



Nebraska Supplement

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The Knight pulls on the reigns, his stallion does not wish to stop, but in the end relinquishes to his rider. The Knight slides from his mount, lands heavily on his feet due to the arms and armor he carries. He draws his sword, not to attack to defend, instead places the point in the soil and uses it to ease body into a kneeling position. He wraps his white mantel around his body to guard him from a cold wind, while the sweat on his brow from the heat of his armor, rolls down his forehead. He is dusty, dirty and tired. His right hand rests on the hilt of the sword, his left arm lies across his knee bent, holding a corner of his mantel; with the Red Cross in his eyes, he prays. He is not young nor is he old, however his body aches from the trials, tribulations and battles, while his mind rings with the cries of the penitent poor making their way on the holy pilgrimage. He finishes his devotions, thanking God for protecting him and those he serves. Using his sword he rises to his feet, there is a stiffness in his back now that was not there before and it reminds him one day he will travel to that undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns. The stallion watches the Knight, waiting patiently for his rider, he does not need to be haltered or hobbled, as the horse understands that his rider kneels to his devotions at this time every day. The Knight climbs onto the back of the stallion, and one can see how the two become one, in order to carry out the Lord's work, providing protection and assistance to the pilgrims they guard. As the stallion starts to move towards their destination, the Knights motto comes to the fore front of his mind; he always remembers it in Latin, "Navare operam Quid impedit". The Knight smiles, rides, he is content.

Let me ask: "Are you this Knight?" Trade his arms and armor, for your own working tools, and you may see there are very little differences between him and yourself. We each serve our God, country, family and friends. We have our duty to guide and protect our loved ones, and work in the service of others as we are followers of the Christians faith. Keep your fellow Knights

and Brothers in mind, reach out and offer assistance to those in need. Pray.

Towards the end of June, I contacted the Grand Encampment's Grand Master Jeffrey Nelson, requesting relief from General Order No. 12, as Nebraska is starting to move to other phases of opening the state up to more normal operations. He responded that he has received many of these requests, and that the Grand Encampment is closely monitoring the situation. At a meeting the Grand Encampment conducted earlier, they agreed to keep General Order No. 12 in place as, in the Grand Master's words "Although, the pandemic is affecting various regions of the country differently, it appears to be moving from densely populated urban centers to more rural areas, a number of states are still experiencing "spikes," especially in the south and west and in states that moved early to reopen." So it is with this, we are still not allowed to meet face to face. Also, near the end of June, I met with the two other heads of the Grand York Rite bodies in Nebraska (Mike Jones – Grand Chapter and Walter Johnson - Council) along with the Grand Recorder (Dennis Newman). Together we came to a consensus on how to conduct Chapter and Council when they can resume meetings in July, per Grand Master's Edict #4 Regarding Coronavirus - Phase 1 of Reopening Updated June 16, 2020 by Ronald D. Stites Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska. The processes use input from several federal and state health and regulatory organizations.

It saddens me to not be able to meet face to face as Knights, "but soon this too shall pass". Remember you can always use electronic meetings to conduct business. You can seek help from Dennis Newman, others Masonic members with this experience and myself if you need assistance. Besides, it is my experience, that even though the meeting is not face to face, you will not believe how nice it is to hear from your fellow Knights, Companions and friends. Please keep the Knight's parable I authored for this article in your mind, and remember "Navare operam Quid impedit."

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