


ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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William J. Farris
Grand Commander

Pro Deo et Patria

Greetings Sir Knights:

I hope all is well with you and your families. I cannot begin to express my frustration and sadness for the 2019-2020 Templar Year. All of the programs and committee work and legislation are on hold until next year. "I am an optimist, It does not seem too much use being anything else 'Winston Churchill'. To all of the new Sir Knights, I hope that you can bear with us as we try to get everything in order and back to normal. There is plenty to be scared about right now. But there is a big difference between being aware of bad news and being consumed by it. The media always seems to neglect reporting the good news. We almost completed our Inspection Year. The Grand Officers will be contacting those Commanderies who were not inspected and will make arrangements to complete the process. This needs to be done to assure the good health of our Commanderies and our Grand Commandery.

The Illinois Grand Conclave is going forward with an August 1st date. The new venue will be the Masonic Temple in Bloomington, Illinois. All Commanderies will be notified by mail and with all of the details and it will be placed on the Grand Commandery web page. You will also receive a dispensation to hold your annual meetings in June. "Never, never, never, never give up. 'Winston Churchill'".

William J. Farris, Grand Commander

Sir Knights: The month of June is an important month for Illinois Templary. It is the new beginning of the Templar Year 2020-2021. Each of the constituent Commanderies will or will have held an election and an installation. The new set of officers will begin to implement their plans for the year ahead. We know not all that is before us, but with a strong belief in God, who can defeat us? It is our hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us and we can begin to look ahead to a full year of Templar activities.

Communication will be an important means of bringing back the Sir Knights who have not been able to attend a Stated Conclave for the past

few months. Newsletters, telephone calls, e-mail, and other social media are all tools which may be utilized to make each of our Sir Knights feel that they are an important part of your Commandery. It is also important that you give to each member a reason to attend. The Recorder reading the minutes is not a reason. A special program to honor the Ladies or a new Fifty-Year Member for example. With what has been going on, an evening to honor those of your membership who are first responders might be very appropriate.

June is also the month during which each Sir Knight should have his 2020-2021 dues paid. Most Commanderies do not have a surplus of funds and depend upon the dues of the Sir Knights to keep the operations going.

Regarding your membership. Have you checked with your Sir Knights to see how they are coping in this period of unrest? It is the Templar obligation to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted". Each Commandery should be aware of any Sir Knight who is in distress. Both the Grand Commandery along with the Grand Lodge of Illinois are here to assist a needy brother and Sir Knight. Please do not be afraid to utilize these services.

As we stated earlier, June is a month of new beginnings, New Commanders are seated in the East and new officers are taking new positions. There is much work to be done to prepare not only for the Annual Inspection, but each of the other Templar commitments, such as an Annual Christmas Libation program.

Lastly, we cannot forget Membership. (The lifeblood of every Commandery). Several Commanderies have already begun a prospect program to reach potential new Sir Knights. What has your Commandery done to invite our Ancient Craft Brothers to join the York Rite of Freemasonry. Remember, each of our Ancient Craft Brothers has already taken the first step. The Lodge being the first of the four bodies of the York Rite. Also, we can inform him that by being a member of the York Rite he is assisting in the support of his local lodge, as the York Rite meets in the local lodge building. For those brothers who are concerned about charity, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and the Knight Templar Educational Foundation reach out into the community. There is also the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund, whereby a minister from Illinois is selected to go to the Holy Land. All the local Commandery who recommends the minister must do is to provide his transportation to New York. All other expenses are covered by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Sir Knights there are many ideas out there. All you must do is gather your Sir Knights and put your ideas to work.