

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights,

What a year we are not having. Yes, I said, not having. Due to COVID-19, the senseless rioting, and the fires, it is hard to think what will come later in the fall and spring. It is hard to hope for better things to come when there is so much despair in the communities. Unfortunately, our demographic is in the main range in most of our commanderies where there are fewer knights under the age of 65 and who do not have something ailing them. It does not help that through our best efforts to bring in younger members to change the picture somewhat, that we are faced with that all devouring scythe of time cutting our numbers before many of us can bring new members into the fold. With this pandemic and the restrictions of the “do not confer degrees” order, it puts us under an unbearable dilemma to run out this course and hope for the best. The upside may be that we can go over parts in the rituals so that when the time comes, they may be performed to perfection with the heart and meaning they deserve. This may inspire the younger to want to join us. Also with the home bound, it may improve our numbers when we are finally released to participate with our brethren. I hope all are staying safe and mostly at home. I know that this is not the time to be socializing without limits. As we are dealing with this pandemic. But it is not the time to loose sight of the Knights who have become dear in our hearts. We need to keep in touch with them and see if there is a need that arises. Keep in touch with the distressed Knights and give them a comforting word to show them you care. At this point, many of us are looking to the virtual modes like zoom to keep in touch with the social distancing that has been required.

I hope that by the time this is published there will be more good cheer in the world and that we will be able to put some of the uncertainties behind us. There is still speculation of another surge in the pandemic happening in the fall, especially if a vaccine is not developed by then. Or at least a surge with the common flu bugs which normally create havoc each year.

With all this uncertainty, we should be thankful to live in a country where we can travel and choose to speak up, have an opinion, and vote for the government who presides over us. Hopefully, by the time this is published you will have voted with your consciences and have made good choices.

It is also my hope that we have good reason to be thankful for not only the peace and prosperity of the world, but also of Templary. May we be mindful of our obligation to the poor, the widows, the helpless children, and the Christian religion. Let us contact distressed Sir Knights and try to provide what assistance we can and keep in mind the presence of our Lord and Savior.

Again, I am asking for my officers and Sir Knights in general to let me know what you think we can do, not only to survive this lull that we are experiencing, but grow and make something good happen.

With this said, food for thoughts,
Sincerely and fraternally,

SK Ralph G. Winters
Grand Commander of Oregon

