



The Vancouver Commandery NEWSLETTER



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
For Faith, For Service to Humanity

Spring 2019



Sovereign Council Meetings are coming to Vancouver in September 2020

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Upcoming Events

From September 14-20, 2020, the Vancouver Commandery has the honour of hosting the International Meeting for the Sovereign Order of St.

John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. The Pan Pacific Hotel, situated on Vancouver's scenic waterfront, will be home for this prestigious event.

While it may seem like September 2020 is still quite far off, the old adage "time flies" is especially true for gatherings such as these. That is why the Planning Committee has been in place since early 2018. As of April 14, our Countdown Clock to the SOSJ Sovereign Council Meeting in Vancouver will register one year and five months to go!

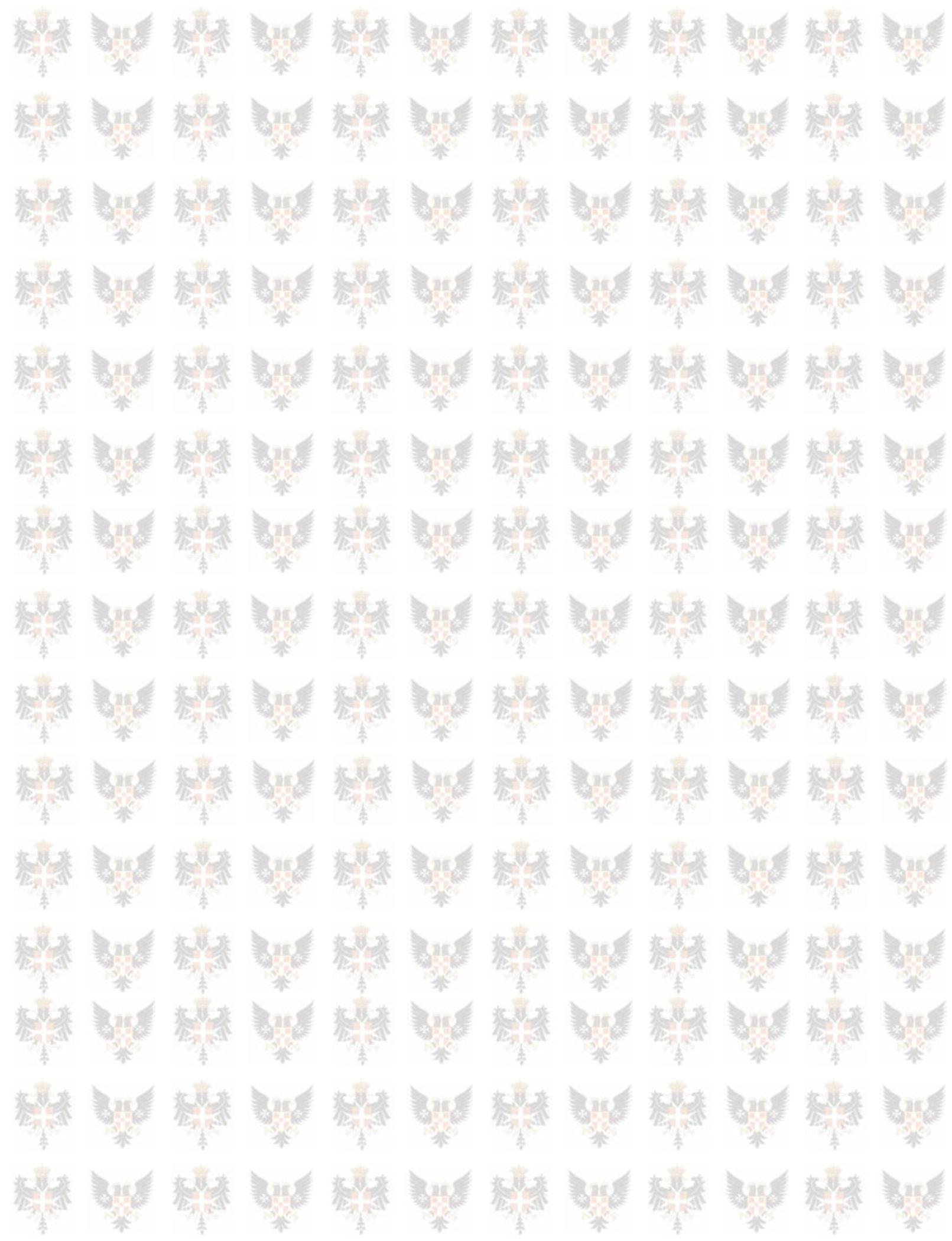
Grand Marshal/Grand Prior of Canada, Richard Earthy, who has attended five of these international meetings over



the past decade, says Le Petit Conseil is very pleased with the progress the committee has made so far.

