

WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENT

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Charles M. Olson
Grand Commander

Greetings, Sir Knights!

Virtually. This one word will echo throughout history as the word to best describe the year 2020. What a ride we have been on! 2020 has brought us a once in a century pandemic, toilet paper shortages, virtual schooling, social unrest, violence in our streets, calls to 'defund' our police, and earthquakes in the Carolinas. At times, it seems surreal. We may be witnessing a turning point in our country, yet we are hardly able to go out to a restaurant to enjoy a meal with friends. What we were told was a two week undertaking to 'flatten the curve' has turned into the Spring, Summer, and now Fall of 'What next?!?' As my son recently told me, years from now historians will be asked, 'What quarter of 2020 do you specialize in?'

On the Masonic front we are forced to meet virtually with very few activities happening in-person. Even when we can get together we look like an episode of M*A*S*H with our gloves and facemasks. With all the ZOOM meetings I feel like I'm a member of the Brady Bunch, living in my own little box! Masonry is built on brotherly love and nothing says 'I love you' more than a foot bump.... Uggggh! I need to shake my brother's hand and give him a hug!! I miss you guys!

If anyone has visited the Harley-Davidson Museum website lately, you've seen the photo of the 1919 Dealer's Conference in California. Many dealer reps surround a 'new' 1919 HD model and everyone in the photo is wearing a face mask. Interestingly enough, while the technology on that motorcycle is antiquated, the face masks being worn in the photo are no different than what I can find today at Walmart. While we are told 'these are unprecedented times', in reality nothing could be further from the truth.

In 1919 Masonry was experiencing a surge in membership. WWI had ended and like any post war period, the former soldiers were looking for a way to replace the camaraderie they experienced during the war, and the Masonic fraternity offered that opportunity. What is 'unprecedented' is today we have a huge advantage in being able to maintain communications with our brethren during a pandemic. ZOOM and other web-based platforms allow us to communicate almost like being in the same room. We may continue our labors without the need to expose ourselves to a nasty virus.

Unfortunately, in-person Commandery events continue to be rescheduled or cancelled. The full form conferrals of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta schedule for October 3rd have been rescheduled for January 9th. While our inspection season remains uncertain it is still our hope to proceed as planned. Like the Marines, if necessary we will adapt and overcome. We will find ways to continue our great works.

So, while I am as 'bummed' as anyone about not being able to meet 'face to face', there is no reason not to share fellowship in a most safe way. Attend our masonic meetings on the web, 'see' your brethren, offer a joke or two, exchange a few barbs and get a dose of brotherly love. Don't waste a pandemic, but use it to our advantage. Reach out to those we haven't seen in a while. Invite those who were before too busy to attend. While I hope to see you in person very soon, for now I'll....

See you on ZOOM!

Happy Halloween!

Courteously,

Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REGC

Greetings Sir Knights

First, I would like to express how honored and humbled I am to be appointed to serve as the Grand Sentinel for the ensuing Templar year. It is my ardent desire to contribute to this excellent organization in a meaningful and positive way. Before I am able to do that, I feel it is necessary to introduce myself.

I was born in 1982 at K.I. Sawyer AFB, Upper Michigan while my father was serving in the Air Force. After his retirement in 1992, we moved home to Green Bay where we have been ever since. After graduating from Green Bay West high school in 2000 and attending NWTC Police Science program, I met my future wife Michelle and together we had three wonderful (at times) daughters, Melissa, Arianna and Emily.

Petitioning Washington Lodge 21 began my Masonic journey and I was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in February of 2006, serving as Master of the lodge in 2014 and again in 2020. I continued my Masonic education in Warren Chapter 8, serving as High Priest in 2011, Warren Council 13, serving as Thrice Illustrious Master in 2012 and finally in Palestine Commandery 20, serving as Commander in 2014. Finally, I crossed the hot sands at Beja Shrine.

I am a member of the following invitational bodies as well: North Central Wisconsin York Rite College No 112. Simon of Cyrene Tabernacle No XV Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. Nicolet Conclave Red Cross of Constantine and Wisconsin Priory #16 Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

I am excited to have the opportunity to travel to Commanderies that I have not visited before and work with many sir knights that I have not met yet. Together I am sure we can bring Templary in Wisconsin to a better place than it has ever been before.

Fraternally,

Jake Lancelle

Grand Sentinel