

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

Peter H. Johnson, Jr., KCT, PGC, Editor
1501 Sunset Drive
Holbrook, AZ 86025
(928) 524-3248

johnson618@cableone.net



Greetings Sir Knights!

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude and excitement to be able to serve as your Grand Commander for the past year. We, as many jurisdictions, hit the ground running with all sorts of good-intentioned plans for the betterment of Arizona Knights Templar as a whole. The first official act I had the privilege of doing was immediately following, by just hours, last year's communication when I was informed I was expected to speak at the Arizona Job's Daughters formal banquet. *"This wasn't in the instruction manual"*. While there, I had the privilege of presenting our three youth leaders: Miss Lucy Hanna, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Miss Christine Hudson, Arizona Job's Daughters, and Mr. Chris Webber with the Grand Commander's Distinguished Service Medal.

This really set the pace for the year after being around such a profound group of professional young men and women. The one thing I took away from there - that I mentioned in a previous supplement - was their ability to support each other, encourage each other, and despite who was elected to what office, there was nothing but love and support for each other. There may have been disappointment to those not elected, but there was no outward resentfulness or bad feelings. I truly believe we could all benefit from our Masonic Youth Groups in our own everyday dealings.

Shortly following I was approached by the then High Priest & Prophet of El Zaribah Shrine asking if we could perform an Arch of Steel for 2 to 3 Shrine Ambassadors. After some quick thinking, and once again referencing the invisible instruction manual, we figured a way to make this work while still falling within Grand Encampment and our own regulations; it was accomplished and well received. Sir Knight and Past Honorary Grand Commander David Stankow was given an Arch of Steel while escorting the 3 children through. The look of excitement on these young warrior's faces was priceless! What a great way to bridge the gap between Masonic bodies.

I had the privilege to visit several Commanderies around the state as well as a couple of the Christmas Observances. The old phrase "big things sometimes

come in small packages" it very accurate. I'd like to thank each one of you who made me feel welcome when I visited; the hospitality and friendship showed during each visit was beyond reproach.

About the time we reach full cruising speed and had a very forward momentum, 2020 happened. What can we say about that except we took a missile to the side of the ship, we even took on a little water, but I am extremely proud to say that Arizona Sir Knights removed the water, lit the boilers, and kept the ship floating with forward momentum. We have found new ways to do things that many of us have never experienced. Zoom, Skype, and other similar platforms were rolled out and we have continued our business at the local and state levels. Although nothing takes the place of good ole face-to-face contact or watching/performing ritual. Arizona has prevailed by our new, for now normal, of virtual meetings.

I joke about the instruction manual; however, none of us were issued a crystal ball to predict the future, or how to deal with the Global Pandemic that surrounds us. We can only hope and pray that this invisible beast that has plagued our beloved nation and the world at large will one day soon makes its exit without any further damage, but in the meantime we must do our part to ensure the safety of ourselves, each other, and above all our at-risk members. I agree, virtual meetings are not the same, connections are bad, some of us are technology challenged, myself included, but the important thing is we need to take something positive out of all of this. I attended numerous virtual meetings locally where there were Arizona members who are residing out of state who were present during the virtual meeting. What a great tool moving forward to connect those Sir Knights who cannot attend due to being out of state, ill, inclement weather etc., during the business only portion of our meetings.

I applaud and thank each one of you for the support shown to myself and the other Grand Commandery officers through this extremely challenging year. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to serve in this position and I ask that you continue to show support to those who follow. Arizona Sir Knights have much to be proud of and as I have always said, we lead the way by example; we lead from the front and not push from the rear. Keep up the great work and God Bless each one of you for your continued service to this great fraternity.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell D. Mandrell, Grand Commander
2019/2020, AKA "Year of the Rona"