One of the first projects undertaken by the committee under then-Chair Chevalier Mark Ballard, was to publicize our meeting to those attending the 2018 gathering in Tampere, Finland. In addition to a presentation during the meetings, the Vancouver team showcased itself with impressive banners, brochures and bookmarks as well as Vancouver pens and local chocolates.

The SOSJ Sovereign Council Meetings are held every two years – alternating between European and North American locations. During this Meeting, members of the Sovereign Council discuss business of the Sovereign Order for the coming years.





Le Petit Conseil Liaison - Grand Marshal/Grand Prior of Canada Richard Earthy, Committee Chair – Chevalier Jack McGee and Communications/Marketing – Dame Diana Barkley (taking the photo) and Chevalier George Higgins in a 2020 planning meeting.

It is also an amazing opportunity for members from across the globe to get to know each other and as well as the senior leadership of the Sovereign Order.

The Sovereign Council Meetings on Thursday September 17, 2020 and Friday, September 18, 2020, are open to all members of the Sovereign Order. Grand Marshal Earthy says these international gatherings are also a great opportunity for Knights and Dames (and their partners) to build relationships and forge friendships.

A survey done in the fall of 2018 showed there was great interest in the event (of 700 surveys sent, 108 responses were received, of which 60 per cent will attend and 28 per cent were undecided). Respondents were interested in more information on the various social activities, tours and post conference tour.

Throughout the week, there are a wide variety of exclusive tours being planned – from city tours to day trips. These are designed to not compete with the SC Meetings to which all members are invited. In addition, a number of Post-SCM Excursions are being considered – a trip through the Rocky Mountains via Rocky Mountaineer, a Holland America Alaska Cruise or an Okanagan Wine Tour. The Committee plans to have the post-meeting excursions finalized over the summer.

As time goes forward, the Committee will start to publish regular updates as to the status of the event schedule and social activities (via a link on the Vancouver and the International websites).

A list of the Planning Committee participants is included here for your reference should you have questions or other feedback. Dame Heather Hamilton is heading up the Volunteer Committee and if you want to volunteer before or during the event, she is looking for people with time, talent or treasure to contribute. Look for an information email coming soon!

Introducing your Planning Committee:

Chair – Chevalier Jack McGee

Vice Chair – Chevalier Mark Ballard

Church Services – Chevalier Alex Wood/ Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave

Communications/Marketing – Dame Diana Barkley and Chevalier George Higgins

Finance/Receiver-General – Dame Susan Tufts

Hospitality and Excursions: Dame Linda Annis

Hotel– Chevalier Michael Kaile

Registrar-General – Dame Viviane Reid

Volunteers – Dame Heather Hamilton

Senior Officers:

Le Petit Conseil Liaison - Grand Marshal/Grand Prior of Canada Richard Earthy

Prior of Mainland British Columbia, Anne Rowland

Host: Commander, Vancouver Commandery,

Judith Trowbridge

Secretary – Sarah Turnbull

Our Almoner Fall Visit to Ontario Hospices

In October 2018 Dame Susan Scott Gabe and Prior Dame Anne Rowland travelled to Ontario to visit hospice facilities in Toronto and Ottawa to learn more about best practices in providing care for the homeless.

To date, we have focused on funding projects that support hospices across BC; offering care for homeless and vulnerable individuals is a new area for the Almoner Committee. We felt it was important to benchmark with other hospices that specialize in care for this demographic. Dame Anne Rowland and I travelled to Toronto and Ottawa in October in pursuit of learning more about how best practice organizations provide exceptional care for the homeless. We were keen to learn from Journey Home Hospice and the Diane Morrison Hospice to benchmark promising practices, meet with their care teams, and see first-hand the impact of these forward-thinking communities of care.

Journey Home Hospice, Toronto

Journey Home Hospice - a division of Saint Elizabeth Health, is one of a few hospices in Toronto that provide specialized and comprehensive end-of-life services for the homeless in a safe, welcoming, and caring environment. Dame Rowland and I were given a very warm welcome by senior SE Health leaders, Nancy Lefebre and Julie Adams. Our days in Toronto were packed with activity, including a tour of the four-bed hospice, lunch with new aspirants, and the opportunity to meet with front-line hospice staff, Rami (manager) and Andrea (personal support worker).



While there we witnessed the incredible dedication of the team at Journey Home Hospice and, despite working with minimal resources, we saw the tremendous effort made to combine the comfort of a bed with care and compassion during the last days of people's lives. We heard heart-warming stories and experienced the strong sense of community these Torontonians have built.

Diane Morrison Hospice, Ottawa

This one-of-a-kind 18-bed hospice, a member of the Ottawa Mission, sets a Canadian benchmark for hospice care and outreach programs for the homeless. Open 24/7, the Diane Morrison Hospice prides itself in doing more than simply providing end-of-life care - it strives to strengthen the community and bring meaning and dignity to people who may be otherwise forgotten. It has a physician on staff and welcomes citizens in off the streets, offering sustenance, vocational training, and end-of-life care to mention but a few.

After another very busy few days with leaders, staff members, and representatives from the Ottawa SOSJ Commandery, we were struck with what an incredibly dedicated clinical team they were! While visiting, we also had the opportunity to assist the Ottawa Commandery with fundraising by participating in a run that raised \$10,000 for new mattresses.

All in all the trip east was highly successful. It provided Dame Rowland and me with a great deal of vital information to share with the Almoner Committee and to move forward with confidence on the Downtown Eastside project.

*Yours in St. John,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe DGSJ*

Upcoming Projects

On another note we have been asked to provide Commandery members with examples of pending projects that are part of the continued work of the Knights Hospitaller Almoner Committee. Here are two projects that are in the process of evaluation for funding.



May's Place - Vancouver Downtown Eastside

SOSJ has entered into discussions to partner with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA), BC Housing, and The Bloom Group (TBC) to develop a new 10-bed hospice in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The new hospice, with construction costs estimated at \$7M, is designed specifically to serve the vulnerable members of the local community, patients who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those with significant mental health and addiction challenges. The goal is for SOSJ to raise \$1.5M dedicated to fully furnishing and equipping the floor.



Cowichan Hospice - Cowichan B.C.

Led by Cowichan Hospice, the Cowichan Hospice House Task Force was formed in September 2015. Their mandate is to establish a dedicated hospice facility to serve the Cowichan region offering those at the end of life excellent pain and symptom management in a setting that helps people focus on what is most important to them.

Last fall members of the Almoner Committee visited with the Cowichan Hospice House Task Force to follow up on 2018 BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association grants in action. We were thrilled to see the results and have shared the progress of this project with the Almoner Committee.

The Cowichan Hospice House (CHH) have prepared a detailed project proposition that includes a funding request from the Order. Based on these facts and projections there is clearly a need for a community hospice. To fill this gap, CHH will accommodate seven patients when it opens, with capacity for three additional patients. In terms of next steps, the Vancouver and Victoria commanderies will meet to discuss possible funding for the hospice.



Honouring the work of Chevalier David Hunt

The Almoner Committee, so ably chaired by Chevalier David Hunt, is now co-chaired by Dame Susan Scott Gabe and Chevalier John Jennings. Prior Anne Rowland hosted a small Almoner Committee gathering at her home to thank David and of course he was the life of the party. The committee presented him with a lovely bottle of something or other that seemed to please him greatly. The Vancouver Commandery would like to extend our deep expression of gratitude to Chevalier Hunt for his hard work and dedication over the past few years.

A Letter From Our Commander

Greetings everyone. I hope you all successfully coped with our brisk record setting cold winter. There is something very invigorating and righteous about a cold sunny day but take heart... it is now spring and we are galloping ever closer to our June investiture and the Sovereign Council meeting of 2020.

Chevalier Jack McGee has assembled an impressive team to navigate the multiple facets required to organize such a grand meeting. We are all grateful for their hard work and look forward to the final result. I feel confident that both the SOSJ and our fine city will be proudly showcased.

