



WISCONSIN

Supplement

SK Charles "Mick" Olson, REGC

Editor: Eric Brooks

920-397-8109

eabrooks53@gmail.com

Web Site: gcktwis.org/



Greetings, Sir Knights!

So here we are, November and not much has changed in the 'COVID wars'. But that doesn't mean things aren't happening in Masonry. While much remains virtual, we are starting to hold some meetings and events in-person. My lodge just met in person and it was great to see everyone again. No handshakes or bro-hugs, but there was plenty of banter. I've missed that.

Commandery is still 'virtual' only, but I have been able to 'Zoom in' for a few conclaves. I'm glad to see everyone is making preparations for when the 'all clear' does come. I love to see we are communicating with our candidates, keeping them up to date on our plans as to how they will be our first priority when the time finally comes. There has been much discussion on getting parts memorized and talking through the tactics. It is great to see guys mentoring each other, 'old guys' giving the 'new guys' tips and helping them to understand the little intricacies that make our ritual so meaningful and beautiful.

On August 22nd we held our first ever 'Virtual School of the Knight' with the Sir Knights of Eau Claire Commandery No. 8. A big 'Thank You' to EC Josh Sudbrink and the other 17 Sir Knights who participated. We were originally planning a full day of tactics and ritual, but COVID caused us to knock it down to three hours. Even though we were stuck sitting on our derrieres, we were able to present some great information and discuss some of the finer points of our ritual, all of which seemed well received. Thanks to all who helped to make it a very successful event. We have schools scheduled in the future and we would be happy to create one for your commandery. Just let me know.

On August 31st we held our first ever (That I am aware of) Wisconsin Commanders' Meeting. It was great to get representatives of all the commanderies and several Grand Officers together (even if it was on ZOOM) to talk about what we are doing, what we need to do and how your Grand Officers can help. I had planned for an hour but we went a bit over due to the great discussion and questions. We covered a lot of information on the resolutions that were adopted at Grand Conclave and how the changes affect us. To keep the meeting more manageable I asked that no more than two representatives from each commandery attend, and it worked wonderfully as we were able to enjoy a great dialog. I am told the meeting was well received, and they must not have gotten too bored of me because they want to do it again! We will be meeting every two months to disseminate information and discuss topics. So if you have any questions or topics you would like us to discuss, contact your Commander so he can get it on our agenda. This is a great opportunity to get us all on the same page and working together.

Normally, this is the time of year we are making preparations for our Christmas Observances. It is highly doubtful we will be meeting in person, so please come up with a way to make it work for your Commandery. Zoom is the most likely answer, but find a way to make this important day in Templary more than just sitting and watching your screen.

Find a way to engage your Sir Knights and make them a part of the observance. Your reward will be manifold.

A quick reminder to pay your dues, which are due by December 31st. Make your Recorder's day and lighten his work load by getting them in on time. He will greatly appreciate your effort.

Sir Knights, in my house November means Thanksgiving Dinner with family, friends, turkey and pumpkin pie. While this year's Thanksgiving will be like none before it, don't forget just how much we do have to be thankful for. It is trying times like these that remind us of how wonderful it is to have family and friends to share not only the times of plenty, but to help us through the times of want. Let us give thanks to our heavenly father for all our blessings not just on November 26th, but every day. Let us give thanks for all we have, but most importantly for our greatest gift, the promise of eternal life we have received through the life of the blessed Emanuel.

Happy Thanksgiving! Be well. God bless. Soon I hope to

See you in the Asylum!

Courteously,

Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REGC

From the Grand Sword Bearer,

We are all sitting at our computers right now, looking at jumpy jerky and sometimes frozen pictures of our friends. Friends we would normally be hanging out having a drink with or for me, cigars. Has this become our new norm? Will things ever get back to the way things were? Wow did that make me feel old as a picture of my grandfather just popped in my head. What does Commandery look like in the future?

In these times of Zoom/WebEx meetings, I hope that the meetings are more of a gathering of friends than just a meeting where we sign on, go over bills, and sign out. Take the time to talk with maybe have a virtual "pub meeting". Sit around with your preferred drink and just talk about everything. Take the time to invite brothers that are not members to the web meeting so they might get to know the members and gain interest in becoming a member.

What I am trying to say is be a Gardner. Plant the seed by showing someone why it is that you joined. Water the seeds by bringing them to events or fun meetings where it is not just going over bills. Tend to the plant by helping them get to and from the meetings that you are also going to if possible or help them learn a new part. Finally, stand back and admire the beautiful flowers that have grown in the garden of our Fraternity.

Hope everyone is safe and healthy, I look forward to seeing you all.

Your Servant,

Michael Mutter

Grand Sword Bearer