

The Asylum

From the Editor

My apologies for missing the October issue of the Asylum, but a shift in Editors, and life events catch up with most of us. This issue will include information that would have been in the October issue, since it is still pertinent. It will also include information and events which have occurred since. There is much going on in Templary, and this newsletter will hopefully keep us all well informed, and actively engaged!

In the September issue, we shared a list of individual and York Rite unit awards. It is important, and rewarding, to celebrate successes in Masonry. This newsletter helps spread the good cheer these awards bring to our Craft. If you have members who receive special recognition, or if your organization is doing something unique, please send it to me so we can include it in this newsletter. Our willingness to celebrate the activities we engage in as Knights Templar and York Rite Masons is what will help Blue Lodge Masons, who have not joined York Rite, see the value in it. The conversation of who and what York Rite Masonry is, has to start somewhere. This newsletter can be shared within your Blue Lodges to carry this message forward. I vividly remember the day I was knighted, and the individual who bestowed that honor on me. Shared memories and the joys of the honors received, and work accomplished as Knights Templar will go a long way in generating interest in becoming Christian Knights.

Finally, I want to thank each of you receiving, and sharing this, newsletter for who you are as an individual. As a Knight Templar, you have made a statement to the world as to your character, mettle and your resolve to uphold knightly virtues. I am honored to be a part of this group, and what I dearly hope is a growing organization. The world needs us now more than ever, and the men I have met in our Official Visits shows me, we are more than up to the task. And, I know there are more of us out there, in the Blue Lodges, waiting to join our ranks. We just need to show, and tell them, who we are. I look forward to serving all of you, as Editor for this newsletter. Please share anything of interest occurring in your Commandery. I can't guarantee it will all make it in the newsletter, but we will collectively be better informed.

Sir Knight Daniel A. Rivers, PC



Grand Commander's Message – *Submitted for the October Issue (Editor)*

Sir Knights, Ladies, and Friends of Templary,

What a week! Elaine and I spent the last week of September in Atlanta, Georgia, attending the annual Supreme Beauceant Session. It was a privilege to represent the Grand Commandery of Colorado at the Session. Many of the states were represented. All of the Grand Encampment Officers were in attendance. During the Beauceant business session they elected Mrs. Jon Spann, of Waco, Texas, as the new Supreme Worthy President. The Ladies of the Beauceant are significant supporters of Templary. During their banquet, the Beauceant presented a check to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for a little over \$78,400. These funds were raised from Beauceant Assemblies from all over the country, including our Colorado Assembly.

I think it is important that you know that our Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Knight David Kussman, is a strong supporter of the Beauceant. Sir Knight Kussman has issued a Covenant with the Social Order of the Beauceant, dated April 25, 2022. I have added a copy of that Covenant at the bottom of my message for your review. As Templars, he has asked us to do everything we can to support our ladies of the Beauceant.

October is best known for the beginning of fall, all things pumpkin, and of course Halloween. As I look at my schedule, for October, it does look a little scary. The Grand Commandery Officers, and I, begin our Commandery visits this month. We will also be at the Northwest Department Conference, in Boise, in mid-October.

I will leave you with this thought as I close my comments for the month, from 2 Corinthians 1:11, “so will it be that the many prayers for us will be answered, and God will bless us; and many will raise their voices to him in thanksgiving for us”. I raise my voice in thanksgiving for all Templars and their families. My prayers are with each of you this fall.

Yours in Faith,

Ron Birely

R. E. Grand Commander



Grand Master's Bulletin 2022-01

April 25,2022

A Covenant with the Social Order of the Beauceant

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, greetings in the name of our Supreme Grand Master, Jesus Christ.

Many of you know that I have had a "love affair" with the Social Order of the Beauceant for a long time. My grandmother and great aunt were members and past presidents in Texas. My mother was a member and past president, my late wife and my two daughters were. also members in California. My Lady Ms. Kimberly Burnett is a past president in Ohio and Past Supreme Worthy President. My admiration for this beautiful Christian Order and the service they provide to their membership, as well as our Christian Order is deeply rooted and resolute.

Like many masonic related organizations, the Social Order of the Beauceant is suffering from a decline in membership and participation. Historically, the SOOB began solely with the wives or widows of knights templar. Adjustments were made to include additional family relationships; but something else began to occur which I believe needs our immediate attention.

For unknown reasons, the closeness of our two Orders began to subside. Local commanderies began to lessen their support of local assemblies, both financially, and in promoting their beautiful Order. The results are that without our support, the assemblies have dwindled or vanished from many states.

Sir Knights, these beautiful Christian ladies need our renewed vigor and vision if they are to have any chance of continuing to serve our Knightly Order and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Accordingly, at the 2022 Grand Conclave of Texas, I proclaimed to the sir knights, sisters of the SOOS and honored guests that a covenant now exists between our two Orders. It is my direction that all Grand, Subordinate and Constituent Commanderies strive to assist the Social Order of the Beauceant in the promotion of their Order. I will expect the leadership of the Grand Encampment to participate in this directive by reviewing what is being done in each commandery they visit or inspect.

I recommend that every sir knight view the short video clip located on the SOOB webpage attached to GEKT website. Further information on how a commandery may help in this project will be forthcoming in department conferences.

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For Questions about Organizing a NEW Assembly CONTACT: Organizer

(Mrs. John C.) Lei Lani Forrest, PSWP

Phoenix No. 213, AZ.

