

Greetings Sir Knights

I pray you all are well during this uncertain time we are facing today because of COVID-19. These are troubling times indeed, but we must remember to keep our faith in God.

Our Annual Grand Session was initially going to be cancelled. However, we are going to take advantage of Most Eminent Grand Master's, Jeffrey N. Nelson, GENERAL ORDER NO. 11. Sir Knight Nelson "... authorized the Grand Commander, or his designee, to convene the Stated Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Constitution." In fact, the other bodies of Nebraska York Rite, Grand Chapter, and Grand Council will also take advantage of this means to conduct our annual Grand Session for York Rite in Nebraska. Therefore, our Grand York Rite will conduct our normal business, within these restrictions, and hold elections.

Where we can, we must aid and support our masonic brethren. Below are some suggestions:

- 1. Check on your masonic brothers, Sir Knights, and neighbors: Call, email or text them (especially elderly members) to make sure they're doing okay.
- 2. Ask your fellow masonic brothers and Sir Knights if there is anything that you can help with (like getting a box of tissues or a

cup of sugar). If you can get it for them, offer to leave it outside their front door so that you do not need to come into direct contact with them. It sounds extreme, but this is actually a great (and safe) way to make sure that our more vulnerable members have what they need.

- 3. If you feel comfortable going out, consider knocking on the door of our brothers and chatting through the screen or storm door just to offer a bit of comfort and reassurance.
- 4. Also, with the arrival of spring, others may need some help with yard work or minor repairs where you do not have to come into contact with them.
- 5. Donate Blood, multiple articles state blood banks are struggling to keep up with demand during the social distancing period.

Let me close by saying things are difficult right now, and there will always be some adversity in our lives. There are people out there that are anxious, bored, worried, alone, and upset. If you let me pass some words of advice along to you ... Be patient with people, some of them really need it. Be kind with people, everyone needs that! Help people if you can, this is what the Knights Templar stand for. Remember, you are not alone in all of this; do not be afraid to reach out to your fellow Sir Knights and brothers to talk or ask for assistance. Let me leave you with this bible verse from 1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

LaVern J (Joe) Work (II) Grand Commander Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska