



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 Events:

Northwest York Rite Oct 18-19
Thanksgiving Day Nov 28
Resolution Deadline Dec 15
Christmas Day Dec 25

Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights

I trust you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer, taking time to recharge and spend moments with loved ones. As the autumn season approaches, bringing with it cooler days and a renewed sense of purpose, I extend my warmest wishes for a prosperous and fulfilling season ahead. May this time of change inspire us in our duties and strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood.

As we approach the season of reflection and celebration, it is time to begin preparations for our annual Christmas Observance. This sacred tradition allows us to honor our commitments and renew our dedication to the principles of our Order. Please take note that the deadline for submitting resolutions is December 15.

Officers of the Commandery, Part 1

By Sir Knight Barry E. Newell

Chivalric Masonry has a unique set of officers given our Christian and militaristic nature. The basic organizational unit for the Knights Templar is known as the Commandery and is composed of the following officers: Eminent Commandery, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, Recorder Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Recorder, Prelate, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, and Sentinel.

The **Eminent Commander** presides over a Commandery of Knights Templar in the US, but in places like England, the presiding officer is known as a Preceptor (and presides over a Preceptory). The rank of Commander is a commonly used military

rank, but in the medieval Templar order, Commanders were knights or sergeants in charge of local commanderies. This officer carries the honorary title of Eminent which is rooted in the Latin word "eminentem" meaning "standing out, projecting, prominent, or high." The word Commander comes from the Old English "comandeor" which stems from the Latin "comandare" meaning "to order, to command, or enjoin" This officer is equivalent to the Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge. The jewel of the Eminent Commander is a passion cross surmounted by rays of light.

The second-in-command is the **Generalissimo** who sits on the right of the Eminent Commandery. He is charged to assist the Commander in the dispatch of his duties and, in his absence, to preside over the Commandery, and to introduce the Grand Commander and his staff when they visit. Generalissimo comes from the Italian "generale" and the suffix -issimo, itself from the Latin -issimus, meaning "utmost, to the highest grade". This officer is comparable to the Senior Warden of a Lodge. The jewel of the Generalissimo is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The square reminds us of the lesson of morality from the Blue Lodge and the lamb represents the Christian nature of the order.

The third dais officer of the Commandery is the **Captain General** and sits to the left of the Eminent Commander. He ensures the Commandery is prepared for the reception of the Commander, and essentially executes a majority of all commands whether communicated through the Generalissimo or from the Eminent Commander directly. The rank of Captain General has been and is still used to denote a senior ranking officer or head of state in some situations. The word

"Captain" comes from the Late Latin "capitaneus" meaning chief. The word "General" comes from the Latin "generalis" meaning "relating to all, of a whole class, or generic" and which was used to denote a commanding officer starting in the 14th century. This officer is equivalent to the Junior Warden in the Blue Lodge. In medieval Knights Templar, this officer would be equivalent to the Marshall. The jewel of the Captain General is a Level surmounted by a rooster.

The next officer is the **Senior Warden** who is more closely aligned with the Senior Deacon of the Lodge as he is in charge of conducting candidates through a part of the Order of the Temple. This officer sits on the southern side of the Commandery in a place known as the "Southwest angle of the Triangle". The word "Senior" comes from the Latin "seniorem" meaning "older." The word "Warden" comes from the Proto-Germanic word "wardon" meaning "to watch or guard." The jewel of the Senior Warden is a hollow square with an arm inside holding the Sword of Justice.

Next is the **Junior Warden** who is comparable to the Marshall with some duties of the Senior Deacon of the Blue Lodge. Like the Senior Warden, he also conducts candidates during a portion of the initiation and is in charge of the Chamber of Reflection. This officer is stationed at the "Northwest angle of the Triangle." The word "junior" comes from the Latin word "iunior" meaning "young." The jewel of the Junior Warden is the Eagle with a flaming sword in its talons.

To be continued...