

OHIO SUPPLEMENT



SK Robert C. Hager, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
August 2020



Dear Sir Knights,

I recently had occasion to correspond with SK Michael Robbins, who is the Grand Commander of Indiana. We commiserated with each other about how difficult it has been to churn out Knight Templar magazine supplements, month after month, with activities practically at a standstill. SK Collins asked, "What can I possibly say that will be interesting?"

Indiana's Grand Conclave scheduled for this past April has been postponed twice and is still waiting to happen; the REGC is serving in the 16th month of a one-year term with no relief in sight! I guess I should count my blessings...

What can I say, indeed? Perhaps I should ask, and maybe we should all consider, is what should we NOT say?

All the recent downtime has led me to spend an excessive amount of time on the internet and reading social media. It is important to stay informed, particularly when we are dealing with a pandemic and having to make policy decisions that could affect the health and safety of over 6,300 members and their families, a responsibility that I do not take lightly.

It is distressing for me to see some of the arbitrary, hateful, divisive comments made on social media, sometimes even by good men that I consider my brethren and fellow Sir Knights. I have sadly made the choice to block many of their posts.

All of us need to remember the obligations we have taken in the presence of Almighty God and our Brethren, and act accordingly.

Every one of us is somebody's idea of what constitutes a Knight Templar and a Mason. That person who is watching what we do may be somebody we have not even met yet. Maybe we never will. You never know.

How do you represent our beautiful Christian Order? How do you respond when confronted with an opinion you disagree with in public? Do you fire back with a knee-jerk response? Call names? Worse? Or do you practice "those truly Masonic virtues, Silence and Circumspection?"

We are told in the Order of the Temple that we are all weary pilgrims; how do you demonstrate patience and perseverance, courage and constancy, faith and humility in your public works?

I encourage you to ask yourself these questions and contemplate your personal answers.

A good carpenter will tell you to measure twice before cutting once; this is doubly true when posting on social media. Measure your response, and measure it again, before you choose to hit the "Post" button.

Our fraternity gives us all the tools we need to better ourselves and prepare for the asylum above. Let us use those tools to the fullest, so that we may "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

Courteously and fraternally,

Robert C. Hager

Robert C. Hager, KCT
Grand Commander

At the time this article was written, our Grand Conclave, scheduled for October 9-10 at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio, was still scheduled to take place. Please check the Grand Commandery website for the latest developments. The circular and hotel reservation information can be found at www.ohioknightstemplar.com

Editor's Note:

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander's comments have reminded me of a plaque I kept posted in my high school science classroom which said, "Please be sure brain is engaged before putting mouth in gear!" This holds true for adults as well as for the adolescents with their active "trigger hormones."

S. Jefferson Slattery, KCT, Ohio Supplement Editor