


ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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William J. Farris
Grand Commander

Pro Deo et Patria

Greetings Sir Knights:

I think that one of the hardest things in dealing with this pandemic is the sorting out of fact from fiction. Medical professionals, news media, people, politicians and your neighbor are all giving advice on what you should and need to do. Common sense tells us to stay highly informed and be smart. We are all smart and certainly capable of making the right decisions. Regarding your Commandery, don't let it go dark Stay in constant contact with your Knights, either by yourself, your Prelate or your Recorder. Constant emailing and texting between members, is very important and is the only way at this time that we can monitor the health and well-being of our fellow Sir Knights. Commanders, Recorders and Prelates have the greatest responsibility during this time. The Grand Officers of Illinois are highly committed in helping to aid and assist our Sir Knights. There are many avenues of assistance available. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. This pandemic is a battle that we are all prepared to win. *"While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest story to add the more distinguished character of Christian."* (George Washington).

May is also the month during which we celebrate Memorial Day. Let us not forget to take time to remember those who sacrificed and served to keep us free.

During this month let us not forget our Ladies. Mother's Day is a time when we should give special attention to our Mothers and Wives who give of their time in order for us to be able to attend the many meetings and functions which keep our fraternity operating.

Fraternally, William J. Farris, Grand Commander.

Recorders Take Note

May is one of your busiest months. There are dues notices to be prepared, dues cards to be sent to our Fifty Year and Life Members, and the finalization of all those reports to both the Grand Commandery and to our local Commanderies. At the same time, the officers of the constituent Commanderies should be preparing the list of those Sir Knights who will be both elected and appointed to guide the leadership of their Commandery for the 2020-2021 Templar Year. It is anticipated that the ban on meetings in Illinois will have been lifted and we will be able to once again gather to exchange fraternal greetings in person.

There are several Commanderies who were unable to complete their Inspections prior to the statewide shutdowns. Your Grand Officers will be contacting them to see what adjustments to the calendar need to be made to complete the Inspections for 2019-2020

As of now, the 2020 Grand Commandery Conclave of Illinois Knights Templars is scheduled to be held in Normal, Illinois on Thursday, July 29th. As usual, all Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos and Captain Generals are required to be in attendance. The legislation will be acted on and the election of those officers who will lead the Grand Commandery in the future will all be determined. This is your opportunity to have a say in the future of both the Grand Commandery and your local Commandery. As has been often stated, "If you do not attend and express your opinion, you have not the right to complain later". So, mark your calendar and plan to join your fraters for this important gathering. If, do to work conflicts you are unable to be in attendance, please see that another Sir Knight from your Commandery is in attendance with your proxy. Each year there are Commanderies which are listed as not being in attendance although members of that Commandery were there but without proper credentials.

As we conclude the 2019-2020 Templar Year, may I take this moment to express to each of the serving officers, my appreciation for what you have endeavored to accomplish and what you did accomplish during this past year. The last few months have been a challenge to all of us. We are so used to being able to freely move about, to accomplish what we want, when we want, and with whom we want. When this suddenly is stopped, we become angry and frustrated. But we must remember that this too shall pass. As we prepare for 2020-2021 let us take a positive attitude and renew our energies to making this new Templar Year a positive one by marching forward with determination to make up for lost time and a new dedication to move OUR Grand Commandery forward to even greater heights .