



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

*Embrace the Challenge
Stand Up—Stand Out—Be Visible
Be Proud to Be A Knight Templar*



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FRATERAL GREETINGS!

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the tool we use to exercise our influence on others, motivate people around us, and establish/maintain relationships with them. Communication is a major part of our active life, be it verbally through speech, reading, writing, or non-verbally through body language. But, conventional process of communication is not enough to meet the multidimensional needs of our Commanderies of Knights Templar. What is needed is communication for decision making, coordination, control, and planning. Grand Commandery of Virginia and Constituent Commanderies need a Templar multidimensional communications network for day-to-day functioning that connects individuals, regardless of geographic location, almost instantly.

So, we need to strengthen our communicate skills:

1. We need to communicate to persuade our Symbolic Lodge Brethren and Royal Arch Companions that Templary Masonry stands for the highest ideas of Christianity.
2. We need to communicate information about our Commanderies, to teach the ritual and tactics, to reduce rumor and misunderstanding among the Sir Knights, or to notify members of special meetings or events.
3. We need to communicate seeking information on electing or appointing leaders and committeemen within our Commanderies or for making operational and financial managing decisions.
4. We need to communicate to express our emotions with appropriate gestures and words. Some people have unlimited skill to emote, which by itself is a communication skill.

Brother Allen E. Roberts said “*Communication – is it important? Yes! It’s the most important aspect of being an excellent leader.*” Establishing and developing effective communication is important to be heard and change your environment according to your own thoughts. No one will guess what you want or what you think if you don’t tell them, and nothing is going to change if you do not propose a change.

The first aspect to communicate effectively is not to be afraid of speaking. Most of the time people are afraid of speaking because they are not sure if it is the right time to speak; you are important, so you need to be heard. If something must be said, say it, but as softly and gently as you can. Never hurt anyone intentionally.

Second, if you want to communicate effectively, defend what you say. Once you have said something you can never go backward; you must back it up.

The third main aspect of effective communication is to express exactly what you mean to say. Pick up the words that will express exactly what you are thinking of. But, remember words are double edged weapons which can be used either to defend or to attack. If you make an effective use of them, you will be able to do almost everything.

The fourth main point to effective communication, and probably the most important of all, is the listening part. Listen and do not interrupt when it is no longer your turn to speak. You will surely learn new things from listening to others. Effective communication is based on both listening and speaking. Listening is a gift, and good listeners are always much appreciated because there are only a few.

Tip: when we are communicating Templar Masonry, we need to take the business of Templar Masonry seriously and maintain the lofty standards. Our heritage must be guidepost to the future, not a hitching post for the past.

Courteously,

Benjamin F. Hill

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Grand Commander