Our Membership Committee, under the stewardship of Chevalier John Rogers, has also been working very diligently to select Aspirants who will be inducted at our June investiture.

We remain the largest Commandery in the world and every year we seem to continue to add to our ranks stellar new members. Thank you to those that recommended these excellent Aspirants. The investiture this year is June 8 and I am hoping everyone will make an effort to attend to enjoy the pageantry and welcome our new aspirants.

The downtown east side project is still on our radar although there have been a few hurdles that have had to be dealt with. Our estimation is that within the next 6 months we should have a good grasp on the project and hopefully will be able to fire up our fundraising engine room. I'm so pleased that some of our members have already come forward as donors or as volunteers to fundraise. This hospice will, in our estimation, be a template for more hospices that are so needed in our downtown east side and similarly compromised communities right across the country.

There have been a few changes regarding our committees that I would like to update you on.

The Almoner Committee, so ably chaired by Chevalier David Hunt, is now co-chaired by Dame Susan Scott Gabe and Chevalier John Jennings. I would like to extend a deep expression of gratitude to Chevalier Hunt for his hard work and dedication over the past few years.

Our co-chairs have already hit the ground running with multiple proposals vetted and in the hopper for consideration. They are a very impressive team and I would like to thank them for taking up the task.

Our Social Committee is now chaired by Dame Heather Hamilton. Dame Hamilton is busy on multiple committees so it's easy to say that she is well organized and a multi-tasker! I know that we are in very good hands. Thank-you Dame Hamilton for accepting the position.

A 'huge' thank you to Chevalier Mark Ballard. Once more here is someone who has spent countless hours organizing the events that we all enjoy so much. There are so many details that go into even the smallest gathering. I'm sure we all appreciate his efforts and express our gratitude for his years of acting as chair. Chevalier Ballard continues to work on the 2020 committee.

As we have mentioned before in our newsletter member engagement is something that we are asked about now and then. There are some members who are happy to attend the functions and meetings, others who connect on a more arms length approach and then those that would like to do something. I like to call the latter our "boots on the ground" approach. This year I would like to encourage the creation of more such programs.

As you are all aware our mandate is to help the Lords sick and the poor. Our palliative care portion of this mandate is, and will always be, our main focus but some members would like to assist with the "boots on the ground" portion of our mandate.

Our Hospitaller Dame Nancy Van Laeken and our Almoner Committee I'm sure will be diligently assessing programs that might meet our mandate requirements. Hopefully we can post some projects that would offer members the opportunity to become engaged and volunteer time, goods, or funds to these projects. Dame Van Laeken proposed a few such activities at our Christmas luncheon and had a very good response from our members.

The Vancouver Commandery also donated \$2500 to needy families for Christmas food and gifts for children as well as \$2500 to the Christ Church Cathedral's Maundy cafe for their winter season. I'm sure this winter has been especially challenging for the poor and needy



We must continue to grow our Commandery, thereby increasing the myriad of strengths, talents, ideas and energy that contribute to this powerful Commandery and it's ability to fulfill our mandate.

*Yours in St. John,
Commander Judith Trowbridge DGSJ*

Hospitaller Committee Report

The Bloom Group has expressed their deepest gratitude for the donations that were provided during the Christmas season. The residents of all facilities were delighted to have our support and The Bloom Group has expressed a desire to have the opportunity to provide special care for their residents throughout the whole year rather than just the Christmas season.

They are hopeful that they will continue to receive donations, gifts and in addition to some onsite volunteering as I will describe below.

Volunteering Opportunities - Cordova House Clothing Room

The Bloom Group welcomes volunteers to help in organizing and unpacking the clothes and making the room more appealing. This is a project that could be tackled by a group of folks in an afternoon or a day or by one or two people over time with a visible and almost immediately positive impact.

Donation Ideas - All Facilities

Any food and beverages such as tea, chocolates, cookies, brownies, meat and veggie platters, especially tied to holidays such as the Easter season, would be much appreciated. Additionally, seasonal flowers and plants can make the living space more pleasant.

All facilities are seeking donations of clothing such as t-shirts and jackets, socks, toques, gloves and long underwear. Lighter clothing for the summer, heavier clothing for the winter. Flip-flops are greatly needed for residents to wear inside the building. Toiletries such as soap, shampoo and lotions are always appreciated. It would be easy for any member of our Commandery to collect these items and drop them off at one of the Bloom Group affiliated organizations.

Also, specific to Springhouse, because this is a housing facility for single mothers that allow young males up to early teens to reside, they are often wanting to support the youngsters with gift cards and gifts suitable for ages 6 to 8.

Based on the above-mentioned needs for The Bloom Group, I will be seeking out volunteers from the Order of St. John to support these initiatives. I can be contacted directly, and we will create a committee and assign individuals to each of these causes.

Bloom Group Facilities in need of Donations and Volunteers

Mental Health Housing:

Victory House
Santiago Lodge
Cecelia House

Supportive Housing:

Cordova House

Affordable Housing:

The View
Nicholson Tower
Somerville Place

Interested parties are asked to contact Dame Van Laeken at nancy@vanlaeken.com



Yours in St. John
Dame Nancy Van Laeken DGSJ



Update from Your Membership Committee

The winter months have been a busy period of time for the Membership Committee as we sought new potential members to join our Commandery. As of this date we have a total of nine Aspirants who have been vetted and stand ready to come into the Order. I thank all members of our Committee for their fine work over the past year and for the potential member recommendations that have come from members of our Commandery.

That said, I thought it would be helpful to review the membership application process we employ for the information of all members. Below is an outline of the membership process followed by the Membership Committee (MC):

Once again, members of the MC are to be thanked for their attendance and diligence, especially with so many vetting issues arising in the past few months. If you have any questions or are interested in nominating someone in future, please do not hesitate to contact me for information or assistance.



*Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Rodgers
KJSJ*

Membership Committee Nomination Process

- *Nomination forms are available by contacting Membership Committee (MC) Chair Chevalier John Rodgers at john@likewise.law.*
- *Nominees are not to be notified that he or she is under consideration for membership until the vetting process (see below) has been completed. In special circumstances, this requirement may be relaxed by the MC.*
- *Nomination forms require 5 items of information of the Nominee to be fully completed and signed by one (or two) Proposers. A Proposer must be a member of the Order in good standing. The Nominee must be Christian.*
- *A CV of the Nominee is to be attached to the completed Nomination form.*
- *The MC meets monthly to review/vet completed Nomination forms and CVs. If the MC approves a Nominee, it passes their documentation to the Commandery Committee (CC) (which is comprised of the heads of various committees of the Vancouver Commandery) for final approval. The CC meets every two months.*
- *Once CC approval is obtained, the Proposer(s) and perhaps a Member of the MC will meet with the Nominee to deliver and review a membership brochure.*
- *The membership brochure will contain a Petition for Admission, a list of “critical dates” in the process for investiture, a list of members of the Vancouver Commandery and the latest Commandery newsletter.*
- *A Nominee who signs the Petition for Admission, along with two “Guarantors” (normally, one or both are Proposers) and pays the initiation fee (currently \$1,950), will, upon signature of the Petitioner by the Grand Prior, Prior and Commander become an “Aspirant” and begins preparations for investiture following the list of critical dates. As part of the preparations, the Aspirant is fitted for a cape.*
- *The timetable for the membership process requires completed Nominations and CVs to be presented to the MC, ideally in September, October or November, with their approval being sought by the end of December, CC approval being sought in January, and documentation being finalized by February. The MC is glad to accept Nominations at any time, however their investiture may be delayed.*
- *Finally, the Aspirant would be invested in Vancouver in June, after attending informational sessions of the Vancouver Commandery. If the Aspirant cannot attend the Vancouver investiture in June, he or she can be invested in Victoria in the Fall. Guarantors of an Aspirant take special pride in his or her investiture.*

Memories From Investitures Past



On The Social Scene

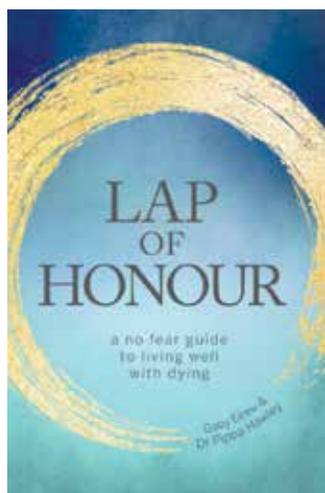
A Recap of Recent Events

Last fall we had our Fall Fling Social at Cuchillo Restaurant, which, by all accounts, was a great success. So much so that we are planning to do it again! Although you will be getting an e-vite email from us, we are posting the details below.

