



# REGC John Walston



Sir Knights, we have come to the middle of summer and I hope that you have had an opportunity for time with your family and loved ones. As some of our Blue Lodges and other Masonic bodies go dark during the summer, please do not forget that our Masonic duties and obligations do not. Remember that you always set the example of what Masonry stands for to the public. Take an opportunity to get in touch with those Brethren and Knights who haven't been as punctual in attendance and try to encourage them to start attending in the fall, if not sooner.

I had the opportunity to be present at a Masonic discussion given a couple months back where the question was posed, "What is the difference between a column and a pilaster?" This was in reference to one of the Masonic lectures referring to the number of each in King Solomon's Temple. The answer is that a column is an architectural load-bearing structure and a pilaster is not. In other words, one is functional in purpose and one is purely decorative. Additionally, the lecture states that there were substantially more pilasters than columns in the architecture of the Temple. Sadly, it appears that our present Craft and Bodies reflect the same state of structure as that ancient edifice. How many of our Brethren are pilasters of the Lodge rather than columns? How many Knights Templar of our Commanderies are? How many times have you attended a meeting and seen the same members present? Let us use our time this summer to add more columns to bear the weight of responsibility, to spread out the load that those few columns in our Bodies may have been having to support.

It has been one of the central themes for many of the Grand Commanders in previous years to emphasize the need for new membership in our Bodies. This has not changed for my term, however, new membership is worthless if the new Knight does not attend and is not active. I am not concerned with numbers that relate to the number of new members knighted in comparison to the number of members lost. Our biggest losses are from NPD's, and that, I believe, is a problem that can not be addressed simply by enhanced Masonic programs during meetings or increasing the number of social programs in the Commandery. I feel that when we become concerned about numbers then we try to compensate with a recruiting effort to gather up every available petition we can without a thought to the retention of new members afterward. I prefer that we concentrate on quality over quantity. Approach every new Knight as if he is the most valuable asset to your Commandery. He is. What benefit is it to the Commandery if the new Knight doesn't attend meetings or is active with the Commandery after becoming a member?

Find the point of attraction that brought this member to you and nurture it. It is the reason he chose to join, and it may be the same attraction for the next candidate. Each of us has a personal reason we petitioned the Rite. Mine was originally one of following in the footsteps of family. Like the Blue Lodge, it took me a while to appreciate and understand the lessons and enlightenment to be found there. But I came to appreciate and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship among the Brethren and Knights. Let us try to kindle that Masonic spark that brought them to our altar for the benefit of the entire Rite.

Please note that the coordinator for the W. Huntley Award and F. Speidel Award is now Sir Knight M. Kirby Matthews, KCT. Please send all information and direct all questions to him. I wish to extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation to Sir Knight Charles R. Thomas, KCT, for the work and service he provided in coordinating information for these awards in the past.

The Schools of the Knight will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September in Lenoir, the 10<sup>th</sup> of October in New Bern, and the 24<sup>th</sup> of October in Raleigh. Please take the time to attend one of these sessions.

The monthly newsletter will start including graphics of the jewels that may be seen worn on Templar uniforms.



Malta Jewel



Red Cross Jewel

Sir Knights may this summer be a time of family devotion for each of you. God bless and keep you all in his care.