

OHIO SUPPLEMENT



SK R. Thomas Starr, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
August 2021



As we move through the summer months, traditionally a time when many of us slow down, comparatively, in our Masonic activities, it is time we rethink that strategy and use the down time to carefully plan for the remainder of 2021 and beyond.

Since we have been unable to confer our degrees and orders with regularity since the spring of 2020, many of our bodies are backlogged with candidates eager to take part in the York Rite experience.

When our Ohio commanderies moved to the more active Phase 2 in May with essentially only common-sense precautions in place, I urged our Commandery leaders to begin planning in conjunction with their local Brothers and Companions, and I heartily thank those who wasted no time getting started. A number of our York Rite bodies went to work immediately. It was clear they had already been planning in anticipation of receiving the green light. We have had knightings throughout the state with plans for more to come!

Those commanderies that do not meet year 'round or did not call special conclaves for conferring the Orders during the summer months should be preparing to greet Companions when our stated conclaves resume in September. Pitch in with your local Chapter and Council as you always have to help with their work and remember your Blue Lodges as a source where you can encourage Brethren to enhance their Masonic experience and keep that promise that all of us made, to seek more Light in Masonry.

Many York Rite organizations are embracing the Festival or Reunion concept as we ramp up our activity and reaping the benefit of accomplishing more faster by combining casts and welcoming candidates inside and outside their typical recruiting area. Those are positives, particularly as we keep in mind the appeal of the York Rite to many is maintaining the personal touch. Let us also keep uppermost in mind as new Sir Knights come on board, the welfare of our existing members. We need to reach out to them, especially since many are still not comfortable meeting in groups.

This month, the 68th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA will be held in Minneapolis. There is a significant package of legislation that will be considered at the Triennial Conclave, and there are bound to be changes that come about in the way we conduct business in our commanderies. We look forward to sharing these with our membership after the Conclave. There will also be a new East Central Department Commander installed, Sir Knight Martin R. Trent, one of our own Past Grand Commanders. We look forward to rallying around Marty and supporting him in the manner which is Ohio's custom.

We are also planning diligently for the 179th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, to be held October 7, 8, and 9 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North in Worthington. We are excited about the return of an in-person Conclave with our traditional banquets, hospitality rooms, Ladies Tea, Ritual and Drill competition and all that accompanies our Annual Conclave. Watch for the details regarding room reservations and meals. The Sir Knights and Ladies of the Southeastern Division look forward to welcoming everyone as we celebrate in Christian fellowship all the things that we have missed over the past year.

In Knightly Courtesy,
R. Thomas Starr, KCT
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