



**NEWS for December 2023**  
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**Sir Knights—**

**Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and that you had the opportunity to spend time with your families and friends. But with the new year comes new challenges. Your installation of officers should be done (and the Focus editor should have all the updated information).**

**Oftentimes we make New Year's resolutions with the best of intentions. We feel with the new year we can put the previous year behind us and start fresh. We may talk about what we want to change, and some may even put these wants down in writing. I read an article written by Richard Botts at the Ohio State University who said only 9% of Americans that make resolutions complete them, and that 23% of people quite their resolutions by the end of the first week. 43% quit by the end of January.**

**One of my goals this year was to get every Commandery to 100% life sponsorship in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. At the beginning of the year Washington had 162 Sir Knights who were not yet life sponsors. Thanks to the efforts of some commanderies and those who have purchased raffle tickets, that number is now below 100. That doesn't include a number of sponsorships that will be sent in this month.**

**Our Grand Recorder and assistant Grand Recorder have been working hard to clean up our records, but as General Order #6**

**states the recorders need to ensure the commandery records are accurate not only for membership numbers but for what the commandery has to pay in per capita. Unfortunately, I'm still seeing members on the rolls who have passed away, who were dropped by Grand Lodge as NPD, or who have been suspended. If a recorder isn't sure of a members' status, please contact the Grand Lodge of Washington. They have been extremely helpful in providing information when a question has arisen.**

**I've asked our Grand Recorder to schedule a workshop for all commandery recorders via Zoom. More information will be forthcoming. If you are a recorder**

**or are filling in for one, please make every effort to participate, and to have some prepared questions on items you may need answers to.**

**There's only five months until our Grand York Rite sessions in Wenatchee. While a lot has been accomplished this year, there are still a number of things I hope to have completed with all of your assistance. The Code Committee is working hard at getting our code cleaned up and to ensure all previous legislation is included.**

**Now is the time to start thinking about historic items to bring to sessions. I would like every Commandery to bring their Beauceant and stand to be placed on display. In addition, please look for historic artifacts you may have (old pictures, regalia, etc.) that can be put out for others to see.**

**If a commandery has someone to nominate for the Knight Templar Cross of Honor, those nomination forms need to be into me no later than the end of January. Also, please don't forget about the other awards Grand Encampment has available, to include: Knight Commander of the Temple, Companion of the Temple, Meritorious Service Award, Membership Award and the Illustrious Order of the Triangle. SK E. Jeffrey Craig, REPGC, provided the nomination forms for a number of these awards which were attached to the last edition of the Focus. I know**

**there are a number of deserving Sir Knights who should be considered for recognition.**

**Thank you all for all you do for your commanderies and for the Grand Commandery.**

**Sincerely and fraternally,**

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