



Wyoming Supplement

Jack C. Cook, Grand Commander

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Sir Knights:

I want to thank all of those involved in the setting up and running such a successful mini- session in Casper and the virtual meeting for the Grand Commandery. I also would like to thank all the sir knights of Wyoming for electing me to be your Commander for this year, and my sincere thanks to PGC T. Mark Mickelson for appointing me to the line. I also want to give a special thank you to my Lady Susan who has been a major support in my masonic life. Congratulations to MEGHP Tim Forbis and MIGM James Sturdevant for their respective elections. I look forward to working with both of you as we strive to keep building York Rite Masonry in Wyoming. As we have been passing through times of social distancing we need to reach out to our members and keep them enthused and committed. If meetings get cancelled, we can still gather for a round table discussion if appropriately spaced and have proper concern for the health and welfare of our members.

My focus this year will be for every sir knight and master mason to find and train an apprentice. We get our craft from the old stone masons guilds where an apprentice was hired and taught the craft. That training and instruction was taken on and supervised by a Master of the Craft. In our Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies we initiate pass and raise the new member, we elevate them and continue to show them 'more light' in Masonry. But do we take the time to train them? I am advocating a serious commitment because the idea of taking on an apprentice is not just about teaching them the proficiency of any one degree or another, but to work with them as they advance from chair to chair. Advancing their knowledge of the meaning of each step and each job and each allegory.

I have self-trained myself to be a blacksmith and have done some reasonable or adequate work. Recently I had a young man seek me out and badger me to train him; to take him on as an apprentice in the blacksmith's trade. My reaction to him was much like your reaction to this Idea, NO. But the young man kept asking and I finally relented and said ok. I growled at him for 3 or 4 weeks and he kept coming back. So, I gave in and have started earnestly training him. The point about this story is in trying to teach my apprentice I have studied more and researched more to assure I was giving good quality training.

It is my firm belief that everyone who tries to teach will find that they themselves end up learning so much more. In teaching we begin to build a fire in the apprentice and in the heart of the master.

My visitations will begin as soon as possible, and if we cannot have a 'meeting' we will find a way to visit with you.

Now, I want to remind you about the Northwest Regional Conference in Boise ID. October 15th, 16th, and 17th. Your registrations should already be in.

May the year ahead be one of achievement and learning, trusting in God to guide us and watch over us in all our undertakings. In Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Fraternally
Jack Cook
Grand Commander of Wyoming