



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT
Carry the shield forward.



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Knightly Greetings,

Thank you, Sir Knights, for electing me as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia. It is an office of great honor that carries great responsibility. In the coming year we will continue those actions that have been taken under the Long Range Plan as developed by Sir Knight Ben Hill, PGC, and Sir Knight Joel Ratliff, PGC, instituted by the Grand Line Officers and monitored and adjusted by the Long Range Planning Committee.

Membership is the priority. The Grand Master has made it clear that the Grand Encampment and subsequently our Grand Commandery has three priorities and they are Membership, Membership and Membership. To put forth a maximum effort the Membership Committee has been reorganized. Sir Knight Ben Hill, PGC, is the Grand Commandery Coordinator with five regional committees. A Membership Manual is under development and will be distributed and available on the website. All of this will afford us the opportunity to saturate the Lodges and Chapters with our message of "Why you should be a Knight Templar". Membership is a local issue and best addressed as such. It is also the responsibility of every Sir Knight to recruit. Our future is secured by membership.

A comprehensive review and updating of the Officers Guide have been completed and will be posted on the website. The Leadership Committee under Sir Knight Joseph Gadea's leadership will ensure the widest distribution of the Guide. Where it is titled "Officers Guide" it should be made available to every Sir Knight. In addition, the

committee is revising the Correspondence Course and ultimately it will be a self-grading part of the Grand Commandery Website. Until that time, it will still be available through the website as a hard copy as before.

The Committee reviewing, correcting, and updating our Constitution and Statutes and will continue its work. The goal is to have the task completed for presentation at the 2021 Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

The Trustees are developing a guidebook to ensure continuity from year to year and it also will be available through the website. Sir Knight J. D. Davis as chairman has this well under development.

This is the year that the Bicentennial Committee begins converting its vision to reality. Sir Knight Jeff Hedges will be asking for assistance in many areas. Please contribute your time and talents as you can.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage will gain new life and momentum under the leadership of Sir Knight Joel Ratliff, PGC. He is looking to attain the goal set forth by Sir Knight Malcolm Holley, PGC (deceased) to send four ministers on the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

In all it is going to be a challenging and rewarding year. Yes, there is that lurking nemesis of Covid19 but together we will find our way to prosper despite it. We as our ancient Brothers did, thrive on adversity and will always find a way to meet any challenge.

"Carry the shield forward."

With All Knightly Courtesy,

J. Jeffrey McClelland, KCT
Grand Commander