

COLORADO SUPPLEMENT

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Grand Commander Issues General Order Number One

The Knights Templar Recognition Bar for Veterans is permitted and encouraged to be worn by any Veteran who served this country in any military capacity and is still in active service or has an Honorable discharge. This bar is to be worn centered on half inch above the jewels on the breast pocket.

Grand Commander's Message

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we start a new year, it is time to start focusing on the membership goals previously set. These goals are first, at least 50 members in each Commandery and second, 25% of all Blue Lodge Masons in the Commandery.

Some York Rite Bodies have difficulty conferring the Orders and Degrees. In Colorado, we have three special outdoor events in the summer to confer the Degrees and Orders. We confer the Chapter Degrees at the Pasture Degrees in Akron; the Council Degrees at the Festival at the Fort in Delta; and the Commandery Orders at Mt. Shavano in Salida. I have attended each of these events and the quality of the work is very good. If you plan to take candidates to these events, be sure to tell your candidates that these are special events.

Now that every York Rite Body has a way to ensure candidates can receive the Degrees and Orders, the only issue left is to find the candidates. We have an advantage because our candidates come from the Blue Lodges. By setting examples for our Brethren in the Blue Lodge, we can obtain members. By demonstrating, the York Rite Play (commonly referred to as the Montana Program) in your Blue Lodge, you can create interest. Invite prospects and their families to a special event, such as a dinner or a York Rite program. It is essential to plan these events well because someone looking for an excuse to join or not to join is watching you. Just because a person did not ask to be a member today does not mean they are not interested. Give them additional opportunities and eventually, when the time is right, they will join.

Another issue is that we are not getting our new members to come to our meetings. We need do something special to get our new members to a meeting. Have a dinner, invite the new members, their families and bring your families. The friendships we develop in our fraternity creates loyalty to the fraternity. This loyalty is not taught through our ritual, only enhanced.

Now that we have new members coming to our meetings, we have to make every meeting worth the time and effort it takes to attend. How many of us have attended a Lodge or York Rite meeting that was not worth the time and effort it took to attend. We need to remember the people who attend our functions have the right to expect us to prepare a function that is worth their time and effort to attend.

There are times when appears that we as Masons believe we do not have to fulfill our obligation to members. We believe that we have the right to treat people any way we want. We do this by expecting people to attend meetings that are not planned and have no real benefit. We also have a habit of inviting guests to our functions and abandoning them while we disappear into a meeting. We tell them that we will be back in 15 minutes and to enjoy themselves. After 20 minutes our guests are wondering where we are, after 30 minutes they are concerned, after 45 minutes, they are upset, after an hour, they are mad and when we finally return to take them to the public part of the meeting, they are more than just mad. We then expect these guests to come back to future events. Think about how a guest in your home would act if you disappeared on them as we do at our meetings. If you want a public event, have the necessary business taken care of before or after you entertain your guests. If we truly are the elite of fraternal organizations, surely we know good manners.

I encourage every Sir Knight to consider the items above and use them to evaluate everything we do in the York Rite, more especially in our Commanderies. I believe that over the years, we have developed bad habits. We need to start developing and learning good habits. Good habits will strengthen our fraternity where the bad habits have only succeeded in making us weak.

Fraternally, Steven I. Hubbard, REGC

Grand Commander's Schedule

Pikes Peak #6	1/7/2010
Coronal-Ascalon #31	1/8/2010
Denver-Colorado #1	1/19/2010
DeMolay (Ft. Collins) #12	1/25/2010

Masons doing Good



Russell Ingram a Colorado Mason and a Project Manager in Iraq obtained a flag and had it flown over two operations in Iraq. His wife Myra through Southern Colorado York Rite College #109 and Doric Lodge #25 then presented the flag to South Park City Museum to be displayed at Friendship Lodge, "The Lodge over Simpkins