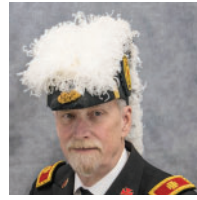




New Mexico Supplement



H. C. Sky Olsen
Grand Commander

2020 Christmas Observances in New Mexico

In the midst of our quarantine from one another, we still observe the coming of Our Savior! Depending on the Governor and the Grand Master directions, the following are the planned dates for each of our Commanderies to come together to celebrate. If allowed - they are planned to be in person, if not, we continue to thank Our Lord we are able to see and talk to one another using technology.

December 7, 2020	Baldwyn No. 12	Gallup
December 10, 2020	Shiprock No. 15	Farmington
December 14, 2020	Las Cruces No. 11	Las Cruces
December 21, 2020	Pilgrim No. 3	Albuquerque
TBD	Santa Fe No. 1	Santa Fe
TBD	Rio Hondo No. 6	Clovis

Regardless whether you are able to meet and break bread, please reach out to the Sir Knights and their families during these uncertain times, help where you are able, spread the hope of our belief that we will, soon, once again be able to come together in harmony and His grace.

2020 Southwest Department Conference

We were well represented at the very well attended Southwest meeting this year. If you were unable to attend, please check out the many resources that have become available from the Grand Encampment:

- Many updates to the website: <http://knightstemplar.org>
- New Website for KTEF - <https://www.ktef.org/>

AND - If you have the opportunity, two Sir Knights from the Southwest Department received the VERY prestigious *Grand Cross of the Temple*. CONGRATULATIONS to our own SK Richard Butterfield, KGT, and also to SK William Garrard, KGT (AZ). (Only 24 at any one time.)

Sir Knights,

Greetings. My Lady Debi and I hope this finds you and yours in good health and happiness.

This season in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord is traditionally a happy time with family gatherings, visits to friends, Christmas parties, caroling and church services. This year, with the latest plague upon us and political turmoil and civil unrest, we are more likely confined to our own homes with our immediate family members.

One thing we have all become familiar with in recent times, is the ZOOM meeting, which works well for the business portion of our meetings. For many meetings, I have come to prefer it to face to face just because of the saving in travel time. I have also noticed that the length of a virtual meeting is usually shorter than an in person meeting, perhaps because it's difficult to have a free-flowing, multi-participant conversation, but I notice that participants are generally thinking through what they are going to say, thus making the conversation clearer and more concise.

I know several families who are widely dispersed around the country who have weekly virtual get-togethers and are thus more in contact now than they were in normal times. I encourage you to give it a try. By now you should have received information concerning a state-wide virtual Knights Templar Christmas Observance. It will be an opportunity for good fellowship and celebration of the birth of Christ in a manner very similar to our usual ceremony.

A word of caution regarding the virtual Christmas Observance: It can be catastrophic if you spill your wine onto your keyboard during the toast, so please be careful. (Don't ask me how I know.) We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and productive New Year and I hope to see you in person soon.

Courteously,

H. C. Sky Olsen
Grand Commander

Photo by Michele Balke

Supplement Editor: Stephen A. Balke 505-730-7189 ktmag@nmyorkrite.org
Please send article drafts and comments/suggestions to the email above.