



Washington Supplement

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Greetings Fraters!

All Saints Day has come and gone, and we are now seriously into the Holiday season. Along with the holidays comes the season of elections and installations. This brings us to the time of transitions and looking to the future for our Commanderies, and our Nation.

First my Fraters, I hope you have given serious thought and prayer towards what leadership will best serve our Great Nation, to keep it great, and to lead it into the future. I hope that you either have or will exercise your franchise and vote in the elections that are upon us. First and foremost, we as Templars have a bounden responsibility to be a force for good in our country and communities, and we can best do this if we fulfill our obligations to make known our will and pleasure by voting. We can make a difference!

Closer to home in our Commanderies, we need to choose officers who will make a difference and lead us on paths that will Serve our Father and His Son by leading us to accomplish things that will cause growth and service to others. Who has good ideas, evidences strong positive leadership, and has the desire to make a difference. Who will not bemoan lack of success due to doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result, and be basically content. A positive and vibrant leadership team, not afraid to do and try different things can make all the difference to the future of our Order.

Also, as we make these choices, let us take the time to review our By-Laws to see if they truly are guiding us in what we are doing and in where we want to be going. There is a constitutional requirement to review and update our by-laws periodically, how about doing so now. One of the items to take a good look at is life memberships and their relationships to assessments and per capita. In the past, when we sold life memberships we said that was it, no other annual financial demands. Now we are saying that is no longer true due to our challenging financial returns and our growing fiscal needs due to declining income as a result of shrinking membership. My Fraters, I am hearing a lot of disenchantment from a

fairly large number of you about our going back on our word. Consider changing the formula to keep our word. Be creative. How about: from the date of the initial change to requiring Life Members to pay per capita and assessments, all Life Memberships owned prior to that date will not be so charged but will be given the opportunity to contribute to assist in relieving the financial strain should they so desire to do so, and all Life Memberships sold after that date will be sold with the understanding that assessments and per capita remain the responsibility of the Life Member. Or, how about starting a Sustaining Membership Program, recognizing those who choose to voluntarily contribute over a certain annual amount to the Commandery. This may eliminate the difficulty in covering the Life Members per capita and assessments in its entirety. Be creative, think outside the box.

Our By-Laws are a vital necessity and need to remain current. Cause your Commandery to insure that is happening. Do your part to insure that your elected Commandery leadership team is the best possible to enable your Commandery to actively function and grow that all may enjoy the Templary we promise when we confer the Orders. Insure that you are a true and faithful citizen of this great nation, be involved and vote.

Our Grand Generalissimo, SK Richard Kovak, is still busy putting together the presentation teams for the "Grand Master's Class" coming up this fall. The Council degrees and Commandery Orders have been rescheduled to Saturday 15 December, still in Bremerton, due to a scheduling conflict on the Grand Master's calendar. Again, if you are able to do any of the key parts in the Orders, please give him a call and then any and all assistance you can so that the experience will be the best possible for our incoming Sir Knights.

That's all for now. As our thoughts turn to the holidays and election/installations ahead I pray that you continue to keep yourself dedicated to the work of our order and the mission of spreading the Light and Love of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing you all on an upcoming Official Visit or Installation. Remember, walk the walk as Soldiers of Christ!

Matthew 5:3-9.

Grace and Peace,
SK ++Jeff Craig, REGC
Grand Commandery
Knights Templar of Washington