

October 2019



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SAINT LAZARUS®

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

HE the Chevalier Ron Hendricks GCLJ

Ronald Hendrikus Maria Hendriks GCLJ was born on 2 October 1944 in Amsterdam and died on 11 September 2019 at the age of 74. Ron is survived by his two children and his partner Herma.

Ron had a long and distinguished career in the health care industry. He retired at the age of 60 as Chief Executive Officer of a Dutch health insurance company. After his retirement, Ron was asked by the World Bank to advise governments of quite a few lesser developed countries on the implementation of a national health care system. He ably assisted many of these countries in developing needed health care for their citizens. Ron served as chairman, member of the supervisory board and consultant of numerous health care related organizations. He was vice president of the foundation for aid to the young people in Rwanda. He spent years with the International Marching League with walking marches in 23 countries and served as its Chairman of the Board.

In October 2004, Ron was knighted by the Queen of the Netherlands as an Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau, an extremely significant achievement.

Ron was a member of the Order of Saint Lazarus since 1992 and rose through the ranks to Knight Grand Cross 10 years later. He was appointed Bailiff of the Grand Bailiwick of the Low Countries in April 2002. After a devastating problem was uncovered with the former Malta Obedience in 2004, Ron played a leading role in rescuing and reorganizing the Malta Obedience of the Order, starting from scratch, beginning with a bank balance of zero. In April 2004, he was appointed as a member of the Grand Magistral Council (GMC), and Ron played an instrumental role on the Joint Reunification Committee in reunification of the Malta and Paris Obediences of the Order, which occurred in 2006. Ron served in various positions on the GMC and was appointed as Grand Prior of the Order in March 2011. In March 2012, he became Grand Commander of the Order and served in this position until May 2018. Ron was appointed to the Category of Justice by the authority of former Grand Master Don Carlos in November 2013. Ron's final position with the Order was as Chairman of the International Grand Bailiwick.

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Public Relations and Communications Committee

Chair: Chev. Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

chair.iprcc@st-lazarus.net

Vice Chair: Dame Val Hiscock DCLJ

editor.iprcc@st-lazarus.net

Website: www.st-lazarus.net

From the Grand Master

A personal tribute to HE the Chevalier Ron Hendricks



“He was a very special friend whom many of us loved and respected. Our Order will not be the same without him, and we will never forget his kindness. “

It is my distinct honour to offer this tribute to our dear friend and Grand Commander Emeritus, Ronald Hendriks, GCLJ, who passed away on Wednesday, 11 September 2019 at the age of 74 after a courageous battle against cancer. Ron was a friend to many members of the Order and traveled extensively throughout the world to visit our jurisdictions.

We will always remember his strong, unwavering commitment to the Order and his great kindness. His human and Christian qualities and absolute dedication to the service of the Order were known and appreciated by many. We lost a special friend, a gentle giant of a man who was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was as large as life in personality, and his management skills were second to none. We greatly appreciated him, and he was very loyal, reliable and supportive.

Ron was truly a pillar of our Order in many ways. The Order is deeply indebted to Ron for his leadership and guidance over many years. He was a solid right hand for me, as well as my uncle and my father. Ron played a key role in achieving the reunification of our Order. It was a privilege to know and work with him.

He was a very special friend whom many of us loved and respected. Our Order will not be the same without him, and we will never forget his kindness. It was an honour to collaborate with a person who excelled in kindness, with respect for the highest values. We will remember him with affection and admiration. We have lost a dear and special friend and mentor, but his legacy will live on for years to come.

Our heartfelt prayers and most sincere condolences go to Herma and Ron's family at this sad time, as well as all who loved and cared for Ron. He was a good friend and brother in Saint Lazarus, and it is a joy to pay this tribute to a great servant of the Order.

Et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere, aeternam habeat requiem



Around Europe, jurisdictions are busy in their spiritual, educational and charitable works.

With the support of the network of local Communications Officers in Europe, the work of the Order in Europe (and Worldwide) can be publicised to increase public awareness and appreciation of membership of the Order of St Lazarus and its work today.

Our Order in Europe

The European International Region of our Order consists of 33 jurisdictions stretching from Scandinavia in the north to Malta in the Mediterranean Sea to the south.

As Regional Communications Officer for Europe, my responsibilities are to provide a link between the international Public Relation and Communications Committee (PRCC) and local Communication Officers and their jurisdictions in Europe.

Under the Direction of Chev. Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ, Chair of the Committee and Dame Val Hiscock, Vice Chair, the three International Regional Communications Officer (Ed Yaz for the Americas, Will Carter for the Southern Hemisphere and myself) regularly meet together with the support of our Secretary, Andre Lienhard. This would certainly be a logistical challenge were it not for modern technology. To this end, we meet at an arranged time and date by Skype which enables us to have an interactive video meeting crossing time zones and distances with comparative ease. I look forward to these meetings when I can see and speak to the members of the Committee from around the world. I even managed to participate in a recent meeting whilst I was in a remote area of the Isle of Man. All that was necessary to take part was a Wi-Fi link. This is an example of modern technology being used to make the world a virtually smaller place from a communication perspective.

A recent initiative of the Committee has been to carry out a survey to identify jurisdictional websites and social media platforms such as Facebook. Whilst still in progress, several European jurisdictions are active in this area publicising the Order and its work around Europe on their websites and Facebook.

Around Europe, jurisdictions are busy in their spiritual, educational and charitable works. In Hungary, our Brothers and Sisters held a splendid service at Pannonhalma Archabbey. In England and Wales, King Offa Commandery visited Locko Park, the site of a former medieval leprosarium and preceptory of the Order where they held a service of commemoration followed by traditional afternoon tea which raised valuable funds for leprosy charities. The International Academy for the Order of St Lazarus will be holding its third academic meeting in Malta on the 24th-26th October 2019.

With the support of the network of local Communications Officers in Europe, the work of the Order in Europe (and worldwide) can be publicised to increase public awareness and appreciation of membership of the Order of St Lazarus and its work today.

John Bullock CLJ

Regional Communications Officer, Europe



Direct Relief International—a new initiative for the Grand Priory of America

Recently, a new initiative has begun for the Order of Saint Lazarus in the Grand Priory of America. We are working in partnership with another philanthropic organization. That organization is Direct Relief International. Direct Relief is a Santa Barbara based organization that gives away over a billion dollars worth of medical supplies to disaster zones, and medical clinics around the world. They have been doing so since 1948, and they assist all 50 American states and over 80 countries.

A year or so ago, Direct Relief was doing a leprosy pop-up clinic mission in India with a well-known medical company. The partnership ended, but the enthusiasm for helping leprosy patients remained with their team. At a directors' meeting, the musing question came up: "If only we knew somebody doing work in this area..." Luckily for us, Dean Axelrod, Associate Director of Partnerships, did know somebody. Richard Payatt, International Quartermaster General, and recent Commander of the West, happens to live in Santa Barbara. Over the last year a partnership has been forged to get supplies to clinics in America and Mexico. With the brilliant assistance of Guillermo Salas-Vargas, Commander of the Delegation of Mexico, our clinic in Morelia has just received its first two shipments of free medical supplies. The first shipment has been valued at \$16,400 U.S. Dollars. The second, and soon to arrive third shipment do not yet have valuations. And more will come over the years.

Below you can see some of the first supplies being handed out to leprosy patients in Morelia.



Work continues to push along the paperwork to get supplies to clinics working under the Saint Lazarus umbrella in the United States. The leprosy colony on Molokai, in Hawaii, is naturally at the top of that list. Tamra Capstick-Dale has also recently raised an appeal for Richard to investigate if Direct Relief can assist the Priory in Zimbabwe.

Direct Relief would be very happy to extend their partnerships to Saint Lazarus allied clinics around the world. If the Order can provide proper documentation and licensing for doctors, pharmacies, and clinics, Direct Relief will stand beside us and help those most in need. If this works, this partnership has the chance to increase the effective reach of the work of the Order. Funding no longer tied to medical supplies can be redirected to brick and mortar clinics and more medical staff. We may not be able to defeat leprosy world-wide, but we can certainly take the fight to where it is needed.

Richard Payatt

Commandery of the West, Grand Priory of America

rpayattlazarus@gmail.com



World Leprosy Day

The last Sunday in January is now celebrated as World Leprosy Day. This is an opportunity to join with millions across the globe in remembering those suffering from leprosy and the work done to alleviate their suffering. It is also a time to remember the work of our Order over 900 years and celebrate that in the midst of winter or summer. While it is appropriate to have special prayers, it is also an opportunity to celebrate the long history of the Order and to raise funds to help us do more.



The Grand Chancery

The Grand Chancery of the Order includes offices in Madrid and Washington, DC. It is a very complex and comprehensive operation, encompassing multi-faceted communications and coordination with virtually all of the Order's entities. This includes each jurisdiction, the leadership, committees, the Spiritual Advisory Council (SAC), the Governance Working Committee (GWC), the Grand Magistral Council (GMC), the Grand Master and the Greek Melkite Patriarchate.

The Grand Chancery prepares and issues Grand Magistral Decrees, Letters of Appointment, brevets, diplomas and petitions for readmission of former members. It coordinates drafting and updating the Order's bylaws, policies and regulations for review/approval by the Governance Working Committee and Grand Magistral Council. The Grand Chancery works closely with the Grand Hospitaller and jurisdictions to obtain jurisdictional Hospitaller reports and assist with finalizing the Order's consolidated Hospitaller annual report. It also coordinates and confirms the scheduling of dates for various investitures of the various jurisdictions and is involved in the preparation of the Order's Chapters General.

Assistance is also provided to the Order's committees to support efforts such as membership surveys, senior leadership and succession planning questionnaires and research needed for legal issues. The Grand Chancery provides coordination with the Order's Public Relations and Communications Committee in its communications effort to send/receive information with the jurisdictions.

The Grand Chancery office in Madrid works closely with the Grand Master to manage his visits to jurisdictions. This includes timely preparation and mailing of documents, researching insignia needs and placing orders, and following up with jurisdictions on reports/photos for publication on the website.

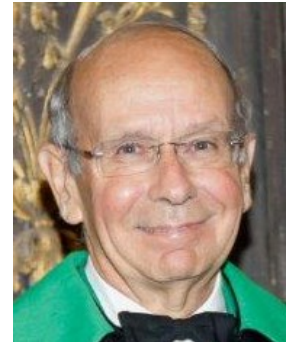
The Madrid Grand Chancery also coordinates meetings, hotel and meeting room needs for the Grand Magistral Council, Governance Working Committee and other committees. These duties also included a major organizational effort for the 2017 Pilgrimage to Monreale, Sicily. In addition, it coordinates all administrative activities for the MHOSLJ Foundation and other activities such as obtaining and maintaining a directors' liability insurance policy.

With the Order's jurisdictions in many time zones throughout the world, the Grand Chancery offices strive to be responsive throughout many hours of the day.

Social media and our Order

Social media confronts us every hour of every day. To some, it controls their lives; to others, it is a way of keeping in touch and of learning about what is happening in our world and with our friends; yet others find it a way to increase knowledge in a wide variety of areas. The appointment of the PRCC and, subsequently, of the Grand Information Officer, Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, were based on the realisation that within our Order we must make better use of social media to inform members about what the Order is doing worldwide, to increase the knowledge of our members about the Order and its history and to help members to keep in touch despite the long distances which might separate them. This is a 'work in progress' about which more will be written in the December issue.

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ



The Grand Commander

*HE the Chev. Edward
White GCLJ*



The Grand Chancellor

*HE the Dame Marny
Gilluly GCLJ*

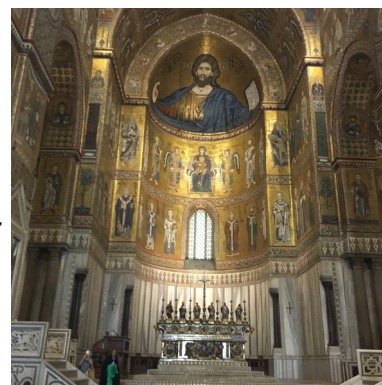
News and diary

As always, this is a busy time of year in the life of the Order, with national events taking place in a number of jurisdictions. Reports of these will be featured on the website.



This year, a very special event will be taking place in Sicily, when we will be delighted to welcome the founding members of our newest jurisdiction, the **Grand Bailiwick of Sicily**.

On September 29 in Monreale, the site of the most recent international pilgrimage of the Order, the Grand Master will preside over the installation of the Grand Bailiwick of Sicily and will invest the first 30 members of the new jurisdiction. The investiture service ceremony at the Capitular Lazarite Church of the Holy Heart of Jesus will be followed by a solemn Pontifical mass in the Cathedral Church of Santa Maria La Novo, where the celebrant will be our Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, HE the Most Rev Mgr Michele Pennisi. We hope to carry a full report of this important event in the life of our Order in the next edition of this newsletter.



Other events over the coming months include:

17-20 October	Grand Priory of America, Grand Prioral Council, Los Cabos, Mexico
18-19 October	Grand Bailiwick of South Africa National Investiture
19 October	Grand Bailiwick of Switzerland National Investiture, Gfenn
24-26 October	International conference of the International Academy of St Lazarus, 3rd Academic meeting, Malta
25-26 October	Grand Priory of England & Wales National Investiture, Nottingham
26 October	Grand Priory of Spain National Investiture, Marbella
26 October	Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands National Investiture, Bugibba
26 October	Grand Priory of Sweden National Investiture
26-27 October	Grand Priory of France National Investiture, Andlau, Alsace
9-10 November	Grand Priory of Finland National Investiture
29-30 November	Grand Priory of Greece National Investiture