dec 18, 2023	Christmas Observance	Department 4
Feb 10, 2024	3-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

Grand Commander:

Roger S. Ross, KCT, KYGCH
714-350-4141 (C)
rogesq25@sbcglobal.net

Grand Recorder:

Bud Ramsey, KCT, KYGCH
408-838-3730
Grand.Recorder.KT.CA@gmail.com

Assistant to the Grand Recorder:

Gregg Hall, KYGCH, KCT
408-656-2459
greggahall@gmail.com

Editor:

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH, KTCH, KCT
(916) 712-4814(C)
Grand.recorder.cm.ca@gmail.com

Websites:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

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>

Fall 2023

York Rite Festival

Royal Arch Chapter Degrees
Mark, Past, Most Excellent & Royal Arch
Saturday, August 19th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Cryptic Mason Council Degrees
Royal Master & Select Master
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Knights Templar Commandery Orders
Red Cross, Malta & Order of the Temple
Saturday, October 7th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Please Check-In Early!
Sharp Time Set - Conferral of Degrees & Orders

All at the

San Bernardino York Rite Masonic Temple
2888 Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92405-3805
sbyrb@juno.com

Please be early to avoid delays / Prompt conferral times are set

East Bay York Rite Association
Presents the 54th Annual
Pilgrimage into the York Rite

2023 David M. Shull Memorial Honoree: Marion Rogers

**Location: Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, California**

Chapter Degrees, Saturday, September 23, 2023

Registration 7:30 a.m. Degrees to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Chapter

Council Degrees, Saturday, October 7, 2023

Registration 8:00 a.m. Degrees to begin 9:00 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Council

Commandery Orders, Saturday, October 14, 2023

Registration 7:30 a.m. Orders to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Commandery

Lunch @ \$10

(Lunch: No charge for Candidates - \$10 for all others)

All candidates must be preregistered

For more information contact

Fred Baclig – 925 216 1174 Eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com

Mail Reservation and check payable to EBYRA

To: Fred Baclig – Registrar

5021 Vesteny Ct.

Antioch, CA 94531-7812

Santa Monica Bay York Rite Presents

Santa Monica Bay Royal Arch № 97
Alpha Council № 39 Cryptic Masons
Santa Monica Bay Commandery of
Knights Templar № 61



Grand York Rite Brunch

**Saturday,
October 14th**

NOON until 4pm

\$20



California Yacht Club

4469 ADMIRALTY WAY, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292

Dress Code: Suit or York Rite Jackets!

Send RSVP to mj@mj.org

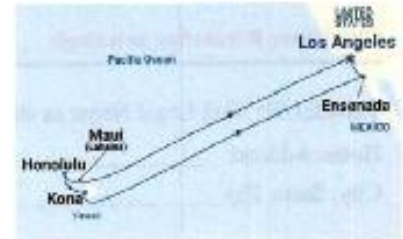


CALIFORNIA COMMANDERY HAWAII CRUISE

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

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.**



Aboard the beautiful Discovery Princess

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!