



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

Upcoming 2023 Events:

Thanksgiving.....Nov 23
Christmas Dec 25
New Year Jan 1
Epiphany Jan 6

Reminders

Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws can be made only by proposing the change in writing and filed with the Grand Recorder on or before December 15 before the next preceding the Annual Grand Conclave.

Also, please notify the Grand Recorder of the dates of your Christmas Observance.

Happy Thanksgiving

To all of the Sir Knights of Idaho,

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Around the world, Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving this month. I am thankful every day for being alive and being able to gather with my family. As a veteran, I think back to the Thanksgiving Days I celebrated with my Army family far away from my home. It reminds me of the history of this holiday. Back in 1789, Brother and President George Washington, along with both Congressional Houses, declared November 26, a Thursday, to be a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" as "it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor."

It wasn't formally adopted as a national holiday until the Civil War. The fourth Thursday of November was selected for Thanksgiving by William Seward, Secretary of State under Lincoln. He wrote a speech that Lincoln gave, on October 3rd, 1863, to express his gratitude after the Union Army's victory at Gettysburg. The fourth Thursday has served as the National Day of

Thanksgiving since then, except for 2-years during the FDR administration when it was the third Thursday of November.

God bless and keep you all.

Templar Charities

As we approach the end of the year, I am reminded of the various Masonic charities and the good they do around the world including the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF)

The most notable charity of the Knights Templar is the Eye Foundation which seeks "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." According to the Foundation:

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is committed to support research that can help launch the careers of clinical or basic researchers committed to the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children. We support clinical or basic research on conditions that can or may eventually be treated or prevented. Examples include but are not limited to amblyopia, congenital cataract, congenital glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, ocular malformations, congenital nystagmus, and other hereditary eye diseases such as retinal dystrophies or retinoblastoma.

The KTEF has been committed to preserving sight and preventing blindness since its creation in 1955. Historically

funding went to direct patient care as well as research and education, but with the recent passage of the Affordable Healthcare Act, the mission and direction of the KTEF changed to solely funding research and education efforts.

According to the Edmund Ball in A History of the Founding of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation:

From the very beginning, a Medical Advisory Council consisting of able and dedicated ophthalmologists from all over the country guided the Foundation. For a good many years funds for research were granted somewhat promiscuously on recommendations from knowledgeable Sir Knights but without particular focus. This would be corrected a number of years later when the distinguished Dr. Alfred Edward Maumane, Jr., Director of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, established a Scientific Advisory Committee in 1985, consisting of five distinguished ophthalmologists from over the United States. This committee screens all the proposals for grants for research and pediatric ophthalmology.

To accomplish their goals, the KTEF annually announces its call for research grant applications. Applicants may see a Career-Starter Research Grant, Competitive Renewal Grant, or a Training Mentors for Developing Countries (TMDC) Fellowship. The received applications are screened by the Scientific Advisory Committee who then recommend to the Board of Trustees that requests should be granted and awarded.