



**NORTH
DAKOTA
SUPPLEMENT**

www.ndyorkrite.org/gckt
SK Greg Taylor
RE Grand Commander



MY MENTOR

Sir Knights, as I write this - we are one week out from the 2021 York Rite Grand Sessions in Bismarck, North Dakota. There are lots of items on our leadership teams plates as things are done to firm up the program so that things run smoothly. I look forward to seeing all of you at our 2022 Grand Sessions in Grand Forks at the Hilton Garden Inn. I am already working out details such as rooms, catering, guest speakers, ect. I believe that some of you will appreciate that this hotel is handicap accessible and close to both the train station and airport.

Personally, I am hoping to be elected as your new Grand Commander as well as Deputy Grand Master in the Cryptic Rite and Grand Scribe in Chapter. This means a "Dais Officer" or top three in each of our lines. In other words, this will be a busy three years ahead for me. I am looking forward to the challenges that these positions will bring.

Pieces of the puzzle...Freemasonry is a fraternity, not a charity. While we have many excellent charities that we support as Masons and more specifically, Sir Knights this is about "Making Good Men, Better".

How do we do that? I believe that it starts with our "Free Will", having FAITH in God and in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. God, giving his GRACE to us, the mortal sinners by forgiving our sins through his Son's death on the cross. Our HOPE that God will reward those of his followers who BELIEVE and ask for Forgiveness.

Besides, our faith - how can we, as Sir Knights become better MEN? I believe that it comes about through our fraternity. The part that I will focus on is **mentorship**. During my years as a Sir Knight, there has been one man, who has been that mentor to me, Right Eminent Past Department Commander Lon Kvasager. Lon, has so many titles that it would easily take up this entire article just to list them. He is basically Mr. Mason North Dakota.

Why do I consider Lon to be a mentor? I have to pause and think because there are so many reasons. If I look back nine years or so ago when I became a Freemason, he was one of the first people who stuck out as someone that I wanted to become more like. A wonderful friend, Sir Knight Fred G. Stewart opened my eyes to this wonderful fraternity and got me started in the blue lodge. I quickly discovered that for me, I was interested in seeking as much "light" as possible. Lon was the key to getting me into more groups. I was quickly jumping into Scottish Rite, York Rite and had a petition to join the Shrine in hand the day I became a Master Mason (it was literally put in my hand by a Shriner).

Lon has always been there beside me (and many others) the whole journey. While Lon is in the leadership for almost every Masonic group you can think of (local, national and international), he always makes time to support his hometown of Grand Forks. I have never known someone who is as busy as Lon. The man doesn't rest, he is always "doing". His actions speak for him. People from our fraternity are constantly calling, emailing, texting, stopping in just to ask him questions or seek his guidance. I see a small part of this at our weekly outing to enjoy some hot wings and beverages. While he has tons of things on his plate, he always steps up and helps others do their job.

Just today, as I am preparing for our York Rite Sessions, I needed a bigger button on my uniform. Lon, took time out of his day off to find a couple and drop them off at the temple.

As some of you know, besides masonry, Lon is a leader in the local horse club, president of the Eagles and is one of the top men at the Race Track in town. Lon, is running the races this Friday night then driving to Bismarck just to help our North Dakota York Rite! He isn't in one of the lines anymore, he has been there and done those years ago. He is there because as he states "he values **dedication**".

Lon, you have always been there for me. From my venting about minor issues, to helping me fill out paperwork that was my job to do to introducing me to branches of our fraternity where I am able to find more light than I could possibly absorb in a lifetime.

Lon, I wish that I could give you an award for all you do, but there is none that is within my paygrade to which you do not already possess. Besides, another certificate or plaque for the wall just doesn't seem adequate. Your **DEDICATION** and love for Freemasonry including all of our Brothers is unsurpassed. Thank YOU for all that you do!

Fraternally,
SK Gregory Taylor