



IDAHO SUPPLEMENT

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Summertime Blues

Greetings, Sir Knights!

It is August, and unfortunately little has changed with Masonic activity in our state. Concerns due to Covid19 continue to dominate the discussion, and even social events amongst our Masonic family remain on pause. This does not mean that Masonry stops. As have been noted in the past few issues, there are a host of virtual and online opportunities out there. Use them. There are a host of books and articles to read. Most importantly, reach out to your fellows and check on them. While Covid19 is at the forefront of the conversation right now, there are also a host of other challenges facing our brothers and their families. This is a perfect time to pick up the phone and see what you can do for each other.

More Goals

Last month, I began outlining some of the goals I have for Knights Templar in Idaho. While we cannot meet, we can begin the work on these to be teed up when we can resume.

Each Commandery needs to review its financial position and determine whether its budget makes sense and whether their dues and fees are in line with their business realities. This starts by making sure you have a budget for each Templar year. Budgets do not have to be lavish or complicated, but it is important to know what each body brings in and what they spend it on. Every Commandery has expenses. How

are you meeting them? If your dues and fees are not adequate, now is a great time to visit that as you review your bylaws.

Similarly, each Commandery must make sure they are in compliance with the IRS concerning their tax status. Have your form 990s been filed each year? Is your Commandery actually in good standing with the IRS as a tax exempt entity? It is the obligation of each Commandery and its officers to ensure that they are in compliance with the IRS. If you are not, you may well be required to file an income tax return with the IRS and potentially be paying taxes on your income. Therefore, each Commandery is directed to file with the Grand Recorder with the upcoming annual report a copy of the proof of your most recent 990 filing or a detailed plan of what steps the Commandery is taking to reinstate themselves with the IRS as a lawful tax exempt entity. Any such plan must include a timeline upon which tasks will be completed towards reinstatement along with a check list of who is responsible for each task. Sir knights, this task is critical; ignoring the IRS seldom works out in the long run. If you need assistance, reach out to the Grand Recorder for guidance.

Next month, even more goals. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe, and most importantly be good and kind to one another. Our Savior taught us to love one another. Given all the turmoil in the world, remembering this lesson will get us a long way towards a better tomorrow.

I know I long to return to lodge and our activities, as I am sure each of you do, too. With each other's love and kindness, we will weather this storm. In the meantime, make sure you are doing your part to keep us all safe, healthy, and in good spirits.

May God Bless You All!

Jeremy C. Vaughn, Grand Commander