

Grand Commandery of Wyoming

August Newsletter

Richard N Lewis, Grand Commander

As I reflect back on the past year, I have lots of fond memories of visiting all of the Commanderies in the state of Wyoming and visiting with those Sir Knights who keep our order going. Thank you for all that you do for Templar Masonry in Wyoming.

Wyoming became one of the 100% Knight Templar Eye Foundation Donors in 2015. This means that every Sir Knight is at least a Life Sponsor. This is a onetime donation of only \$30 per individual. An Associate Patron donation is \$50 and a Patron is \$100. To become a member of the Grand Master's Club a donation of \$1000 is needed. Members who join the Grand Commander's Club pledge \$100 per year until \$1000 is reached. I encourage all of you to donate regularly to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The Foundation is funding pediatric ophthalmology research. This hits home for me because my niece was born with strabismus (crossed eyes). She had to have surgery to correct this situation. This was very stressful on her and her family. She braved it like a trooper and the surgery was a success. I can still remember the conversation that her parents had with her when they told her that she would have to have her eyes operated on and would be unable to see for a few days as she would have bandages covering her eyes. Fast forward to today. Many cases of strabismus can be repaired without surgery thanks to our research done by our medical specialists. Our dollars go to help fund research grants to some of the best doctors in the United States and we are seeing more and more success. Please consider a donation today.

Wyoming Freemasonry is losing over 100 men this year due to death and suspension for nonpayment of dues. My York Rite bodies have always paid the per capita of any elderly members that are in assisted living or a care facility. I urge each of you to pass the hat and keep the dues current of our older members. We cannot stop the march of time and the inevitable fate that awaits all of us, but we can keep our Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights current in their dues. Please support your Blue Lodges. It is perfectly okay to mention to a good man that you think that he would benefit from being a member of Freemasonry. That is not soliciting. If each Mason would replace himself, we would double our numbers. Wyoming has a higher percentage of York Rite Masons than the national average. If we take care of our Blue Lodge membership problems, then the York Rite will be taken care of as well. I recently visited with a Sir Knight before he passed away. We were talking about Masonry and his wishes for a Masonic Funeral. He told me that he joined the lodge to become a Shriner, but joined the York Rite along the way and never had a desire to join anything else. He was that impressed with the degrees, the ritual work and the uniforms. He was a regular attendee at lodge and York Rite up until his health prevented him from getting out.

It is getting to be Grand Session Season in Wyoming. Wyoming Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star kicks things off on August 3rd in Cheyenne. On August 7th, the Grand Lodge of Wyoming convenes in Casper. Finally on September 15th the Grand York Rite session starts. This year the session is in Cheyenne. Registration can be found on line. Please make plans to attend and support your Grand Families. Remember to reach out and contact a member that you have not seen in a while.

In his service,

Richard N Lewis

Grand Commander