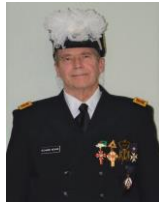




Washington Supplement

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Sir Knights—

I trust that this message finds all of you in good health and even better spirits. We pray for the ending of the pandemic crisis and trust that in His name no second wave or recurrence surfaces.

I am honored and privileged to take over the post of Grand Commander from my immediate predecessor REPGC W. Gary Norton who did such a fine job leading our Grand Commandery through a very tough time in our history. Thank you so much Sir Knight Gary for your dedication and service.

As most of you know, the Washington York Rite Grand Sessions, originally scheduled to take place in Tacoma Washington on May 7-9, 2020 with the Grand Commandery Grand Conclave to be held on Saturday May 9, had to be moved due to the COVID 19 crisis. It was rescheduled to July 2-4, 2020, which was the next available date that our venue hotel in Tacoma had. It was hoped we would be able to meet in person and complete our annual duties on those dates. But the pandemic crisis persisted and, under orders from the Governor of the State of Washington, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington and the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, no in person meetings could be held so we met via Zoom teleconference on July 4, 2020.

Now many of us had already experienced the Zoom teleconferencing experience by way of lodge virtual meetings, the Grand Lodge of Washington Annual Communication on June 13, 2020 and other Zoom meetings for various Masonic groups. But for those who did not have this prior experience the York Rite

Zoom teleconference on July 4 was an eye opener. Some participants had trouble with their cameras, some dressed inappropriately (forgetting the prior instructions to come dressed as one would for formal Chapter, Council, Commandery); some could only participate by phone (which left a blank screen where their image would normally be and so their dress became somewhat irrelevant) and some simply had trouble with the mics (on, off, muted, unmuted). Some could not obtain or forgot their passwords for entry into the Zoom meeting and the Technology Committee was kept quite busy servicing these novice Zoomers. The chat function was another learning experience which befuddled some of our brightest Templar minds. Fortunately, our host kept wise control of everyone's participation and, for the most part, business got done and the new regimes for Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery were duly installed.

In the coming issues of this Washington Supplement I hope to share this podium with some of our Grand Commandery officers, both those elected and appointed. Our Grand Historian will provide us with a couple of articles and our Grand Elected Officers will each get a chance to communicate directly with you on a topic of their choice. I will, of course, pick up the slack when the lines of communication permit me to participate. Be forewarned, my favorite topics are ritual and Christian hymn song lyrics.

I leave you now in His name and may the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all our families and friends and acquaintances.

Yours in Christ,

Sir Knight *Richard M. Kovak*
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington