



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Greetings Sir Knights:

I hope and trust that your year is healthy and happy. We certainly live in interesting times. Take advantage of it and keep yourself educated. Regardless of where you fall on the continuum of how the world should run, know the issues before you speak. The same runs true in Masonry. I am constantly amazed how many times someone speaks with such “authority” on a Masonic issue and they are completely wrong. We need to be better than that.

Grand Commandery will be meeting on June 5 and June 6. Note that there will be NO Thursday activities. The session will actually commence on the afternoon of June 5. There will be a dinner that night and we will conclude business on June 6. The new officers will be installed that day as well. The planning of the session is in earnest now. I know this is different. As I have asked before - please give it a chance before you criticize (or else please lend me your talent as someone who can predict the future as it would make my electoral life much easier).

I have been forced to spend some time lately contemplating losing touch with people in life. I am not referring to the micro of my mother passing away. Rather, the macro of how circumstances in life change and we lose touch with people. One of the things that hit me over the last few months was that unless I put forth some effort, I would probably never see anyone from my mother’s side of the family again.

Another example is that at the time of writing this article, the deadline for being on the 2020 ballot is approaching and there will be Senators who I consider friends who will not be running again. After the conclusion of the legislative session, I doubt I will ever talk to those people again and most I will never see for the rest of our lives. I used to embrace this “transactional” side of my

personality, as well as the nature of my professional occupations, without question. Now I am not so sure.

Similarly, a very close Masonic friend of mine recently sent me a message about an older member and how much the Sir Knight will be missed. That reminded me that I often lament how much time in Masonry we spend honoring the deceased, but often seem to not embrace the living. Whether I am right or wrong on that issue is probably a separate subject.

While we should continue to honor those who have come before us, I also hope that we continue to make changes in our lives to reach out to the living. I know we spend a lot of time talking about “fellowship” (which we need to rebrand, but that too is a separate subject) and the discussion on this topic has been endless. However, I mean more than shaking hands and saying “hi” to someone at a meeting. Those things should be happening now and without issue.

What I am encouraging all of us to do is reach out to each other. Check to see how someone is doing. Send a positive message. Technology has made it so easy for us to accomplish this. An email, a text, so many quick and simple ways to let a Sir Knight, Companion, and Brother know you are thinking of him. In other words, we should all strive to take some time and let the living know how much we appreciate them.

Along with this, when a guy ends his time in the line we all need to make sure we keep him in the fold. Far too often we lose these guys for a variety of reasons. We need to make sure that they still feel welcome and have a reason to belong. We need to check in with these guys. See how they are doing. Communicate with them.

It would help our Fraternity immensely if we all took a bit of time out of the day to send kind words to each other on occasion. Not ask for anything. Not hit them up for a ritual part. Not ask if they are going to some pancake breakfast - just be friends. The rest will take care of itself as a natural extension.

God bless each of you.