



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

While Easter 2021 will be different than Easter 2019, it will be an improvement over Easter 2020, in my opinion. Grand Encampment has decided to not host in-person Easter Services again this year. While I find this unfortunate and was looking forward to attending the Mid-America Service in Kansas City, we will have the opportunity to attend the virtual online session on Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 CDT. I trust Grand Encampment will put on a nice display. My hope is that next year we will be back to in-person. As someone who has marched up Shuter's Hill at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Easter Sunday, I always enjoyed the festivities surrounding the Easter Sunrise Service, and am looking for something to fill that void.

In the past, I have also seen Sir Knights attend their local church in a Class a Commandery uniform, less sword, chapeau and gloves, and have been a part of groups of Sir Knights attending these services. If this is something your church might be open to, I would encourage you to do so, and extend an invitation to other Sir Knights to attend. If you plan on doing this, please let me know.

We are moving forward with planning an in-person Grand Conclave this June. While the exact location is not yet determined as of this writing, right now we are leaning towards Des Moines, with Conclave being held at the Des Moines Scottish Rite building. Detailed information will be forthcoming in very short order.

As of now, we are anticipating the schedule to be as in years past, with Ritual Competition on Thursday, June 3, along

with meetings of appendant bodies and a Vesper Service Thursday evening, which I'm sure, will be very well prepared, meaningful and inspirational by Eminent Grand Prelate Hobson. Our session will begin Friday morning after the usual reveille flag raising and March, with a break for lunch, then continue in the afternoon. We are anticipating a banquet on Friday evening. Saturday will conclude our session, along with the installation of the Grand Officers. Grand Master Nelson has granted my request for Past Most Eminent Grand Master Koon to be his personal representative. Grand Master Koon and I have been friends for many years, and I am delighted that he will be coming out. He always has some great insights for our Order, and I'm looking forward to seeing him at Conclave!

I mentioned that we will be having a ritual competition at Grand Conclave this year. Unfortunately the statewide school of instruction fell on a snowy Saturday morning, so attendance was very light. However, the ritual for this competition is the 10-man opening that was used 2 years ago. Chairman Hill will be sending out this to all local Commanderies, and I would encourage each Commandery to form a team. The opening is something we all should be proficient at, at really doesn't involve too many speaking parts. I would like to see more than the usual 3 or 4 teams participate this year. As in years past, up to 2 Sir Knights can be borrowed from other teams.

I am excited for spring, and excited to celebrate the risen and ascended Savior on Easter Sunday. This is our holiday to celebrate the one true God who died for our sins, and the culmination of our faith, and I look forward to sharing it with you all.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander