

GRAND COMMANDERY OF HAWAII

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Aloha Companions,

I hope that this email finds you continuing to stay healthy and well! I should also add “and still married/together with your significant other to the above.” It seems that all of this togetherness within our respective families has presented its own challenges and rewards. We are now able to spend more quality time together; teaching our children to ride bikes, playing board games and cards with the family... but after a while we start to yearn for the opportunity to get away (too much of a good thing so to speak), to get back to Lodge, and back to our Brothers and Companions (not to mention the golf course and the 9th island).

It seems as we are almost there; the Governor is finally lifting some of the travel restrictions. Most Worshipful Alex Escasa, the Grandmaster of Masons in Hawaii has lifted certain meeting restrictions. However, we must wait a time with patience before we can reconvene any in-person Conclaves of our Grand Encampment or Subordinate Commanderies as General Order No. 12 (“Order No. 12”), *Prohibition of In-Person Conclaves of Grand, Subordinate, and Constituent Commanderies*, issued May 4, 2020, by the Most Eminent Jeff Nelson, Grandmaster of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, is still in effect.

While Order No. 12 continues to prohibit in person meetings, it does allow for telephonic and webcast meetings with a restriction on Ritual and Order conferral.

What this means is that we can still meet, pay our bills, receive and vote on applications, and carry out such business as is needed without interacting in person.

We have already enjoyed several State-Wide Zoom social meetings, which has allowed Companions that would normally not have been able to attend participate; Past Right Eminent Grand Commander John Connell and Monty Glover (Georgia) attended the last one along with Companions Christopher Tourtellot (Military Deployment) and Damien Donavan (Australia).

The next step that has been discussed in our Zoom meetings to date is to hold Zoom meetings to conduct business and hold educational sessions. We can also expect a Zoom style Southwest Regional Conference and I have also heard rumors that the Leadership Seminars are also going virtual.

While all of the virtual meetings are not quite the same as meeting in person, it does help keep us united and focused and when we are able to meet once again in person, we will cherish it all the more.

Yours in chivalry,

Dustin Verity

Dustin T. Verity
Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Hawaii