



**NEWS for March 2024**  
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**Web Site: [www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/](http://www.yorkritewa.org/gckt/)**

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**Sir Knights—**

**On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to attend Columbia Commandery No. 26 in St. Helens, OR, for a special conclave where a total of 19 Companions participated in the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. Of those, a total of 10 were from Washington, including six from Cowlitz Commandery No. 29 and four from Malta Commandery No. 18. A number of Sir Knights from both Malta and Cowlitz Commanderies assisted in the presentations. I'd like to thank everyone from Washington who participated in this. I was impressed by the support of current and past Grand Commandery officers from Oregon, Washington and Alaska who came out to not only support these new Sir Knights but to assist in the Orders.**



**Something I've heard during the year is that members aren't coming out like they did prior to the Covid pandemic. After a long period of time of not being able to participate there are many people who are into the "new norm". While once very active, they are good with doing other things. This isn't unique in this jurisdiction. So how do we go about doing a redirect? While electronic communications in this day and age are a great way of getting a lot of information out to a lot of people instantaneously, on the local level it may not work as not everyone checks their email on a regular basis (or may not even have email). One of the groups I belong to in British Columbia has four individuals who are required to contact every single member prior to their stated meeting. Each commandery could designate the senior and junior wardens to call each member (dividing up the membership roster) a few days before each stated meeting as a reminder and let them know what's going on. They can then report at the meeting why someone may not be in attendance.**

**Every commandery has access to a wide variety of information from the Grand Encampment website. Providing an educational program for the members can help to keep people engaged. There are a number of videos on the Knight Templar Eye Foundation available on YouTube. Invite your District Instructor to a meeting and have them assist with sword work, ritual and tactics, or whatever the Eminent Commander feels their commandery might be in need of.**

**We are fast approaching the goal of 100% life sponsorship in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. RE Jeremy Vaughn, Northwest Department Commander, has said Washington is above the 90% mark. His hope is that the Northwest Region will each 100% (meaning each state will be at the 100% mark) prior to the Grand Encampment Triennial in August. Washington WILL hit that mark!**

**There is still time to recognize those members who have gone above and beyond over the years with the Meritorious Service Medal. All of the information is available on the Grand Encampment website.**

**Thank you for all you do for your commanderies and for the Grand Commandery. I look forward to seeing you all at our Grand Sessions in May.**

**Sincerely and fraternally,  
SK Bryan D. Bechler, REGC  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington**