

KANSAS TOPICS

SK Jamie L. Carwell

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Greetings Sir Knights of Kansas!

And So It Ends

Well April is here, spring is on the way and in a matter of days, my term of office comes to an end. I have often heard those Past Grand Commanders that came before me refer to just how fast the year goes, and now I understand what they meant. I too feel the hands of time speeding across the highway of my term in office, and I wonder where the patrolman was, and if his radar was even in the on position. It has been an amazing journey, filled with travels, new friends, a little stress, and a lot of fun.

I wish I could impress upon each of you just how incredible this path has been to travel down. The six year path it took me to arrive at this apex has been an experience that not only has introduced me to men from Kansas, but from places across this nation and around the world. I was afforded the opportunity to do all of this by your acclimation, and I thank all of you for the confidence you showed in me, for your confidence was greater than my own. I hope that my efforts have not disappointed you all too greatly.

What I do know, is that I leave you in great hands. The officers in the progressive line behind me are some of the finest examples of Masons, as well as Templars. I know that these men will not only lead this organization over the next few years, but the legacy they leave will mold it into an even more prestigious height. I ask all of the Sir Knights who read this to give them the support and assistance they need to keep Templary the pinnacle

of the Masonic bodies. We need every able hand to reach out and take a part in steering the Knights of Kansas into the future.

Now I suppose I should leave all of you with a few thoughts of my own, as this will be the last chance I have to speak to every Templar in Kansas at one time. As I took the time to contemplate this, there was a concept that immediately came to mind – participation. All year long I seemed to harp on the matter, sometimes with subtly, others in a more overt way. I have even seen some improvement. Newer members taking the time to get involved and take on responsibilities necessary to move Templary in Kansas in the right direction, and this is fantastic. Yet, these young go getters still need the assistance of those who have been here all along. We need you, yes you reading this, to step up and help guide new members who only want to see us all succeed.

At the same time, we need to recruit more Masons to join our young go getters. Only about six percent of Kansas Masons are Templars. That means we have about 14,000 men in Kansas that can also be a Templar, and we need to impress upon them why being one will not only help them as individuals, but will also help improve the state of Masonry as a whole. Keep working on the Masons you know haven't joined the York Rite yet, because we know the lessons they will learn on the road to being knighted will improve their lives in a positive way.

Sir Knights, I thank you once again. I hope that some part of my articles this year inspired you in some way or gave you information you hadn't had before. May the blessings of God be upon each and every one of you in all aspects of your life, and I hope to see you at our Grand Conclave, on April 30th in Topeka.

Sir Knight Jamie L. Carwell
Right Eminent Grand Commander



Masonic New Year?

Here we are, already into March, and spring is starting to show its face around us. As I sit here this morning thinking of how the return of spring is going to coincide with the Grand Lodge of Kansas this year. That over a hundred and sixty years ago, a group of men, very much like us decided that they were able to come together and extend Masonry to Kansas. When the warm winds started to come out of the south, they met, and soon once again, so will we.

I look forward to seeing quite a few of the Sir Knights of Kansas at Grand Lodge this year. I would like to ask that all attending to bring your Class A uniform, so that we can give the current Grand Master, Dale Morrow, and his successor Tony Borum, a proper, full and large Arch of Steel. They requested our assistance, and I have no doubt that the Sir Knights of Kansas will answer it in a manner befitting a Knight of the Order. I will be thanking you all, in advance, for assisting in this matter.

Now that I've got you looking at your calendar, I might just as well bring your attention to a couple of other items on the Grand York Rite Schedule, so that you can add them. First, I would like to invite every Sir Knight, his Lady and children – on behalf of Sir Knight Jeffery Nelson, Grand Master – to 8th Annual Mid-America Easter Observance at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. The service will be at 8:00 am. One may also consider the Western States Observance, at the Scottish Rite Consistory in Denver. This service will start at 6:30 am (all times local). I have attended this event at both locations over my term as an officer for the Grand Commandery, and both are well worth taking the time to attend. Register for either of these events at knightstemplar.org, there is a link on the bottom of the main page. If you are able to come in your Class A uniform or Cap and Mantle, we could really add to the entry march of the Knights, but I would like complaints about a lack of seating for all the Sir Knights that attended, I would take them with a smile.

That leads me to the next item I'd like you make sure you see on your calendar – Grand York Rite Session. I cannot stress enough how I would like to see every Sir Knight attend the annual Conclave of Knights Templar on Thursday April 30, 2020, as it is a great opportunity to meet, interact, and support each other in our common goals. I will also say that if you are unable to make the Commandery Conclave, support the Chapter and the Council, or just come some evening and take a meal with your York Rite Companions and friends. Hopefully your Class A's still fit after a bountiful Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year and you can still wear them comfortably. If so, wear them to the Awards Banquet. No sword or Chapeau. If not, pull your tuxedo out of moth balls – take it to the cleaners – and then put it on for our annual Awards Banquet Friday May 1st. We'll be having a charity auction to benefit all of our York Rite charities. No matter how long you are able attend; your presence would be of great value, as your thoughts and ideas could help someone you haven't even met yet. The link for registration and schedule is at kansasyorkrite.org on the main page. **If you are attending a meal, we need your registration by April 1st**, to ensure proper preparations can be made.

Sir Knights, I look forward to seeing you at all these events. The Masonic year really begins in the spring, and really, after a long winter, it's good to get out and see my Brothers, Companions, Sir Knights and friends.

of Knights Templar of Kansas

