The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
Vancouver Commandery

Spring 2012

CHARTING THE COURSE

Members of the Board met in early January at a Strategic Planning session facilitated by Rick Knowlan. The session addressed many goals and objectives for the Vancouver Commandery. Story in this issue

Letter from Commander Richard Earthy

Greetings to all. As the days get longer and warmer I'm sure we all feel that sense of renewal and energy that spring brings along with it.

I am pleased to report that the Board of the Vancouver Commandery met in early January at a very productive Strategic Planning session. It is important to the success and survival of any organization that they regularly assess who they are and what they want to become.

By examining and refocusing our Mission and Visions and redefining our goals, we can determine where our Commandery is headed and how to make a difference. Our deliberations were lively and candid and the results of the session will be presented to the Commandery after our assigned task groups have shaped them into a draft document.

I must congratulate all those who have worked so diligently on our Hospice. Even though we are nearing our fundraising goals, we anticipate some increased cost overruns and unforeseen challenges that we must address as well . I encourage you to financially support our Hospice project if you haven't done so already. We are in the planning stages for a site dedication ceremony that will take place in the very near future.

I would like to remind the members of two very important dates on the horizon. Our AGM is on Thursday April 19th at the Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club and I encourage you all to attend and participate in important annual event.

Our Vancouver Commandery Investiture will be on Saturday June 9th at the Christ Church Cathedral followed by a Reception and Dinner at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia. We have a fine group of Aspirants to be invested this year and I hope to see many of you at our annual Investiture ceremony.

Thanks for all you do throughout the year in the name of the Order.

Yours in St. John,
Richard Earthy KCSJ
Commander

Dates To Remember

You are encouraged to attend the Educational and Social Activities of the Commandery. There are many opportunities for our members to become involved in the rewarding work of the Vancouver Commandery

APRIL 19th 2012

Topic: **Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Commandery & the Foundation (Spouses are most welcome)**

Time: 5:30pm – AGM

6:30pm – Reception& Dinner

Location: Shaughnessy Golf Club

MAY 26th 2012

Guest Speaker: **Dame Dr. Robyn Woodward, DCSJ**

Topic: **History of the Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller**

Part I (1113 – 1900)

Time: 09:45 for 10:00 start

Location: The Vancouver Club

JUNE 09th 2012

Topic: **Vancouver Commandery Investiture & Gala Dinner**

Time: 4:30pm – Christ Church Cathedral

6:00pm – Gala Reception & Dinner

Location: Rosewood Hotel Georgia

801 West Georgia Street

June 20th 2012

Guest Speaker: **Dame Dr. Robyn Woodward, DCSJ**

Topic: **History of the Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller**

Part II (1900 – present)

Time: 6:00 Registration – 6:30pm Dinner & Presentation (plan for 40 - 50 people)

Location: The Terminal City Club

JULY 11th 2012

Guest Speaker: **H.M.E.H. Grand Master Bailiff David Rolfe**, GCSJ, CMSJ, MMSJ

Topic: **The Sovereign Order & the Sovereign Council**

Time: 6:00 Registration – 6:30pm Dinner & Presentation (plan for 20-30 people)

Location: The Terminal City Club

837 West Hastings Street

19-21 September 2012 Sovereign Council Meeting

Celebration:

100th Anniversary of Order in the Americas

San Francisco, California

Strategic Planning Session

Rick Knowlan of the Knowlan Consulting Group guided the Commandery Directors through the Strategic Planning process

In the story *Alice in Wonderland,* Alice and the Cheshire Cat arrive at a crossroads. "Which road should I take?" inquires Alice. "Where do want to go?" replies the cat.. "I have no idea," she answers. "Then, it doesn't much matter which road you should take does it?" replies the cat.

So it is with any organization, whether it is a business, a non-profit society or a social club. If there is no one at the helm to set the course it is easy to get lost at sea or travel a path to nowhere.

The statesman Hubert Humphrey is quoted as saying: "We will have to decide today whether to design the future or resign ourselves to it."

On January 12th, 2012 the Directors of the Vancouver Commandery met with Rick Knowlan of Knowlan and Associates to examine some of the challenges facing our organization. After a productive session that produced many workable ideas, we arrived at seven topics that we agreed needed to be addressed to assist us in moving forward.

Topic I: The Order's fundamental purpose
Topic II: Engage members
Topic III: Complete the St. John Hospice project
Topic IV: Build and broaden the membership
Topic V: Develop a 5-year plan
Topic VI: Develop plans for major projects
Topic VII: Build the profile of the order
Topic VIII – Gather, short-list and select ideas for projects

The topics have been assigned to various task groups and we will provide a draft document to all Commandery members for discussion. We hope that in this way we can gain the valuable support of many more of the membership and use their talents and expertise as we chart our new course.

2011 Christmas Lunch

The 2011 Christmas lunch was held at the Point Grey Golf and Country Club on a sunny December afternoon. We had a total of seventy-six guests in attendance who enjoyed the elegant buffet lunch. After an update on the St. John Hospice Project and a presentation to Prior of Canada Emeritus Poul Hansen, we were all treated to an inspiring presentation by Vocalist Andrew Robb.

