



## *Wyoming Supplement*

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Greetings Sir Knights, summer is upon us and all our Commandries are working within the restrictions and guidance of General Order No. 12. This is a very trying time and our future looks muddy at times. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we will get there as our personal dedication and awareness leads us onward. SK Jeffrey N. Nelson, Most Eminent Grand Master, is working to protect all Sir Knights throughout the world. An incredibly challenging and weighty responsibility. I applaud his actions as the vast majority of our membership is within the high-risk category for the covid 19 virus.

Many Commandries have gone dark but others are meeting virtually or having telephone conversations among the Sir Knights. Keep up the good work and I hope you all are having a safe and fun summer.

My topic this month is keeping the motivation within our Commandries and our Sir Knights. We have not been able to meet in a conclave for several months and the lack of that contact I am sure is affecting the energy that our Sir Knights need to keep spirits up and focus. I am confident that we all have our motivation to our Order but the fact that we cannot open Conclave or otherwise gather is a definite tick in our armor. When we get past our current limitations, we will have opportunities to come together. When we can gather together, take the opportunity to host a Commandery breakfast or coffee group to allow our Brethren to re-energize themselves; be sure to include our ladies as they are a very key part of our Order. They are not within the conclave but, without their support our Fraters would not be able to make our conclaves and other activities.

The Grand Commandery of Wyoming will have our stated annual Conclave on September 18, 2020. The Conclave will use a virtual format and as we continue to fine tune plans and activities we will insure that the word gets out to all our Commandries and Sir Knights. We are looking at the unique challenges that this virus has brought us. We are strong and we will prevail as stronger Sir Knights and Templar Masons.

My second topic is how our Commandries obtain Operating funds. This is often a sore point with many Commandries, but few people take the time and effort to remedy the situation. When we can meet face to face, look at these ideas as ways to support your operating budget. If your facilities allow it, one of the best fundraisers has always been a breakfast; investment is relatively low, and it can be put on with a nominal number of people. If your first one is reasonably successful, you could consider doing one monthly during the year. A luncheon with a guest speaker would also draw people in and get your members noticed. If you have a people shortage you could do a joint meal with the Blue Lodge in your area.

A community or Commandery yard sale with tables rented to locals, or a Commandery yard sale using items donated by the members, which they obtained during their summer garage and storage cleanup. You could also request donations from the local lodges. Items unsold at the end of your sale could be donated to a local charity such as Goodwill Industries or St. Vincent DePaul. It is important to advertise your efforts to get that community recognition. Something that used to be popular but is not seen much anymore is the old-fashioned ice cream social. A perfect small-town or neighborhood event for times when the heat has become oppressive.

I am sure there are many more ideas for fundraising with community recognition and I would hope that those ideas would be shared at your next virtual gathering or teleconference, so all your members will be thinking along the lines of what we can do to make our organizations more fun and interesting along with raising much-needed funds.

For other public exposure of your good works, consider adopting a section of public road to clean up with your Commandery name and number posted on the highway.

Scholarships, fundraisers for members of the community in distress, and charitable donations are another way for us to get more local name recognition. The more we are known, the more people will want to join us and support our good work.

Yours in Christ

*William A. Biggs*

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