Our annual Christmas luncheon, held at the University Women's Club of Vancouver, was also well attended by more than 75 members, spouses and friends who enjoyed a wonderful menu of roasted turkey and west coast wild salmon while entertained by a string duet.



Upcoming Events



An Evening with Pippa Hawley

Time is precious when you face a life-threatening illness. A doctor specialising in palliative medicine, Hawley's book is an informed and compassionate guide to making the most of that last lap of life's journey, designed to help people handle the demands and limitations of illness so that they can focus on living as well as possible in whatever time they have.

LOCATION: Heather Hamilton's home at 5463 Cypress Street.

DATE AND TIME: Mon. May 13, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30



Spring Fling

This is a special event for new members of our Commandery who joined in the years 2014 to 2018. Attendees at this event will enjoy a fun evening making new friends while dining from a mostly Mexican menu that occasionally slips the borders into Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Columbia.

LOCATION: Cuchillo Restaurant
261 Powell Street, Vancouver

DATE AND TIME: Wed. May 1 at 6:00.



*Yours in St. John,
Dame Heather Hamilton DGSJ*

Upcoming Events, Vancouver

- April 23, 2019
Okanagan Commandery Annual General Meetings
- April 25, 2019
Vancouver Commandery Annual General Meetings and Dinner
- April 28, 2019
Okanagan Commandery Wine and Art Because You Care Event
- May 13, 2019
An evening with Lap of Honour author - Pippa Hawley
- June 7/8, 2019
Vancouver Commandery Investiture & Gala
- October 18, 2019 - October 19, 2019
Victoria Commandery Investiture
- September 14 - 20, 2020
Sovereign Council Meeting - Vancouver 2020

December 6, 2019
Victoria Commandery Christmas Luncheon

Upcoming Events, Worldwide

- April 27, 2019 - April 28, 2019
Priories of Western United States and San Francisco Area Investiture
- May 17, 2019
St. Joseph Commandery Annual Golf Tournament
- June 21, 2019 - June 22, 2019
Commandery of The Sierras Investiture - CANCELLED!
- June 21, 2019 - June 23, 2019
Priory of Brittany Feast of St. John Celebration and Investiture
- June 24, 2019
St. John The Baptist Day
- August 22, 2019 - August 24, 2019
Glasgow Commandery Investiture
- August 31, 2019
Tampere Commandery Investiture
- September 7, 2019
St. Joseph Commandery Summer Garden Party
- October 11, 2019 - October 12, 2019
Commandery of Cleveland Investiture
- November 8, 2019 - November 9, 2019
Commandery of the Palm Beaches Investiture
- August 30, 2020
Commandery of Central Finland Investiture

* See Vancouver and Internation websites for more details



North Shore Hospice Opening

On October 30th of 2018, the Lion's Gate Hospital Foundation's North Shore Hospice opened the province's first palliative care hub to provide wrap-around services for people with life-threatening illness.

This ground-breaking \$2.3 million facility, called the Everyday Counts Centre, is connected to the existing North Shore Hospice, and will provide clinical, practical and emotional outpatient services for both patients and their families. In addition to rapid access to specialists in one location patients will be able to avoid uncomfortable waits in the hospital Emergency Department.

\$150,000 of financial assistance was provided by the Vancouver Commandery. This advanced facility serves as a fine example of our organization's continued commitment to much needed palliative services to assist the sick and poor.

Welcome to the Spring 2019 newsletter

Greetings from your Herald, Vancouver Commandery.

As we continue to find new and more compelling ways to communicate with our membership, we welcome your input and suggestions. We are always looking for story ideas and in particular, if you are attending an event we would be grateful to have photography and a brief recount for inclusion into our newsletter and email outreach.



*Yours in St. John,
Chevalier Steve Simpson
KSJ, Herald*



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published by:

Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
Knights Hospitaller - Vancouver Commandery
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Acknowledgements:

Special thank you to Commander Judith Trowbridge, Diana Barkley,
Heather Hamilton, Nancy Van Laeken, John Rogers, Susan Scott Gabe
and Sarah Turnbull for their contributions to this edition)