



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

Christian M. Beard
Grand Commander

Greg Kenkel
Supplement Editor

kt.iayorkrite.org

Sir Knights:

August marks the end of the current Triennium under our Department's own Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffery Nelson. The triennial Conclave will be held August 14-18 in Minneapolis. This will also start the new Triennium under Most Eminent Grand Master Michael Johnson. As Sir Knight Johnson mentioned when he visited with us in June, his focus will be on ensuring Grand Encampment and all subordinate jurisdictions will be open for business in the wake of COVID. I particularly am glad to hear that and look forward to his 3-year term as Grand Master.

This also means we will have a new Department Commander in our very own Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Past Department Commander David Dryer. I want to personally thank Sir Knight Dryer for his continued service to Templar Masonry. I know he had a curve ball thrown at him, but I share SK Johnson's confidence in Sir Knight Dryer's ability to lead our Department.

As we get towards the end of summer (seems like it just began) I would like to call attention to my program, which is the same as last year. I kept it the same, as I know most Commanderies did not have an opportunity to fully participate in it due to the continued closures from COVID. I want to emphasize our civic involvement and being visible in our communities. This is an important aspect as we think about gaining visibility to the good works we as Templar Masons do, and being a source of light in our communities. There are many ways that Commanderies can do this.

I also would like a focus to be on our youth, and promoting the good virtues we profess to our youth. Of course, the first logical step is with Masonic youth, including DeMolay, Rainbows and Job's Daughters. However, these organizations are not necessarily active in the areas where our Commanderies are located. I'm asking for a little bit of creativity in finding ways to support youth organizations that line up with our tenants and beliefs.

And the third area of focus is on recruiting more of your membership to learn the ritual and be able to confer the Order of the Temple in your local Commanderies without outside help. While the Grand Officers will certainly help with any conferrals, laying the foundation for the future by enlisting more Sir Knights to learn speaking parts and be involved in the conferrals will ensure the next generation of Templars. We hang our hats on our ritual, so it's important that we have a broad selection of Sir Knights learning it. Participation in the ritual competition this past June was sparse, to say the least, and I would like to see broader participation next June. Working on parts now will set each Commandery up for success.

As we awake from summer and our COVID hangover, I'm hopeful to see broad activity from all of the constituent Commanderies in Iowa!

In His Service,
Chris Beard, Grand Commander