

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights,

Again, I'm writing in the blind with the hope of progressing through the pandemic with a great strength and knowledge of what makes us who we are. Not much has happened here with the numbers of victims on an ever increasing count and the need for the safeguards ever so urgent. As many of you are, I'm in the age and condition group that seems to be at risk. This makes it very hard to travel as before and try to communicate ways that might give us the advantage of presenting us in a good light in Masonry and to the world. As before, I am asking each of you as individuals to do what you can to communicate this message. I gave a few hints of things that I felt were important, but those are just that, my hints. Everyone has their own impression on what will make this organization worthy, to make us important to those with whom we associate, and to those we find worthy to associate with us.

Over the years it has been my experience that we have come up with many phrases or slogans to nip at the attention span of an individual seeing them. Such as "To be one Ask one" or "Talk to one good man ever day", but these are just thought promoters. In order to get past the promotion you need action. You need to show people that you know your business, and you are proud to know it. This takes a lot of self thought. What makes you love it so well that you can share a part of it with someone else? Do you really know why you are here? What was your reason? Nobody knows, or needs to know, but yourself. The answer will dictate whether your love or desire to strengthen our organization is a success or not.

I am very proud of the association that I have made with the individuals in every aspect of Masonry. After several years of trying to assist the Blue Lodge by being an officer, I took the plunge to help in the York Rite, while staying available to give my advise on Blue Lodge matters if asked. This can be tricky, because the new officers need to feel that their plan is viable and necessary to promote growth. My advise would be to back off a little, but not too much. Let them know that you are available if needed to assist. Don't try to run their office, but assist them to own it.

These statements go for the program messages to be given as education of the York Rite and how closely tied we are. One of the hardest things we can try to avoid is causing a drift between Brothers over membership. This should never be our intent. Though I feel truly that we should educate our connections, I still feel if we make wine, people will drink it. Or, you can lead a mule to water, but you cannot force him to drink it. This again is me trying to make a little sense of what we can do to make us better. I hope that ending this pandemic will allow us to get back to some kind of normalcy, but until that time, think about these questions, try to learn all you can about us, and call, text, or find a way to be social without harm. But please, stay in touch.

With this said as food for thought,
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

SK Ralph G. Winters
Grand Commander of Oregon

