

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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Why Don't We Attend?

On October 30th and 31st Arizona hosted the Southwest Regional York Rite Conference. In attendance were representatives from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International; the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International; and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA; as well as representatives from the Grand York Rite lines associated with the Southwest Region: Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico. What surprised me was the lack of York Rite Masons in attendance. I would have thought that, at a minimum, every dais officer from each of the individual York Rite lines would have taken the opportunity to obtain additional light. However, after counting the Grand lines and the Past Grand lines, only two York Rite bodies were represented! Please allow me to inform you of what you missed by not being at the conference:

- First and foremost, you missed the opportunity to meet and greet the movers and shakers of Our York Rite Fraternity from a National/International perspective and from your State perspective. As you know, at the National and International level, those individuals holding positions in those bodies do so for a period of three years. With all things remaining constant, you could have met and discussed esoteric York Rite principles with the assumed leaders of the York Rite Bodies for the next twelve years. The most positive part of this point is you would have seen how approachable these individuals are.
- There was a significant amount of information presented over these two days from all of the aforementioned bodies—much more than could be captured in two pages. Individual states' representatives discussed what they were doing to increase

membership. The General Grand Bodies and the Grand Encampment provided information on the direction they were going and the rationale of those directions (readers of this edition can find the Grand Encampment presentations at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/pp.html>).

I know that the economy has required each of us to tighten our belts, and we are not doing all of the things we would like to do and have done in the past. If there is a way for more Sir Knights in Arizona to attend next year's Southwest Regional Conference, I think the return outweighs the expense. Arizona will again host next year's Conference—this time for the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, so it won't be too far to travel. See you there!

Courteously Submitted,
† Joe Zito
Grand Standard Bearer

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As a postscript to Sir Knight Zito's comment, I would add that the supplement editors present at the Southwest Conference met with Sir Knight Palmer, our national editor. He is easy-going, yet very dedicated to the promotion of Templary. Much valuable information was exchanged at this short meeting. We were able to view the supplements of other jurisdictions. In all honesty, we need to do a better job of "getting the word out" to the Arizona Sir Knights.

More contributions are needed by your editor from Grand Officers, constituent Commanderies, and interested Sir Knights in general. Contributions should be submitted to me by the 25th of the month for consideration to be published in the forthcoming issue. Articles concerning past events are acceptable, however, an emphasis should be made to promote future activities. With your help, Arizona Templary will stay alive and begin to thrive.

Peter H. Johnson, PGC
Supplement Editor