

# OHIO SUPPLEMENT



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



Dear Sir Knights,

With our activities still on hold as of the time of this writing, I hope that you and those you love are staying healthy. Hopefully, many of you who have been hit by a loss of livelihood have been able to go back to work and begin a return to some sense of normalcy.

We have often been reminded that this is a time to keep in touch with all our members and make sure they are doing OK. This is good advice not just in a pandemic, but at all times for those of us who claim to be Christian Masons. We are our brother's keeper, and we all share a duty to the wives, widows and orphans of our members, as Masons and as Knights Templar.

Many of our Commanderies have been meeting by using modern technology to connect with each other, such as "Zoom" and other teleconference media. I have received reports from some Commanderies that the conclaves have been very successful, and even some members who moved out of state or who we have not seen for years have popped in on some of these meetings. I hope that if we have not already begun to resume in-person conclaves, your Commandery is doing everything they can to keep our fellowship going.

One aspect of Commandery that has suffered the most during the recent events has been our ability to make new Knights. Some of the first few directives that came from the Grand Encampment (and your Grand Commander) prohibited ritual work, and cancelled inspections. This left many candidates who were poised to receive the Order of the Temple unable to be knighted.

I solicited Commanderies who were impacted to send me the contact information for their Knights of Malta, and I mailed personal letters to 39 of them in March, assuring them that although we could not perform their Orders at this time, that they are important to us

and that their Commanderies have not forgotten them. I encourage all Commanderies to reach out now to your candidates, make sure they are OK, and keep them in the loop as far as developments are occurring with us. We all hope that we will be able to knight them soon.

I encourage all Recorders who have petitions or candidates "in the pipeline" to make sure that their information is entered into the MMS membership system; we do not want these men to fall through the cracks.

June is the month when Commanderies have their installation of officers, according to their by-laws. Regardless of what is going on in the world, this is still in effect today. If we are not yet meeting in person, make sure that your Commandery meets by some alternative method, be it webcast or teleconference, and get your officers installed. This is a great opportunity for your officers to work together and find ways to get things done! It may not be today, but the day WILL come when we can all celebrate together again.

A reminder to all Commanders and Recorders, the Annual Return is still expected to be turned in to the Grand Recorder no later than July 1, 2020. I have extended the due date for Grand Commandery dues to be received by the Grand Recorder to no later than August 1, 2020.

We are still planning to hold the 178<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave in October of this year at Great Wolf Lodge. However, your Grand Officers are also making alternative plans in case that is just impossible. A number of other Grand Jurisdictions have already either delayed their sessions or conducted them by webcast or conference call, with varying degrees of success. In Ohio, we pride ourselves on setting the standard for the rest of the Grand Encampment. Whatever method we choose to proceed, we will continue to set the bar high.

Courteously and fraternally,

***Robert C. Hager***

Robert C. Hager, KCT  
Grand Commander