

Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH
Grand Commander



Knighly News

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Sir Knights,

Fall is quickly arriving... If we are lucky, we will have already seen our children and grandchildren start to return to school. While what fall, school, and masonry look like right now are not what they were in years past we will continue to move forward. Every Commandery has been able to utilize virtual conclaves to carry on the business that needs to be completed and a few have also included excellent education programming for their Sir Knights. As we progress into the fall, I strongly encourage every Commander to plan to provide fellowship and education within every conclave regardless of how it is held, be it in-person or virtually. Lastly, a reminder that the Department Conference and Leadership classes will be held virtually on September 11-12.

Human Passion and Social Media

During the last several months we have seen our world literally change due to a global pandemic, social upheaval and a contentious political environment. While the pandemic has forced us to stop being together in person it has not relieved us of our obligations as Masons or Templars. We still need to bring no shame unto ourselves that will cause harm to the craft nor should we participate in discussions that are outside of due bounds or that create a divide between brothers. This includes being mindful of what we say in public as well as what we post on social media including Facebook. As most of our friends and family, especially on social media, know that we are members of the masonic fraternity it means that our actions, no matter how minor, are viewed through the lenses of being a Mason. For many people a post made by a brother is viewed as if every Mason made the post regardless of content. Whether you like it or not your posts both negative and positive will reflect on your brothers and they will be seen by those that are not members of the craft or our Order. Think twice before you say anything and make sure that if you post it online that it brings no shame to yourself or our craft and Order.

“A Brother who has a proper appreciation of our ancient institution, of its beauties, its ties, its requirements, or its privileges, will under no circumstances give utterance, even outside the Lodge, to opinions or sentiments that will make him obnoxious to his Brethren or wound their feelings.”

MWB A.T.C. Pierson, Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota given at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota 1861. Restated and reiterated by MWB Ethan Seaberg July 2020.

We are a Christian Order and it is the duty of every Commander to bind up the wounds of the afflicted and that applies to all. We should not be the ones causing the wounds by our words or actions.

Until I see you down the road, be safe and keep your Fraters in your prayers...

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH
Grand Commander

Templar Charities

We are very fortunate to belong to an Order that has not one but three great Charities: Knights Templar Education Foundation, Holy Land Pilgrimage, and Knights Templar Eye Foundation. In Connecticut our Education Foundation has been very well supported over the years and this fall we will be able to provide scholarship awards to twenty-six students in the amount of \$1000 each. Within the Holy Land Pilgrimage, we were able to send a minster last year and prior to the pandemic we were looking to send another one this year; sadly, the Holy Land Pilgrimage has been cancelled for this year due to the global pandemic.

Lastly, we have the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The KTEF has a stated mission “to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care.” The foundation board accomplishes this mission by awarding research grants, working with the Senior Eye Care Program, and by endowing research chairs in medical schools. This past year due to the hard work of many Sir Knights as well as Lady Lori Cowie and SK Vince with the bakeless bake sale and their pickles we ranked in the middle of all Grand Commanderies. While we will once again have our bakeless bake sale and hopefully the pickles will be sold in-person this coming April, we had been working on a few new projects for the benefit of the KTEF but due to the pandemic those new plans needed to change.

At the June conclave of New Haven Commandery, due to the length of the Grand Commanders hair, SK Steve Chiappalone helped the Grand Commander come up with a new fundraising idea for the KTEF. If the Sir Knights are able to raise \$2500 before December the Grand Commander will shave his head. Please give early and please give generously as the Grand Commander’s wife wants him to get a haircut. To raise additional funds the Grand Commander is also selling chances to take a swipe at shaving the head for \$20 per chance with five winners to be selected from those that make an additional donation.

All donations will be collected by SK Edward Page – Grand Captain General and Chair of the KTEF. If you want entered in the chance to hold the clippers please let Edward know.

SK Edward Page
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