Andrew Robb is a Masters of Music Student at the University of British Columbia and is an active tenor soloist in Vancouver. While at UBC Andrew has been featured as the tenor soloist with the UBC Symphony performing Bach's *Magnificat* and *Hidas Requiem*. With UBC Opera Andrew recently sang the title role in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring,* and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*. Andrew is also a three time NAIA All-American and the former Canadian University individual golf champion. He has represented Golf Canada Internationally in the United States, Europe, South Africa, and Asia. His presentation was well received.

I would like to thank all of those who contributed to the organization of this year's luncheon, particularly Dame Anne Rowland and Chevalier Dann Konkin.

Submitted by Dame Anna Nyarady DGSJ

UBC Vocalist Andrew Robb entertained the guests

Grand Master David L. Rolfe and Commander Richard D. Earthy delivered Christmas messages

2011 Christmas Lunch

Prior Emeritus Poul Hansen KCJSJ, MMSJ

St. John Hospice Fundraising Progress Report

February 29, 2012

Our seventh month of the campaign saw our Provincial Government [BC Housing] confirm a grant of $1,000,000 for construction of **ST JOHN HOSPICE** which along with additional fundraising in February brings us to our target of $4,300,000.

However, we are likely going to be faced with extras before the project is completed so we need a few more dollars [$200,000 should be enough] so all of our reps who still have members to contact, please complete those calls. **We do have a number of members who have not yet contributed to the project and it would be great if we could achieve 100% participation by members, no matter what the amount.** There are also a number of asks out to non members that need to be followed up so for those reps who still have asks out there, please complete those calls.

An example of unplanned extras over which we have little control is the extra $100,000 we have to spend on additional screening and landscaping . UBC wants to keep peace on the Campus and that's OK with us as UBC has been extremely generous to us.

We also want our members and supporters to know that 100% of the funds we have raised for this project will be spent on the project. All other costs, which to date are less than $10,000 will be paid from other sources.

THANKS TO ALL FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT. ALL WE NEED TO DO NOW IS GET ST. JOHN HOSPICE BUILT AND TURNED OVER TO THE OPERATOR.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Mahon, KCJSJ

Fundraising Chairman

SOUTH CORNER

Member News

Dame Barbie Hislop was recognized for distinction in volunteer services for the Vancouver Board of Trade in January of this year. Dame Hislop has been a tireless worker for the Variety Club initiatives for many years.

Chevalier Dave Esworthy will be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame on September 20th, 2012 as a Builder of Equestrian Sport. Chevalier Esworthy has been involved on the equestrian scene Nationally and Provincially for over forty years.

Dame Karen Baker- Mac Grotty has been appointed a few months ago as the Honorary Colonel for The Royal Westminster Regiment by the Minister of National Defence, Hon Peter MacKay upon the recommendation of General W.J. Natynczyk. She was formerly the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for the regiment for the past 5 years and is the only woman in British Columbia as an Hon Colonel.

Dame Shirley Stocker, after an eye-popping 40 years with CKNW, Shirley Stocker, the former Chief of Producers, is hoisting anchor and heading off on her next 40-year adventure. For the past 15 years Shirley has been the skipper of the CKNW Orphans' Fund, persuading countless British Columbians to part with millions of dollars.

Chevalier Jim McGregor has been appointed by Order-in-Council to a two year term on the Board of Governors of the Justice Institute of B.C. Chevalier McGregor brings thirty-six years Fire Service experience to the Board table.

All members are encouraged to share any personal promotions, awards or appointments. Your notification will allow the Commandery to update your personal profile .

OBITUARIES

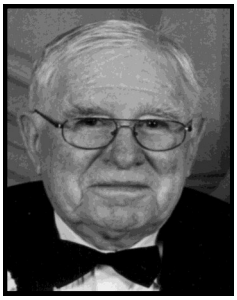
Chevalier Alan Frederick Wolrige KCSJ

October 5th, 1931 - December 6th, 2011

Departing peacefully on the morning of December 6th, 2011, in his 81st year, Al will be sorely missed by all he knew. Chevalier Wolrige has been a member of the Vancouver Commandery since 2004.

The sympathy of all Members of the Commandery is extended to all members of the Wolrige family.

Commander Richard D. Earthy KCSJ



Chevalier Richard B. Trethewey KCSJ

Chevalier Richard B. Trethewey, KCSJ passed away on Monday, March 19th 2012 .

Chevalier Trethewey has been a member of the Order since June 1991. Richard was always an active supporter of the Commandery and its many activities.

The deepest sympathy of all Members of the Commandery is extended to his wife, Dame Elizabeth Trethewey, DGSJ and their family.

Commander Richard D. Earthy KCSJ

Website Under Construction

We are upgrading and redesigning our website to facilitate easier navigation. Our present Vancouver Commandery site is found at www.sosjvancouver.org.

Once we have reformatted, we will be looking for ideas and help to restructure our site so please stay tuned for our calls for those of you with web site expertise.

The SOSJ International site is the model we will be using. It is located at www.sosjinternational.org.

We will soon be adding links to other sites to provide all the members access to other Commandery's activities.

Newsletter Submissions

We encourage you to forward any items for the good of the Order. If you have any information to submit contact me directly at **nine-1@shaw.ca** or send it via Administrative Assistant Gail Dunn at :

admin@sosjvancouver.org.

Thanks to all who have submitted articles or photos for this issue.

Yours in St. John,

Chevalier Jim McGregor KGSJ

Herald and Editor