

# OHIO SUPPLEMENT



SK Robert C. Hager, KCT  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
July 2020



Dear Sir Knights,

As I was preparing to begin my year as Grand Commander, a friend asked me if I was going to get myself a new car. Over the last several years as a Grand Officer, I have done a lot of Masonic traveling, averaging over 36,000 miles per year. As Grand Commander, surely, I would be doing more, and my car already had over 195,000 miles on it.

I replied that my car was paid for and was running relatively well; I had never put 200,000 miles on a vehicle in my life and I would like to see that happen! Turns out, there was indeed a lot of traveling to be done. In a six-week stretch from the beginning of February to the second week of March, when the world went sideways, I put 4,300 miles on the car and filled up the gas tank 15 times, purchasing about 187 gallons of gas and spending nearly \$450.

How times have changed! In all of April and May, I only visited the gas station three times. My odometer seems to have settled in at 209,000 miles.

While I am no longer traveling in my car, I have enjoyed opportunities to visit Sir Knights all over the state of Ohio from the comfort of my own home, attending their conclaves via Zoom, WebEx and other electronic applications. There are a number of Commanderies I can now say I have attended one of their conclaves but have never set foot in their asylum!

On one occasion, the Grand High Priest, the Grand Illustrious Master and I were all at the same meeting. How often can a York Rite body say that all three state presiding York Rite officers attended a stated conclave?

At several of these meetings, members who have moved out of state were able to attend. We were joined by Ohio Sir Knights in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and other places.

This is a new way of doing business for many of us. There is something about greeting a Brother with a handshake or a warm embrace that can never be replaced by a video on a computer screen.

Still, strange as it may be, we are learning that we can enjoy fellowship and get things done this way, until the prevailing conditions allow us to meet face-to-face again.

I would like to remind you that Ohio Grand Commandery is still planning to hold the 178th Grand Conclave at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio on October 9-10. A copy of the official Circular is available on the Grand Commandery website at [www.ohioknightstemplar.com](http://www.ohioknightstemplar.com) . Please make your reservations now.

As with all planning during these times, we need to have a back-up plan, and your Grand Commandery officers will be prepared if we cannot meet in person in October. We are planning a "Virtual Conclave," just in case. If the in-person conclave is cancelled, any deposits or money paid will be refunded.

I hope that you and your families are all staying well. Until we meet again.

Courteously and fraternally,

*Robert C. Hager*

Robert C. Hager, KCT  
Grand Commander

*I Hear America Singing*

[Walt Whitman](#) - 1819-1892 (Poem in the public domain)

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,  
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,  
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,  
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,  
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing  
on the steamboat deck,  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he  
stands,  
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at  
noon intermission or at sundown,  
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the  
girl sewing or washing,  
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,  
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows,  
robust, friendly,  
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.