



Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

PRIORY OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COMMANDERY OF THE PALM BEACHES

MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT:

	<u>Knights</u>	<u>Dames</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Demoiselle</u>	<u>Squire</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/31/16	27	20	4	0	0	51
12/31/17	36	27	4	0	0	67

The Palm Beach Commandery holds its investiture: annually bi-annually other (specify how often) biennially (every 2 years)

The Commandery's last investiture was held on November 4, 2017 when 7 Knights and 8 Dames joined the Commandery.

At the investiture, the following were promoted:

Dame Judith Lynn Miller to the rank of Dame of Justice

Chevalier Wallace Dale, Chevalier Frank Gulisano, Dame Mary Mimi Howard, Dame Nancy Marshall, Chevalier Very Rev. Canon Thomas Skindeleski, and Dame Barbara Benson Wymer to the rank of Dame/Knight of Grace.

The goal for the next investiture, to be held on November, 2019 is 10 - 15 new members. We also will be giving attention to identifying squires and demoiselles to add to our Commandery.

To identify and recruit new members, we are planning small dinners that members can invite individuals who they feel are interested and worthy of membership. History of the Sovereign Order and the Commandery Missions are discussed in open discussion. We credit the large class of Aspirants to this endeavor and will continue to have additional dinners for recruitment in 2018.

OFFICERS:

In 2017, the following were elected as the officers of the Palm Beach Commandery:

Antonia (Toni) Mastrullo	Commander
Gayle Landen-Greene (resigned 1-5-18)	Vice Commander
Thornton Henry	Acting Vice Commander until Board Elections
Rebecca Doane	Treasurer
Mary (Mimi) Howard	Secretary

As of January 8, 2017, the following persons were appointed as Chairs of the Committees indicated:

Gayle Landen-Greene & Allison Wright	Co-Chairs Philanthropy
Charles Schoech	Membership
Nancy Marshall	Hospitality
Barbara Benson Wymer	Communications
Charles Schoech & Judith Miller	Co-Chairs Investiture
Chip Williams	Fund Raising
Belle Glade	Pamela Martyna

Provide other information about structure:

The Commandery has an Executive Committee/Board which is comprised of the officers and has a total Board of 18 Members that serves a 3 year term. This includes the officers. Officers are appointed yearly.

Provide information on succession planning for all Officer and Chair positions. This is being worked on.

FINANCES:

As of December 31, 2017, cash on hand was \$129,158.14.

The Palm Beach Commandery has filed its Form 990 for 2016 on November 13, 2017. Report was not due until November 15 2017. Information for the 2017 will be submitted shortly after the year end.

Fee for Membership: \$2,500 individual; \$2,000 each if husband and wife join together.
Annual Oblations for Commandery: \$500

MEMBERSHIP:

The last year several small dinner parties were held with potential Aspirants and their sponsors. The topics were the history of the Sovereign Order & Our missions. We will continue this practice.

PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS:

No special Project this year.

Other Projects:

\$500 – Feed Palm Beach County (Chev. Tony Lofaso) Donation and Helping Hands
(At this event, several members and future Aspirants participated in February)

\$1000 – Florida Outreach for the Blind – This was our Christmas project where we provided money for Them to purchase gifts for the young children and our members had a gathering where we

Brought Gift Cards for the teens. Supplied food for their party also.
\$1,000 – YWCA High Tea Sponsorship 4 Members gave to support the YWCA at the Tea.

Due to this being an Investiture year with 15 Aspirants, the Treasurer had limited the committee to \$5,000 as robes and regalia had to be purchased. The balance will be remaining for the Food Drive in 2018.

BELLE GLADE PROJECT:

The First Haitian Baptist Children Development Center. Funds totaling approximate \$40,690 in a restricted fund for the rebuilding of the Children Development Center where the children go to do homework and play in a free after school program. We continue to support this church with food and clothing. Palm Beach County is the richest county in the State of Florida with 2 of the poorest cities Belle Glade & Pahokee with many gangs and drugs. Pastor collects these children after school and gets them off the street. Dame Pam Martyna has spear headed this committee which was under the Philanthropy Committee. In 2017 it was discussed that we either have to meet with the Church and get a current plan that they have for the project. Otherwise if action isn't taken on their party, we were prepared to write to each person who donated to the fund and find out their wishes since the project seemed to reach a dead end. It was taken out of the Philanthropy Committee and Chev. Schoech & Williams have offered their expertise. A meeting was held with Assistant Pastor Morana St. Hilaire to discuss how the plans are progressing. We met the Architects and listened to their plan of action. One problem is how they are going to run the program once the building is torn down. Apparently, the City will tear it down. We were promised information by our Annual Meeting. Dame Martyna was not able to be at the Annual Meeting.

Hurricane Irma brought more destruction to the building along with the Pavilion that is used for an eating area for the Children. The top blew off and the tables that were made of press board were soaked and warped. After the Investiture weekend, several of us took members of SOSJ from Vancouver to see the project and give us some guidance. After that meeting and seeing the destruction, Dame Martyna and Chevalier Smith took it upon themselves to find a solution to mount tables purchased from Lowe's and remove the legs, remove the damaged boards and mount them on the existing frames. Wonderful solution. Hurricane Irma could have been a bit nicer and blew the house down so insurance could be collected. Oh Well!

OTHER ACTIVITIES – HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

We started the New Year with a New Year's Eve Party at Dame Marshall with Fireworks on Flagler. Ran a 50/50 where the first 2017 Charity Champion was born. It was won by Dame Howard and awarded to the Celtic Festival in the Keys.

This clever idea was created by the Chair, Dame Nancy Marshall. The idea was to allow members to support their favorite Charity having to complete an application created by the Philanthropy Committee and Hospitality Committee. The member must work with their charity raising \$2,017 and meet the criteria of the committees. In the meantime, the Hospitality Committee worked on several fund raising ideas to raise the matching \$2,017. At almost every event an Auction was held raising funds along with items purchased such as bracelets, credit card holders & aprons for sale.

March 26, 2017 was the Annual Shalhoub BBQ – Open to all Members and Future Aspirants and friends that members feel should be considered. Always a wonderful event hosted by Chevalier & Dame Shalhoub. Great success! We collected Easter Baskets along with a great auction to raise funds for the 2017 Charity Champions.

April many of us attended the In Jacob's Shoes Gala.

On June 24th 25 Knights and Dames celebrated the Feast of St. John the Baptist with services held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church (site of Investiture) and had a pot luck supper afterwards. Of course we had a jewelry sale from pieces donated by members. Great fun!

July 24th brought our Board Meeting to In Jacob's Shoes Wine & Cheese Shoe Cleaning Evening – Several members traveled to their headquarters and had a wonderful evening of fun cleaning the shoes. Little wine helps!! In Jacob's Shoes was the second 2017 Charity Champion to meet the criteria and funds were raised by doing a Bakeless Cake Sale. They rose along with Toni Mastrullo over \$3,000. The award was given that evening.

On September 24th several members gather at the Colony for Lunch to Celebrate the Commander's Birthday. In lieu of gifts contributions were made to the 2017 Charity Champions.

Of course October's meeting was dedicated to the Investiture Committee tying up last minute details.

Boutique was also available at the Meet & Greet at Investiture Weekend!

December 9, Dame Martyna and Chevalier Smith held a Merry Christmas Party at their home and fun was held by all. And yes we had one last auction!

At December, 2017 we had enough funds to award 2 more Charities – Children's Home Society and the Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope \$2,017 each. Awarded at the Annual Meeting.

Since the auctions and Sales of product was so wonderful we have enough funds to do approximate 3 more charities so notice was sent out and we are waiting the outcome from the Committee evaluating them.

At our February, 2018 meeting we will present the remaining funds of \$5,336 to the following charities who completed the criteria:

Palm Beach Habilitation Center
Visiting Nurse Foundation of Florida
Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, Inc

This pilot project will be evaluated for continuance in 2018. Congratulations to all charities awarded.

INVESTITURE

On November 4th, we welcomed 15 new Knights and Dames into the Palm Beach Commandery along with 1 Knight from the Washington, D.C. Commandery. We had over 76 Members from all over march and the ceremony and activities were wonderful. Thank you to all that attended. Another special moment was the awarding of the Medal of Merit to the founders of In Jacob's Shoes for all the work they have done with us around the Commandery and in Palm Beach. Harlene and Murray Zweig were shocked and so grateful. This honor is the only award that can be given to a non-Christian.

MEMBER RECOGNITIONS/ADVANCEMENTS

Chevalier Mastrullo and Commander Mastrullo were interviewed by the Coastal Star Newspaper about the work that they are doing helping the sick and poor. They also published a picture of our newest Knights and Dames in the January paper!

Dame Chelly Templeton was made Dean of the Palm Beach Atlantic School of Education and Behavioral Studies.

NEWSLETTERS

Please refer to newsletters provided to the membership during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni R. Mastrullo

Dame Antonia (Toni) Mastrullo, Commander