

MASSACHUSETTS & RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENT

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SK George L. Herbolsheimer, IV, REGC – August 2020 Message

Sir Knights,

It's August! And, what do we do in August? Enjoy the hot humid weather? Spend time at the beach? Spend time with the family in air conditioned comfort? Sure. But what other things should we be doing? Well, for one thing, we should be helping the Commanders of our Commanderies plan out the coming year. They have a large task just running a Commandery; maybe we can help them with some of the planning for the Commandery and its outside activities. Could you undertake to put together a group to put on one of the other Orders for your Commandery? It just needs one person to lead to be able to put together a team to perform, for instance, the Order of the Red Cross in full form.

If you want something done in your Commandery, suggest it to the Commander and then be willing to undertake its fruition. I remember vividly that part of my year as Commander of Boston Commandery. Whenever I suggested some activity, one of the Sir Knights would raise his hand and volunteer for the effort. The late, great Bruce Johnston, Past Commander, said to me one day, "George, we should do a pilgrimage!" To which I replied, "Bruce, make it happen." Two months later we were busing up to Portland, Maine, for a lobster dinner with the our wives and the Fraters and their wives of Portland Commandery. They were so thrilled that someone would come to visit that they gave us the Boston Commander's Cup, which we use for every knighting. Cost to Boston and its members for the 37 of us? \$300 for the bus. Portland Commandery wouldn't even send us a bill for our dinners.

My ideal for a perfect year for any of my Commanderies is an outstanding Christmas Observance, an Ascension Day Service, two full form sets of orders and a social event every month during the year - and one summer social event. Your Commandery can do that as well.

My Fraters, I have faith that the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment will relax his General Order No. 12 and we will be able to meet in person in September. Please stay safe, socially distance and practice Covid-19 hygiene.

May the blessings of our Heavenly Father and His Son be with you and your Commandery! And until we meet in person, I remain

In His Service,
George

Grand Prelate's Corner
Sir Knights,

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." Perseverance is something we all need in these times. I know we all want things to be back to "normal." I know we all want to be in a room together sharing a conclave. In time we will be able to return to our usual activities. But for now, we need to hold fast and do what is being asked of us to stay safe. We are blessed to have assistance in that endeavor, our Lord Jesus. He is always with us. We can rely on his strength when ours wanes. Fix your eyes on him, and we will meet face to face sometime in the future.

Rev. Matthew Wissell



The Annual York Rite Sessions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Council of R&SMM of Mass. and the Grand Commandery of Mass. & Rhode Island are currently scheduled to be held in Westborough on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9-10, 2020, but are subject to change

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