

VICTORIA COMMANDERY NEWS- FALL 2019 INVESTITURE

On Saturday October 19th the Commandery of Victoria held their 2019 Investiture Service at beautiful Christ Church Cathedral. It was a gorgeous day outside and a wonderful service inside with the Church Cathedral Choir and Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band.

The Victoria Commandery was thrilled to welcome 10 new Aspirants to the Order: Peter Baillie, Greg Conner, Simone Conner, Ann Piercy, Brian Rimmer, Marguerite Rowe, Eric Spurling, Marilyn Spurling, Aaron Usatch, and John Wallace. This is the largest number of Aspirants the Commandery has invested at one time, a special reason to celebrate. This also brings the Victoria Commandery up to 66 members – the third largest in North America!



Newly Invested members with Grand Master William Stein and Chevalier (the Reverend) Ian Powell

Over 80 participated in the events which included guests and members from San Francisco, Okanagan, and Vancouver Commanderies. Six Victoria members received promotions: Chevalier Richard Crow, Chevalier James McKenzie, Dame Starr McMicheal, Chevalier Daniel Sharp, Dame Virginia Leigh MacCarthy, and Commander Maria Dominelli.

The Victoria Commandery was honored to have senior officers of the Order officiating:

HMEH Bailiff Grand Master William D. Stein, GCSJ, MMSJ;
HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid, GCSJ, MMSJ and Bar;
HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard D. Earthy, GCSJ, MMSJ;
HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Counsellor David J.R. Petitpierre, GCSJ, MMSJ;
Grand Prior of Canada, Stewart Johnston, KJSJ;
Prior of Vancouver Island, Deedrie Ballard, DCJSJ;
Prior of Mainland British Columbia, Anne K. Rowland DCJSJ, MMSJ;

At Saturday evening's Gala, Victoria Commandery presented a \$60,000 cheque to Victoria Hospice to fulfill this year's commitment to support the Closer to Community Initiative and 2 Mobile Health Clinics (Westshore and Jubilee). The Gala evening's silent and live auction fundraisers will further Victoria's efforts to help the sick and the poor for the coming year.



Silent Auction

VICTORIA HOSPICE OPEN HOUSE

Members of the Victoria Commandery attended the Victoria Hospice Community Support Centre on October 5th. It was an opportunity to celebrate a notable expansion for Hospice and the Order's contributions to the Closer to the Community initiative, as well as the new ambulatory clinics in the Westshore and Royal Block at Royal Jubilee.



Dame Mary Collins, Chevalier Dan Parker, Dame Marguerite Rowe, Prior Deedrie Ballard, Commander Maria Dominelli, Chevalier Terry Farmer (MC of the event)

Breakfast at Cool Aid Society-Rock Bay Landing

On Monday Nov 4th, members of the Victoria Commandery sponsored and served breakfast at one of the Cool Aid Society's homeless shelter, Rock Bay Landing. This shelter provides storage, showers, laundry, computers, meals and rooms for group work, education and counselling. It also offers 84 shelter beds and 23 transitional rooms for residents working to be permanently housed.



Reporting for Duty: Grand Prior Stewart Johnston, Dame Penny Johnston, Dame Mary Collins, Chevaliers: Bernie Beck, Richard Crowe, Frank Bourree and Aaron Usatch

Upcoming-Membership Orientation Session

All Victoria members are invited to the Membership Orientation to be held on Nov 25th. The Order's history, strategic plan/goals, and our committee structures will be featured. It will be an opportunity for new/existing members to learn more about our past and present and most importantly, provide input into future direction. Committee chairs will share their purpose and mandate and answer any questions. Those committees that will benefit from more members will hopefully be overflowing by the end of the evening!