



The Florida Knight

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Right Eminent Grand Commander 2020
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Greetings Sir Knights,

As you receive this edition of the Knight Templar Magazine, Florida Lodges have completed their Installation of Officers for the 2021 year. Please join me in congratulating all the new Worshipful Masters and wish them good luck during the coming months. Also, a hardy well-done to the Immediate Past Masters for all the challenges they were forced to overcome during their year in the East.

Our York Rite Bodies have also completed their respective installations and I am happy to have attended a few of them around the State. All the recently installed Commanders (or re-installed Commanders) certainly have their work cut out for them. In the remaining months prior to the Grand Convention, I know that all our Commanderies are practicing hard to perform the various Orders for those Companions waiting to be enrolled in our ranks. I know that we are under tremendous pressure to compete with the Scottish Rite and other appendant bodies that were prevented from bringing in new members under the pandemic lockdown. Please make sure you check with those bodies to confirm your Festivals are not conflicting with their dates and make certain you publicize your Festival dates to verify that they do not interfere with your plans.

We are now only three months away from the Grand York Rite Convention and we still have lots to do. I know that prior to COVID19 I had spoken with many of you regarding all the wonderful plans for this 125th Anniversary year for the Grand Commandery. Like many of you, I look back with a bit of disappointment during last year. I had such high hopes for all the fun I was going to have as your Grand Commander. I had hoped that this year would be one which allowed me to try new ideas and to make new friends as I traveled the State in service to you and the Grand Commandery. I had also looked forward to being able to represent the Grand Commandery of Florida as I visited other jurisdictions, but as I look back over these past few months it seems that COVID prevented all these things from happening. While the pandemic and its associated lockdown may have affected my travel plans and plans of the various local Commanderies throughout the State, I do want you to know that we still are getting things done. We have raised funds for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and continue to do so through the sales of the Grand Commandery 125th Anniversary coins and pins. If you have not purchased yours, please reach out to me or your District Deputy Grand Commander and I will make sure you get a set. I will also have these for sale as I attend the upcoming Festivals. You are also encouraged to make individual and Commandery donations to the KTEF. Please reach out to Sir Knight Paul Friend, PGC if you need assistance or would like information regarding the various awards programs that are available when making a donation. A few Sir Knights have contributed to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and have been awarded the Holy Land Pilgrimage Jewel. Should you wish to contribute \$500 to the Grand Commandery's Holy

Land Fund it will be my honor to present you with one of these beautiful medals to wear on your Class A uniform. While we were unable to send any ministers to the Holy Land this year, I encourage you and your Commandery to start speaking to your local ministers now so that we can submit names as soon as possible to the 2021 HLP Chairman after our Grand Convention in May.

In addition to these wonderful charities, one of our goals this year was to act as a platform for Masonic Education for the various masonic bodies throughout the State. Our Education Chairman, Sir Knight Scott Schwartzberg, has done an amazing job with the two virtual educational conferences that were held mid-year, and I encourage you to check the Grand York Rite website and our electronic newsletter for the remaining programs that Sir Knight Scott has arranged for all of us. Remember that these are not only meant to be informative for our Companions and Sir Knights, but they should also serve as a means of recruiting our Blue Lodge Brothers by demonstrating to them the type of Masonic Education that the York Rite regularly provides its membership.

Therefore, as you can see, we have contributed to the two flagship charities of the Order and we have provided high quality education to our membership. We have also assisted our local Chapters and Councils and helped them to remain viable during this challenging year, and while some of our "normal" activities were temporarily suspended, I think we still have accomplished many of our goals and objectives that were originally established so many months ago.

That being said, please take advantage of these last remaining months to get your local Commanderies up-and-running by practicing our opening and closing ceremonies. Please seek out the support of those Commanderies that are planning Festivals so that your candidates can attend, and finally, please continue to support your Blue Lodges. We sometimes forget that we need to always put our work in the Blue Lodge FIRST!!!

As I close out this February update, I want to thank you for all the hard work that each of you has accomplished during the beginning months of 2021. I know that it is hard to make plans when so much is still unknown, but I trust that all our newly elected and re-elected officers are excited to make their year in the East a productive one. I encourage all of you to support your officers and to be flexible in your approach to the various plans and activities that are going to be held in the coming months.

It is still my honor to serve and represent you as your Grand Commander during these final few months. I hope to attend as many meetings and Festivals as time will permit, and I look forward to helping you Knight as many new Companions as we can during the upcoming Festivals. Until then, please reach out to me with any questions you may have and Congratulations again to all the Officers that are sitting in the East guiding their respective Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies. May you have the wisdom of King Solomon to guide you in your decisions.

Donec Totem Impleat Orbem,

Brett A. Gordon, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander