



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

I guess we are in the midst of what we would call, “the dog days of summer.” But with our current restrictions placed upon our in-person meetings by Grand Master Nelson, they feel to me even longer. I look forward to when we are able to meet again in-person, and I’m sure many of you do, too. At this point I’m just looking forward to being able to install the rest of the Grand Commandery officers in a fitting fashion, worthy of the time and dedication that they have made for our great institution.

One of the things I look forward to every year is the state fair, and that has been canceled for this year. I guess the upside is my 20,000 calorie intake over the course of a weekend (or Friday night) will be spared this year.

With the current restrictions we have in place, it seems even more difficult to build upon what I put in my last note about public activities and appearances, and representing Templary well. No one knows when we’ll be able to confer our Orders and create new Sir Knights. We don’t know when we’ll be allowed back into our asylums and meet in-person. And even our North Central Department Conference has been designated a dial-in Zoom meeting in October. However, we can begin to lay the foundation for when this will happen, hopefully by the fall.

As we begin to see things “open back up,” I encourage us all to represent the Grand Commandery of Iowa well. But even beforehand, opportunities present themselves to show what a true Christian knight is all about. I feel that the discord in this country is larger than anything I have seen in my

lifetime. How do we react to the division in our circle of friends or acquaintances? Regardless of political beliefs, I’m finding that for many the ability to maintain a level of civility and polite disagreement something of the past. I’m sure a big part of this is due to the timing of the national election, however common decency seems to be lacking from all sides.

This is where we can and should shine, by promoting chivalry in our actions. While this may be difficult at times – and it is – doing so, even in small measures, will go a long way in bringing civility back to our society.

In this spirit, I’m reminded of the hymn, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” I encourage us all to practice this in our words in actions.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander