



Missouri Supplement
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Together in Isolation!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Every year the presiding Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Missouri has the pleasure of introducing his successor and this year is no different. The years that I have spent with Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper have been an excellent experience. Charley is someone who takes his Masonic Obligations seriously and he has been a great example to me and the other Sir Knights in the advancing line of officers of the Grand Commandery of Missouri. I have no doubt that Sir Knight Cooper will be a wonderful Grand Commander and the Grand Commandery of Missouri needs leaders like him. In this month's supplement, Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Deputy Grand Commander, will provide an introduction of himself and details of his ideas for the Grand Commandery of Missouri.

He is Risen!

Sir Knight Clark A. McLemore, Grand Commander

DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I want to thank our Grand Commander, Sir Knight McLemore, for the opportunity to provide an article for this month's supplement. As I pen this article, it is the middle of March and the COVID-19 virus is in the backdrop. The Grand Commandery line just voted to suspend all Commandery activities until further notice. It is my hope, that as you read this article, Masonic activities may be returning to normal. The safety of our membership and their families is and always will be our greatest concern. I already miss the face to face time with my Brothers, Companions, and fellow Sir Knights.

I wake up every day wondering where the last 7 years have gone. It just seems like yesterday that I was elected Grand Warder and now I am just over a month away from possibly being elected as your Grand Commander. I am very thankful for the leadership exhibited from the Sir Knights that I have followed through these years and for the future leadership that is following me. I am truly blessed to be associated with these fine Sir Knights.

In keeping with the tradition of the May supplement, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I have been married to my wife Janet for 37 years and I

have one daughter Stephanie whom many of you have met. My wife, because of her work schedule, has not been able to attend many of our Masonic events. My occupations have been many. I have served as a deputy sheriff, a city policeman, a state investigator, a Haz-Mat Specialist for the State of Missouri, a farmer, and I still own and operate a transportation compliance company and a HVACR service company. Some would say that my past life has been busy and others would say that I couldn't hold a job. Either way, my life has been very interesting. My Masonic affiliations include memberships in Adair Lodge No. 366, Caldwell Chapter No. 53, Kirksville Council No. 44, and Ely Commandery No. 22, as well as KYCH, Yeoman of York, York Rite College, AMD, Scottish Rite, Knight Masons, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest, Red Cross of Constantine, St. Thomas of Acon, Court of Discovery, Order of High Priesthood, Order of the Silver Trowel, and the MO Association of Past Commanders. I also had the honor of being a District Deputy Grand High Priest and a District Deputy Grand Lecturer for the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

During the next year, I want us to continue working with the Membership Committees of the Grand Encampment, Grand Commandery, and Constituent Commanderies to increase the number of Sir Knights who belong to our wonderful organization. I would like to see every Commandery working to extend to their local Lodges educational programs like "With Fervency and Zeal." It has been proven that it works. It is also very important to attend your Lodge meetings as much as possible and always carry a York Rite petition with you. Don't be afraid to talk about your York Rite bodies during social settings.

Also, to increase our membership, it is important to remember the three "V's"; Visibility, Visibility, and Visibility. Visibility in our Lodges, Visibility in our Masonic bodies, and Visibility in our community. If they see us, then just maybe they will want to join us. I plan on having a meeting with the Regional Grand Commanders sometime in August or September (when the virus will permit). During this meeting we will review their duties, the issues about which I need them to educate their assigned Commanderies, and the manner in which they are to conduct the business of the Grand Commander in my absence. The Regional Grand Commanders are the extension of the Grand Commander in their Region. Therefore, it is a very important position in our Grand Commandery. I would like to explore the possibility of hosting a WebEx meeting monthly with the Regional Grand Commanders to obtain their insight and concerns in their region.

In closing, I look forward to our Grand Conclave (maybe in June or maybe not) and meeting with you in person or by WebEx. Either way, I am excited about the 2020-2021 adventure that we are about to begin.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4: 2, NIV)

Fraternally,

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Deputy Grand Commander