

Maryland Supplement

Serving our Community and our Masonic Fraternity

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My Fellow Sir Knights,

There have been several visitations so far this year and I am grateful for the co-operation and hospitality I have received in those visitations.

Easter is now just a few days away. As with Christmas I hope you can spend it with loved ones, friends, and family.

The topic for this month's supplement is *non-payment of dues*.

The Grand Encampment, as part of its efforts to zero in on membership for 2020, has reported to its Grand Commanderies staggering information regarding the loss of membership each year from non-payment of dues.

It has been found that not many Commanderies actually have a program to address this facet of our membership. They have asked that we develop a follow up system for each Commandery to address stemming the tide of this type of loss of membership.

I have spoken to this situation at all the visitations so far this year and have asked each Commandery to form a committee to follow-up with those Sir Knights who have not paid dues for 2017, 2018, and/or 2019. Some Commanderies may not have a lot of these Sir Knights to communicate with. That is a good position to be in. But I'm sure there are Sir Knights that haven't paid dues in all our Maryland Commanderies.

The committee should be formed of just a couple or a few Sir Knights in each Commandery. Their task will be to communicate with those Sir Knights who are behind in dues to find out why they haven't paid. This communication must be personal. A phone call or, if that is not possible, an e-mail. The e-mail should come from the Sir Knight assigned to communicate with the non-paying Sir Knight. It should not be an impersonal or general communication from the Recorder.

It will be the task of the communicating Sir Knights to try to find out the reason for our member not paying dues. That reason is to be reported to each Commandery's Commander who will decide what action can be taken, if any, to bring the Sir Knight up to date with dues. We specifically do not want an ill Sir Knight or a Sir Knight experiencing financial problems to be removed from our membership rolls. Brotherly Love and Relief demands we take care of this individual Sir Knight. We want to take every opportunity to get those Sir Knights back into the fold.

Once the communication takes place and the Commander has a disposition for each of these Sir Knights, the Recorder will submit all the reports to the Grand Recorder.

Perhaps you know an individual whose membership we can save. If so please volunteer to find out what we can do to remedy the situation.

Don't forget the *Easter Sunrise Service to be held at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria Virginia* on April 12th. Let's have a great turnout for this recognition of the resurrection of Christ our savior.

Wishing all Sir Knights and their families a blessed and happy Easter

Yours in service to Christ,
Chuck Warns
Right Eminent Grand Commander