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LOOKING BACK: LAST STEPS IN PREPARATION FOR 2010 ALASKA GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS

As you read this issue, Mat-Su Valley Commandery #4, Knights Templar is completing its last practices for the opening ceremony to welcome Sir Knight Littleton F. "Buck" Buxton, Jr., Right Eminent Grand Commander of Alaska when he reconvenes the Grand Commandery for the 7th Annual Alaska Grand Commandery Sessions at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

This year has been one of great progress for Templary in Alaska. For the first time, joint spring and fall festivals were celebrated with Anchorage York Rite Masons and Mat-Su Valley York Rite Masons participating, not only in effort, but in location. Part of the work was held in Anchorage at the Anchorage Masonic Center and part in Palmer at Matanuska Masonic Temple. Candidates from both bodies received their degrees and orders in full form. Teams from both organizations performed the work and time was taken for lunch breaks which allows everyone in attendance to enjoy the ceremonies and press on with a full stomach to see them through to completion.

The Grand Commander made his official visitations to Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley and Fairbanks and was welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere he traveled. He attended the 64th triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment at Roanoke, Virginia in August. The weather was hot, but so was the camaraderie. Sir Knight Buxton said that the delegation from Tennessee made him feel most welcome and special. Thanks to Sir Knight Alvin Hill, who we look forward to again welcoming as one of our own Alaskan attendees at the coming Grand Sessions.

Time waits for no man or Mason, as we sadly said "Farewell Frater" to Sir Knights Emmett Roetman and Russell Hintz. We will miss them dearly, but know that we shall all meet again when God gathers his children at the final day of judgment.

As you finalize your plans to attend the 2010 Alaska Grand York Rite Sessions, don't forget to check the website for any last minute updates and information: <http://www.alaskayorkrite.org/2010%20registration.html>

See you at the Grand Sessions!

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to encourage all Sir Knights to submit articles, letters, pictures, or comments for inclusion in this supplement. Articles need to be submitted to me by the 1st of the month for the next issue (March 25th for May issue).

PLAN A FUNCTION FOR SUMMER



Barbecue Time

Summer will be upon us before we know it. After spending the winter battling snow and icy roads, why not set a date now to have a cookout for one of your warm weather Commandery Conclaves? Nothing brings out the fun in us like socializing at a barbecue. Mat-Su Valley Commandery schedules an annual burgers and beans BBQ for its June Conclave. Sir Knight Lee Seagondollar can always be found tending the fire at Matanuska Lodge to provide members and visiting members with a hot sandwich to warm the insides while preparing for a productive meeting to follow the dinner. While many of us go separate ways to chase the plentiful Alaskan salmon and relaxation to be found in our great state, let us not forget our obligation to Templary. We have promised to not only make things interesting and fun in our Commandery work, but to help provide service for those less fortunate who need our kind help. This year more than ever, many families are struggling to provide the necessities and have put eye care on hold until better times. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is a great way to give something to someone who desperately needs help. When we receive a request from one of the many charities who purport to helping those in need, we often wonder where our dollar goes and exactly how much of it actually reaches those who are supposed to receive the help from our contribution. Did you know that only 8.6 cents goes to administration costs at the KTEF? Many other charities spend as much as 40 cents of your dollar for that administrative portion! Next time you consider where to make your contribution, rest assured that sight is one of the most essential needs a human being has and that you and your Commandery can make the difference between keeping and losing that need for one or more citizens of our great country. Why not make your contribution count and know that you have done a good thing that can last a lifetime for someone in need!

Enjoy the summer and remember the KTEF. Earmark your next BBQ to gather proceeds and send a special gift from your Commandery. It's worth the effort and it can be a great time to have fun.