



## Missouri Supplement

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## Stuff's About To Happen!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

As February ends and March begins, so begins the annual Grand Conclaves in the South Central Department. As your Grand Commander, I feel that it is my duty to represent Missouri at the annual Grand Conclaves of other Grand Commanderies in our Department. By attending annual Grand Conclaves, we can learn how other Grand Commanderies manage their events and hopefully make connections with our counterparts. The first Grand Conclave in our Department is for the Grand Commandery of Louisiana (Alexandria, February 27-March 1). The next Grand Conclave is for the Grand Commandery of Arkansas (Little Rock, March 20-21). In the months that follow are the Grand Conclaves for the Grand Commandery of Texas (Waco, April 16-19), the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, April 23-25), and the Grand Commandery of Kansas (Topeka, April 30-May 2). And last but by no means least, the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Missouri will be held in Jefferson City on June 12th and 13th. These events take a great amount of planning by the Grand Officers of each Grand Commandery and it is important for the Sir Knights in each jurisdiction to attend them.

March has several other important events for the Missouri York Rite Masons. March 7th is the date of the Grand Master's Royal Arch Class and March 14th is the date of the Grand Master's Cryptic Day, both will be held in Jefferson City. March 21st is the date of the Grand Master's Templar Crusade in Independence. All of these events are an important part of Missouri York Rite Freemasonry and it is important to support all our York Rite Bodies. Detailed information on each of these events can be found on the Grand York Rite of Missouri website in the "EVENTS" tab.

Please remember that each Sir Knight in your Commandery is important, so reach out to your members and make them aware of the upcoming events in your Commandery. Tell them you want them to attend and maybe that will be the contact that they needed. In closing, let us think on this scripture, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4, NKJV)

### He is Risen!

Sir Knight Clark A. McLemore, Grand Commander

## MOTIVATION AND LEADERSHIP

Each year our Commanderies select the Officers for the next year. Installations are usually festive events. The new Commander has the spotlight. It is sparkly and new. It is his 15 minutes of fame. It is handshakes and congratulations.

Then the first meeting rolls around and the new Commander must now pay the piper. He must, per his obligation, take up the reins of leadership and actually do something with his Commandery. One of the first challenges for the new Commander is to motivate his troops, to get their attention, so they will listen.

"Our Commandery doesn't do anything, so I don't waste my time going anymore!" "Someone needs to do something or we are going to lose our Commandery!" "What we need to do is get a bunch of new members to replace the ones that don't come anymore!" The new Commander is confronted or possibly overwhelmed by the opinions and attitudes of the members. What should he do? How should he proceed? Here are a few ideas for our new Commanders.

Before we can successfully recruit new members, we must get the current members excited about Templary and their Commandery. The challenge is getting them to listen again. We need to talk up the Commandery, plan up the year, plan up each month, plan up each meeting. Having a carry-in potluck dinner before each meeting can help encourage participation. Plus, we need to maintain regular, informative communication with our members. The plans, calendars, and agendas need to be shared with the active members and, more importantly, with the silent majority of inactive members. We need to stop wasting our meetings because meaningless meetings waste everyone's time.

Playing with swords is a big part of Templary. Drilling can be fun, so shake it up. Organize several teams within your Commandery. You can have a Junior team of new members, an Officer team, and a Senior team of Past Commanders. You can hold your own drill competition events. You could even invite nearby Commanderies to participate.

However, there has to be more to Templary than just drilling, so mix it up. Practice/perform the full opening ritual, try out the short form on page 98 in the black book, or review/discuss the opening rituals for the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta. Practice/confer the Orders one per meeting instead of using festivals. Provide educational presentations and discussions on historic Templary, modern Knights Templary, elements of the ritual work, and leadership. The bottom line is that we must maintain a positive attitude and stay personally excited, because excitement is contagious. Motivating a Commandery involves changing attitudes and opinions.

There is no cookie cutter solution or formula for motivating and leading a Commandery. A Commandery is not an object that can be tested, analyzed, diagnosed, and repaired. It is a collection of Sir Knights, of individuals working together in a common cause, and each Commandery has a dynamic character unique to that collective. Let's all help our new Commanders succeed and in turn help our Commanderies to grow and prosper.