



Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Louisiana

JUNE 2024

Sir Knights

Thank you all for the trust and confidence you place in me as Grand Commander. I will do my best to serve you and our Grand Commandery.

To paraphrase Lewis Carol though, if you don't know where you are going, no road will get you there.

So, our vision is inspirational and the ideal future of our Grand

Commandery. **EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON A**

KNIGHT TEMPLAR

Our mission in our Grand Commandery Constitution says who we are, what we do, and how we want to be regarded.

**CHRISTIAN MASONS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING OUR
COMMUNITIES**

Our objectives are then clear as what actions we need to take to be able to achieve our vision and our mission.

RECRUIT – RESTORE – RETAIN

Here is why it matters.

We need Sir Knights to be able to fulfill our Mission to Improve our Communities.

Our numbers still decline every year and we must turn this around. We decreased from 907 Sir Knights to 866 Sir Knights. We did good in knighting 40, affiliating 5, and reinstating 18. A most encouraging number is the 18 reinstatements.

While we have no control of the 35 Sir Knights moving to that house not made with hands, we incurred 30 demits and 39 suspensions. And that should challenge us.

Let us challenge each other to RECRUIT 10% more Sir Knights annually. Let's

RESTORE 5% of inactive Sir Knights annually. And, let's RETAIN Sir Knights by reducing non-death attrition 10% annually.

These Goals are measurable, tangible, and achievable.

1. RECRUIT

Goal: 10% More Sir Knights Annually

2. RESTORE

Goal: 5% of Inactive Sir Knights Restored Annually

3. RETAIN

Goal: 10% Reduction in Attrition (Non-Death) Annually

Here are some suggested strategies and if you have more, please share.

Suggested Recruitment Strategies

- 1) Show Christian Masons what we do to make a difference in our communities 2) Update petitions with the correct fees and annual dues for Chapter, Council and Commandery and give one to each active member
- 3) Get a list of all Master Masons in lodges within 100-mile radius and designate a Sir Knight who knows the Brother to talk to those who are not Knights and give them packages and petitions
- 4) Develop joint membership drives with chapters and councils to coordinate visits to every lodge in 100-mile radius for presentations, packages, and petitions 5) Designate Sir Knights to attend Master Mason degrees to give info packages and petition forms to each newly raised Master Mason
- 6) Invite all Brother Masons to an open meeting or open event at which they can see what we do and give them a package and a petition

Suggested Restoration Strategies

- 1) Share with Brothers what we do to make a difference in our communities (see Retention Strategies plus local initiatives)
- 2) Review and update every inactive member record
 - a. Assign volunteers inactive members to contact
 - b. Find out why they are inactive
 - c. Visit or meet for coffee and talk
 - d. Consider this a long-term process: it may take several years for them to decide to reactivate so keep in contact and encouragement
- 3) Invite individual inactive members to attend a meeting
 - a. Wherever possible bring the inactive member to the meeting
- 4) Help restore in lodge, chapter, council
 - a. Work with lodge, chapter, council secretaries/recorders
 - b. Work with Grand Commandery Grand Recorder

Suggested Retention Strategies

1) Community Involvement

- a. Holy Land Pilgrimage
 - i. Fully Fund Annual Holy Land Pilgrimage for at least one Minister
 - ii. Pilgrimage Minister's presentations to at least 5 audiences
 - iii. Grow Holy Land Endowment Fund by \$20,000 annually
- b. Knight Templar Eye Foundation
 - i. Grow Contributions in every Commandery
 - ii. Publish in local media what KTEF does
 - iii. Assist our KTEF chairman and invite him to meetings
- c. KT Education Fund (KTEdF) Scholarships
 - i. Presented in High School Graduation Ceremonies
 - ii. Earn at least 5% of Fund Basis and divide among the 3 Divisions
 - iii. Publicize to Commanderies and High Schools in each Division
 - iv. Board selects recipients nominated from high schools in each Division v. Division Commander (or Deputy Division Commander or Elected Grand Line Officer or Elected Commandery Officer) in Class A Uniform makes presentation at high school graduation ceremony giving very brief comments about who we are and what we do
 - vi. Publish in local media who received Scholarships
 - vii. Invite families of each applicant to an open meeting or event
- d. Community Event Participation
 - i. At least 5 Knights in Class A Uniform in every Commandery attend together at least 1 community event
 - ii. At least 5 Knights in Class A Uniform in every Commandery attend together at least 1 Church Service

2) Drill – Teach so it is a Joy to work and not embarrassing for Sir Knights

- a. Cadre of Grand Commandery Drill Instructors
- b. Swordwork
- c. Related tactics
- d. Aiguillette/Recognition for proficiency

3) Ritual – Learn or at least do the ritual with aids until learned

- a. Opening
- b. Reception
- c. Encourage Sir Knights to select a part for each Order
- d. Practice sections of Orders
- e. Participate in Festivals
- f. Confer Orders in Commandery

4) Inspector General - very reasonable expectations

- a. Open
- b. Reception
- c. Fifth Libation
- d. Learn (more points) or use aids, but do it with members only

5) Programs

- a. Publish an annual plan for informative short programs at each meeting
- b. Publish an annual ritual work for each meeting or special training sessions
- c. Publicize and utilize CADRE for members where they live versus at a conclave

With everyone's help and enthusiasm we will enjoy being a Sir Knight and bring enthusiasm to Brother Masons who will want to join us. That includes motivating those who once were Sir Knights to rejoin us. And, keeping everyone active and involved.

We are Noble Sir Knights making a Difference in the World for 906 years. It is now our turn at watch to continue Making a Difference.

Fraternally and In All Knightly Courtesy,

S.K. Allan K. Bean, KCT, KTCH
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
Of the State of Louisiana