



IDAHO SUPPLEMENT

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Keep On Keeping On

Greetings, Sir Knights!

It is now July, and about a third of our Templar year is now on the books. Unfortunately, we have not been able to actually have a meeting in our Asylums in person due to the present circumstances. Several of the various York Rite bodies around the jurisdiction and region have been utilizing various forms of alternative communications, including Zoom, conference calls, etc. A lot of excellent educational programs have been presented both in the region and around the nation. If your local bodies have not taken advantage of the opportunities available, I encourage you to consider scheduling something, whether via telephone, Zoom, or otherwise, if just to check in with each other and make sure that everyone is doing okay. Fraternity doesn't have to stop just because we're not meeting.

As I am writing this article, I just left a Zoom meeting with the Grand Master of Idaho and other Masonic leaders discussing when we may be able to meet again. Grand Master Hall has been holding these meetings every two weeks with a broad representation of the fraternity and the extended Masonic family. Unfortunately, as of press time, we still don't have a tentative date that we can reopen for business. I know I certainly don't envy the position that Grand Master Hall finds himself in, but I know we all appreciate that he is dedicated to doing what he determines is in the best interest of the fraternity as a whole, and I, for one, thank him for the collaborative dialogue that he is engaging in with all of us in looking into the plans going forward.

Even though we are not meeting in person, we still can work on matters for the good of our Commanderies. So that we can hit the ground running and hopefully make up for some lost time, over the next few articles, I'm going to share some of the goals and objectives that I think we need to address. Most of these will be familiar to you who paid attention during the past year when I was working with another organization. For all the goals we have, the groundwork can be laid, and work can begin even before we resume labor and without running afoul of the various edicts or jeopardizing anyone's health.

Each Commandery needs to review its bylaws. Each Commandery is directed to make sure that their current and up to date bylaws are on file with both the Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder. But don't just take them out of the drawer and send them on without a thought. Each Commander should appoint a committee to review the bylaws and determine if they are still appropriate for the Commandery, and if not, have a set of revisions primed and ready to propose at the next Commandery meeting after we resume labor. All too often we operate without knowing what our bylaws say, or even worse, just ignoring them. If they are no longer appropriate, it's time to properly change them. If the committee determines they are appropriate as written, then after the committee report is submitted at the first available Commandery meeting, then forward them on for filing with a note that they have been reviewed and are good to go. If you can't find your bylaws, then it is high time to draft and adopt a new set. If you need assistance, just let myself or Grand Recorder Norman Lane know, and we'll make sure you are in good hands.

Next month, more goals. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe, and most importantly be good and kind to one another. Our Savior taught us to love one another. Given all the turmoil in the world, remembering this lesson will get us a long way towards a better tomorrow.

May God Bless You All!

Jeremy C. Vaughn, Grand Commander