



IDAHO SUPPLEMENT

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Moving On

My fellow Sir Knights,

As I have commented, one of the challenges of these supplements is that they must be written about a month or so prior to when they are published. By the time you receive the magazine, much can change. About two weeks prior to this writing, Grand Master Steven O. Zimmerman allowed Masonic activity to resume on a lodge by lodge basis, with each lodge (and Masonic body) making decisions on what they deemed best by consideration of local conditions and utilization of best practices and guidelines to cope with the health situation at large.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Idaho and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Idaho have each allowed labor to resume, following the lead and suggestions of the Grand Lodge. I must remind all Sir Knights, however, that NO in-person conclaves or meetings of Knights Templar may occur pursuant to Grand Master Nelson's General Order No. 12 from the Grand Encampment. I hope that by the time this supplement is in your hands that we will have more information on a timeline for resumption of our labors, perhaps from the Department Conference.

It is apparent to me, however, that despite our hopes and best efforts, this year will continue to be unique and different. To that end, we will be doing our Christmas Observances slightly different this year. Plans are just now in the formative stages, but I am pleased to announce that we are planning for a virtual, state-wide Christmas Observance to be held in December. More details will be forthcoming, but I wanted to put the word out now so that you can be looking forward to it. Even if we are permitted to resume labor, time may be too short to plan differently, and even then, many of our members may not feel comfortable returning to group activities so quickly. It is hoped that this opportunity will allow us to share in each other's fellowship even while we are apart and to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a meaningful way together. Please stay tuned!

We are getting close to the time when awards nominations will be due. There are several awards available to Sir Knights through our organization. One is the Order of

the White Star which is the highest award awarded by the Grand Commandery of Idaho to a Sir Knight for distinguished service. The full criteria and nomination procedures are in our Code of Laws available on our website. Two can be awarded in a year. Another award is the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, the highest award for distinguished service awarded by the Grand Encampment on recommendation of the Grand Commander. There is a form required for this award, available from the Grand Recorder, and it does require a formal resolution from the local commandery recommending the Sir Knight for the distinction. I am authorizing all commanderies in Idaho to meet virtually via electronic means to consider a resolution for the KTCH. Forward all nominations directly to me.

In addition, there are two distinctions presented by the College of Honors on behalf of the Grand Encampment: the Knight Commander of the Temple and the Companion of the Temple. The KCT is a decoration for distinguished and faithful service by a Sir Knight. The COT is a decoration for similar service by a non-Sir Knight, such as a lady. If you believe you know someone is deserving of consideration, please contact me for further information.

I know this has been an off year, but I don't want deserving folks to slip through the cracks just because of the pandemic. These awards encompass a lifetime of service, not just any one year. Do not sit on a nomination just because we haven't been able to meet for most of the year. If you have any further questions about our awards, please contact me and I will be happy to advise on process and criteria. I would ask that all nominations be submitted no later than January 15, 2021 to allow for appropriate consideration and processing. And although it should go without saying, please do not apprise anyone they have been nominated for any award. I certainly do not want anyone's feelings hurt should they not be selected.

Sir Knights, our historical ancestors battled Saracens, assassins, rough terrain, ravages of battle, and of course, the diseases of the day. As we continue to battle this pandemic, the lack of civility in our current society, and the unrest in many communities, please remember the courage of and faith demonstrated by our predecessors, and show the world by our words and deeds, that we are indeed their worthy successors. But more importantly, be a beacon unto the world and let the light of Christ shine through by your acts of love, tolerance, understanding, and kindness to your neighbors. The world is full of struggles, including the ones that each of us bear. Renew your faith in our Blessed Redeemer and remember under whose banner you serve. Ensure that your every thought, word, and act is acceptable in Christ's sight and reflects the lessons taught to us in the Holy Book.

May God Continue to Bless All of You!

Jeremy C. Vaughn
Grand Commander