



# Nebraska Supplement

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Greetings Sir Knights

I would like to start this by thanking the Sir Knights in the state of Nebraska for choosing me to represent you as the Grand Commander for the state of Nebraska. I am very proud, honored and humbled for this opportunity. Let me present a brief bio of my masonic journey thus far.

My home Blue Lodge is Plattsmouth Lodge #6. It was there I was raised a Master Mason in May, 2004 and became Worshipful Master in 2008. In my local York Rite, I joined Nebraska Chapter #3, Adoniram Council #5 and Mt Zion Commandery #5 all of which, meet in Plattsmouth. I am a Past High Priest, Past Illustrious Master, and Past Commander as well. The York Rite Appendant Bodies I belong to are Knights York Cross of Honor (KYCH): Past Prior, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests: Past Preceptor, Red Cross of Constantine: Treasurer and the York Rite College. Other Masonic bodies I belong to are Tangier Shrine, where I am the Past Captain of the singing group Chanters, and a member of the Ritual Divan. Finally, I am a Past Patron of Eastern Star Home Chapter # 189 Plattsmouth.

Near the end of April, Nebraska held their York Rite Grand Session. What made this session unique is that it was conducted, not on site at a convention center as is our usual custom, but was conducted completely on-line using a web teleconferencing service. We were forced into this situation by the COVID-19 lockdown that all states were following last month. I am very proud of how our state officers, for all three of Nebraska's York Rite Grand bodies, quickly came together and developed both a process and agenda to make this Grand Session work as well as it did! With the agreement of the grand officers, Dennis Newman, Nebraska's E. Grand Secretary/Recorder, drafted and sent out the ballots for election of officers by email to the delegates. I asked Dennis how many were sent out and how many responded. Dennis stated that he did not really have a tally on the number that went out but he received over 40

completed election ballots that were sent back to the Grand Recorder for tabulation. The elections went very smoothly. Our proposed budget for the year was also sent out and voted on the same way. In fact, everything that is usually handed out at the Grand Session was emailed, this included the preprinted reports. This is even more surprising in that the Grand Officers only had about one month to plan and execute the meeting.

For the meeting agenda, each body worked to limit their session to a one hour time slot, and on the whole, each of the three meetings completed their agenda under the time limit. I attribute this to the excellent planning of the Grand Officers prior the meeting. I was pleasantly surprised to note that several General Grand and Grand Encampment Officers were in attendance. I was also very proud when Sir Knight Daniel R. Sherry R.E. Department Commander for the North Central Department was logged in attendance as well. We had an average of over 40 members attend each session and each meeting reached its quorum requirement. I would like to thank all of my Officers who volunteered to work with me this year to lead this great group of dedicated men in our state. We learned some things as well, like keeping phones and mics on mute when not speaking.

One of the ceremonies that was altered to accommodate the electronic meeting format was the installation of officers. I have been planning my installation for a while now. I enjoy the installation ceremony with its pomp and circumstance. I was even planning on having the Tangier Shrine Chanters out of Omaha provide some entertainment before the event started. I had a small and humble acceptance speech written, and I could not wait to hear my wife when she would say "Right Eminent Grand Commander may I approach the dais?" For those of you who do not know my wife Jeanette, she is a loving person but is a very strong, one hundred percent Bohemian, woman and it would make her grind her teeth together to say that! Oh I am going to miss that ... wait ... there's always next year!

LaVern J (Joe) Work (II)  
Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery  
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