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Scottsdale, AZ. 885251-2648

(602) 418-1917 swp2013@cox.net

Co-Organizer

(Mrs. Keith W.) Sandy Dean, PSWP

Tampa Assembly No. 208 FU Georgia State Assembly

P.O. Box 1800, Dover, FL 33527-1800

(813) 719-8412 sandysue@tampabay.rr.com

Courteously,

David J. Kussman, GCT

Grand Master

Greetings,

Sir Knights of Colorado were well represented at the recently concluded Northwest Department Conference in Boise. Among those who made the journey were REGC Ron Birely, PREGC Scott Wilson, VEDC Bob Salazar, GCG Joe Magoffin, Grand Prelate Joe Kier, Grand Recorder Grover Sardeson and Grand Sentinel Bruce Lawrence.



Friday morning was dedicated to Chapter. We heard quality presentations from the General Grand Scribe Chadwick Burks and Northwest Region Commander Barry Newell. Colorado Capitular Masonry was represented by General Grand Trustee Companion Joe Kier. We received an update on the Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) program which provides research funding to address Central Auditory Processing Disorder as well as Able Kids which works to directly fund treatment. As you may know, Colorado Capitular Masons were instrumental in the formation of both organizations and we should be proud of our efforts to support these worthwhile causes.

As we moved into Friday afternoon, we turned our attention to Cryptic Masonry. We were represented by RIDGM Bruce Lawrence. We received an update from the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation by Dr. Michael Murphy of the University of Indiana, who chairs the program. We were grateful that he made the trip to share news about the exciting progress that is being made against the ravaging effects of vascular disease. Through the efforts of CMMRF and their partners, it is anticipated that significant inroads will be made in the coming decade against aortic aneurysms and the need for amputations due to more effective vascular care.



Saturday was reserved in its entirety for Commandery affairs. Grand Master David Kussman led the full slate of Grand Encampment officers who made the trip to Boise to meet with us and share important news. Sir Knights were reassured that the turbulence experienced in the last year from internal disharmony had been navigated and that now we were moving on. Perhaps the most measurable impact of these past events has been the dramatic decline in contributions to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation as many were concerned about potential rollover impact it may have to this organization. Fortunately, now that we have moved on, it appears confidence is recovering and with that we are seeing a return to pre-controversy support levels.

Northwest Department Commander SK Jeremy Vaughn shared additional news and notes from around the Northwest Department, including that this was forecast to be the conference's final year at the Red Lion in Boise and that we are actively seeking a new home for the 2023 event.

REGC Ron Birely reported on the state of Templary in Colorado and shared with other states in our department his plan to inspire Blue Lodge masons to take action now to pursue involvement in York Rite Masonry. As you may already know, REGC Birely has launched a new program where the Grand Commandery of Colorado will reimburse the initiation fees for Colorado Blue Lodge masons who begin and complete their York Rite Degree/Order journey during his term. New companions who wish to participate should reach out to Grand Recorder SK Grover Sardeson, gyorkriteco@gmail.com upon completion of the Order of the Temple to receive reimbursement.

An upgrade to the leadership program offered at the conference will be available at our 2023 event. Interested York Rite Masons, especially those more newly appointed to Grand Line positions are encouraged to explore this opportunity. Please reach out to SKs Salazar or Sardeson if you would like to be kept in the loop on being part of our contingent in 2023. In addition to furthering one's quest for leadership development, participation in the Department Conference is a great way to interface with Companions and Sir Knights of other states in the Northwest Department and enjoy the after hours fellowship such events afford.

Sir Knight Joseph Magoffin, PC
Grand Captain General

THE FLAMING SWORD AWARD



The Flaming Sword Award is an individual award, and is currently unique to Colorado. To earn this award, the Sir Knight pursuing it practices elements of the Orders (words, signs, grips etc.) from the ritual, along with the pertinent sword work, and demonstrates these to a member of the committee that oversees the program. The ritual work and sword work must be accurately performed (not perfect, but definitely good) in order to achieve the award. You can find a guide to the exam at the Colorado Knight Templar Association web

site at

https://www.coloradokta.org/files/ugd/ece157_217a1f6433414d5e88f1c6ed8d6b9c9b.pdf. If you are looking for training, or are ready to test, follow the instructions on the web page and contact Sir Knight Scott Wilson. He can tell you when the next practice session is being held, refer you to committee members who can assist, or who can test you, or simply answer any questions you may have on the ritual or sword manual. This is an excellent program and awardees receive the lapel pin shown and a beautiful certificate emphasizing your achievement. The awards are given out at the York Rite Grand Session by the Grand Commander. The award helped me tremendously in learning the ritual and sword manual, in a way that was fun and engaging. I highly recommend this award to anyone looking for an achievable challenge!

Speaking of the Knight Templar Association, if you are a Colorado Knight Templar ... you are also a member of the Colorado Knight Templar Association. You can see all of the programs and events this group oversees at <https://www.coloradokta.org/>. They are a highly active group that meets monthly at 6:00 PM for dinner, at Choppers Sports Grill at 80 S. Madison St., Denver. Flyers are sent out to all of the Commandery's to announce the date, but I will incorporate those into the Asylum in the future. This is a good event to attend if you want to know what is occurring in the world of Knight Templary.

Georgetown Commandery #4 Official Visit



On October 8, 2022 the R.E. Grand Commander, and some of his Officer's, had the good fortune to be received by Georgetown Commandery #4. The Commandery performed a 10 Man Opening and did excellent work in that opening, and in the manner in which they received the Grand Commander. It was definitely a fun evening, followed by a nice dinner, and resounding fellowship. A hearty thanks go out to all of the Sir Knight's in attendance, and those in the background who helped make this evening happen.