

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Let's Coordinate

by Sir Knight Roger S. Ross

Fellow Sir Knights,

I have just returned from our Southwest Department Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Combined York Rite Colorado River Fall Festival. For the first time in recent history, the Powers That Be combined two departments, Northwest and Southwest, into one large conference. I applaud this experiment for many reasons. First of all, it cuts down on the amount of travel our international officers must endure. Secondly, it gives those of us representing California a chance to hear from more states who may have other approaches to attempt to solve the shared issues that each of our states face. We obviously had more Templars, and twice as many state Grand Officers in attendance, and I believe all were very well accepted and appreciated. I did gain a few ideas which I hope to be able to share with you in the coming months.

Our last activity was Saturday night, and early Sunday morning my Lady and I were on the road south to Laughlin, Nevada for the CRFF. Seven and a half hours later we checked into Don Laughlin's Riverside Hotel. Bright and early Monday morning the Chapter Degrees started, followed by the Council Degrees and a Semi-Formal Banquet followed that evening. Tuesday we witnessed a fantastic presentation of the Commandery Orders with California's own Los Angeles Commandery #9 carry the lion's share of duties in presenting the Order of the Temple, as well as

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participating, in part, in the earlier Orders. All in all, it was a fantastic and stimulating week (including travel days) which I will never forget. Their were 35 total Candidates knighted on Tuesday afternoon, representing at least four different states. California only had four of those candidates (I believe), but they all took active roles as walking candidates in the Temple Order.



Although I attempt to keep all of my messages positive, I do have a 'Pet Peeve' that I want to introduce at this time, with the prayer that it becomes a positive effort in bringing about what I believe is a necessary change in behavior of all Masonic Bodies in California.

As many (perhaps most) of you know, I'm a retired attorney and wordsmith that claims NO computer skills beyond the very basic knowledge of a word processing keyboard. I have tried for years to get someone to create a truly inclusive calendar that all masonic bodies can share, but have failed miserably in getting it to happen. Therefore, I now challenge each and every Knight Templar, and all members of other Masonic Bodies, to create a personal calendar for minimally 2024 before the first of December. We all know when our Blue Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies meet. These and most other Masonic organizations have Bylaws dictating Stated Meetings (and Special Occasions) so you should have those on your calendar. Other York Rite groups that meet

monthly, quarterly or semi-annually should designate the day of the week and the month(s) of the year, so those dates should be unchanging from year to year. If a special occasion arises, please body leaders, check with your members a few months ahead of time when scheduling for these events to attempt to avoid conflicts.

I know it's difficult to always find a mutually acceptable date, but as I always informed by clients, the difficult I will solve immediately, the impossible may take me a few days. *My Calendar* (for example) is published on our Website. If you want to schedule a reception, check my calendar and Tom Chavez's and Mike Sherman's published calendars and allow us some travel time between dates. Please don't schedule an affair you would like us to attend in Eureka on Saturday night if another event already exists in San Diego on Sunday morning. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and I'm sure your members will appreciate your thoughtfulness as well.

God be with us all and please be careful until we speak again; this world becomes more dangerous daily it seems... ✦



Fraternally,

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