



# Nebraska Supplement

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Greetings Sir Knights

Navare operam Quid impedit (Latin: Do your duty, come what may). This is one of many suspected quotes from the Operative Knights Templar. This month's article will revolve around this quote. Please bear with me. In May my home Commandery, Mt Zion #5, conducted a Zoom meeting (Zoom is a similar technology to the system used for the Nebraska Grand York Rite's Annual Session on-line meeting). We did this in order to conduct minor business, pay some bills, and socialize with our fellow knights! Our meeting was attended by approximately seven Knights. We quickly conducted our business, and Past Grand Commander Cecil Smith, along with myself, gave a review of the proceedings of our Nebraska Grand York Rite Session's on-line meeting. After the business and other necessities were completed, the knights started to talk about how things were going for them, and how they themselves were doing. As I was listening, I started to recognize a pattern for what there were discussing; one that I had seen most of my life since I have lived in Nebraska: Do your duty, come what may. The knights discussed that they still got up in the morning, went to work, did their jobs and came home. All of them talked about how their employers were making changes to protect them from COVID-19, but in the end their jobs had to get done. They voiced their concerns which ranged from nervousness to being scared they might contract the virus. It was very interesting to really listen to their discussions, because for them, they were less concerned for themselves, and more concerned they might make their families and other loved ones sick. Yet everyday they still went to work and did their duties.

Now, let me ask the Nebraska Commandery Body a question: Since President Trump, and Governor Ricketts have closed down social gatherings in our state, how many of our Commanderies have attempted to conduct a Stated Conclave? Please let me know as I fear that only one has been

conducted. Grand Master S.K. Jeffrey N. Nelson has given us permission to conduct conclaves using technology, in his GENERAL ORDER NO. 12, struck on May 4, 2020 which states "... I do hereby waive the requirement of Section 65 (a) of the Constitution, and authorize the Commander of a Constituent Commandery within each Grand Commandery to convene a Stated Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Constitution. Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies enjoy the same discretion."

I recommended, that in the month of June, each Commandery conduct a Stated Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that GENERAL ORDER NO. 12 is followed and not violated. So to be clear, in GENERAL ORDER NO. 12 where the Grand Master states: "... provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery ...", my recommendation did not allow for excuses like "That would be too hard" or "I do not know what to do". There are many individuals that can assist. For example, our Grand Recorder Dennis Newman and others, including myself, have experience in this area. In fact, this is an excellent opportunity involve our members who either have this experience, or are willing to figure out how to work these online conclaves. This is how we are to operate until GENERAL ORDER NO. 12 is rescinded.

Oh by the way, our meeting was a success! There were many funny stories and jokes told (As Masons are wont to do). We all laughed and smiled ... for the ones I could see in the webcast ... quite a bit. And you know, for a moment, COVID-19 no longer existed. All I was doing was having a great time having fellowship with my fellow Sir Knights.

I will now leave you with this thought to ponder: "Navare operam Quid impedit."

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