

Clarence J. Laney
R: E: Grand Commander
1171 Bluestem Way
Waxahachie, TX 76167
Cell: (254) 479-6618
Email:
cjvision2020@zoho.com



Jeff S. Bennett
Texas Page Editor
3208 Hyde Park CT
Arlington, TX 76015
Cell: (817) 372-3399
Email:
jeffbturbine@yahoo.com

2020-2021 TEXAS SUPPLEMENT

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope everyone is starting off the new decade with renewed enthusiasm for Freemasonry. I would like to encourage everyone to take a new look at Templary this year, and to renew your obligations to God, to your fellow man, and to the craft. I have seen what I believe is somewhat of a renaissance of cooperation in all of our masonic bodies over the past few years, and I would love to see this trend continue into the future.

Let us all make an extra effort, and commit to the concept of Service, by making that extra meeting and especially public events, in support of our commanderies and of masonry. Volunteer for a committee or participate in the activities of your commanderies, and show our other masonic bodies that the York Rite supports them all by attending a meeting here and there, where you normally would not. We, as a fraternity, will be infinitely stronger working together rather than competing with each other – **our goals are the same and, as a united fraternity, they will be accomplished.**

Be a trend-setter and a leader to your fellow Sir Knights. I hope the trend toward mutual cooperation between all of our masonic bodies continues to grow and strengthen the fraternity, and forges new and stronger bonds between Sir Knights and Brother Masons. To paraphrase Brother John Dickenson, “United we stand, divided we fall.” A unified front can only serve as a positive influence on our efforts to build our masonic bonds and promote our numerous charitable legacies.

The more the public sees us in together action to promote Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, the more they will understand who we really are and why we do what we do. Let’s get our team out in the community and promote Christian Masonry by just doing what we do, and the rest will fall in line. Ponder these words by Brother Albert Pike, “What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains, and is immortal.” Words to live by, I think...

In His Service,

Gary H. Freedman, Deputy Grand Commander

A Note on the Coronavirus

Sir Knights, no doubt everyone is concerned about dealing with the uncertainty caused by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has affected all of us in some way or another, and will continue to do so until the virus has run its course and we have time to recover as a fraternity, a nation, and a global community. It will certainly not be easy, and in the wake of this crisis it will take the efforts of every Sir Knight working as a team to do our part in restoring our fraternity to normality.

Following the guidance outlined by various government agencies, and the examples set by the Grand Lodge of Texas and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Grand Commander Laney made the difficult, but wise decision of postponing our annual grand conclave until such time as we may reconvene after the threat has passed, and then safely conduct the business of the Grand Commandery.

We do not yet know when circumstances will allow us to reschedule, but rest assured it will be as soon as possible, and with the health and safety of our members and the general public at the forefront of our minds. At this time, the Grand Commander is planning on an abbreviated grand conclave, cancelling all non-critical events including ritual and drill competitions, and all meetings and banquets not necessary for the conduct our business. This will likely result in a one-day conclave where, in order to minimize unnecessary exposure to potential lingering pathogens, we will open, conduct any critical businesses, hold elections and install officers.

We all understand the consequences of holding a conclave with relatively short notice and in an as yet unknown location. I trust, Sir Knights, everyone understands that extraordinary circumstances require extraordinary measures, and with guidance from God and our trusted brethren, the Grand Commander will make the appropriate decisions to best serve the interests and future of our Grand Commandery. Grand Commander Laney and the rest of your Grand Officers appreciate your ongoing support and prayers during this trying time, and we hope we can maintain your trust in us that we will carry on our business in the most efficient manner possible under the circumstances.

This too shall pass, Sir Knights. The situation is constantly changing, and we will do our best to keep everyone informed of our progress. **Please keep an eye on the Grand Commandery website and our social media outlets, as updates will be posted on a regular basis, including the latest General Orders regarding COVID and the grand conclave. God bless us all, and we pray to the Great Architect to safely deliver us from this deadly and contagious virus.**