

South Dakota



Jake Smith, State Editor
409 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
jake3404@yahoo.com



Herb Cook
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

I hope all of the South Dakota Sir Knights and their families are well and keeping safe from the COVID-19 virus. I am writing this at the end of May and SD is not predicted to reach its peak of exposure until the mid-June.

The Dais officers held a ZOOM (internet) meeting near the end of May. By unanimous decision, it was decided that the Elected and Appointed officers of the York Rite bodies of South Dakota will remain in their respective offices until September 2021. For your understanding, this decision was made in part because of the open-ended nature of the COVID-19 virus exposures, the dais officers have no pressing business that have deadlines involved, and a majority of the members of our York Rite bodies are part of one of the age groups that are most vulnerable to the most severe effects of the virus. Another reason is the fact that the Grand Master has not rescinded his edict prohibiting gatherings and meetings.

The effects of the quarantine are just beginning to be felt by all of us. We used to call it spring fever or cabin fever. We begin to be restless, to need contact with other people, more voices than those of our immediate families. There are activities related to Commandery that can always use attention. Maybe use some time for sword practice; salutes, draw and return swords, arch of steel (well, half of an arch), get more comfortable with handling our swords. Clean and fluff the chapeau (research on google, pinterest and practice on something first).

Work on the Ritual, if you are anything like me, I can always use work. I seem to need a lot of review and practice.

We can also help our brothers and sisters who are unable to get out. Give a few members a call just to say "Hi. Been thinking about you." Remember how you feel when someone unexpected calls just to say hello.

Please remember that the KTEF can always use a little more money to help relieve people of those imperfections we are committed to help repair.

Always remember to ask God for support getting through these trying times. Trust that in the end we will prevail!

Herbert E. Cook

Grand Commander of Knights Templar of South Dakota
And Please, enjoy a Safe and Sane Independence Day!!

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world,
The foe long since in silence slept,
Alike the Conqueror silent sleeps,
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.
On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone,
That memory may their deed redeem,
When like our sires our sons are gone.
Spirit! who made those freemen dare
To die, or leave their children free,
Bid time and nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and Thee."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson "Concord Hymn"