



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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### Sir Knights:

With the reopening of our Commanderies into “Phase Two” I hope to accelerate our return to normalcy. We will begin this month by holding a statewide school of instruction in Ames, as we have in years past. As of this writing I don’t yet know the exact date; however we will be communicating in a timely manner in order to hopefully have a good attendance.

At this school we will be unveiling the ritual for the ritual competition, which will be conducted before Grand Conclave in June. In years past there have only been 3 or 4 Commanderies competing, and this year I would like to see a larger turnout. The ritual is our signature calling card, and for those Commanderies that have not participated in recent years, I would ask that you put some effort into it. I would think after 2020 we will have some excitement around the conferral of our Orders, and the ritual competition is a great way to involve the Sir Knights of your Commandery.

I also put in my remarks at the beginning of this term that I would like to see a larger number of inspections this year. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, I think this will be a great way for Commanderies to work through the backlog of petitions that we all have. As I mentioned before, you don’t need to have a full cast from your own Commandery to put on an inspection. Your Grand Officers will be more than willing to come out and help confer the Orders. As long as we have a little bit of notice, we will be there! And while we’re at it, an inspection will be a great way to showcase your Commandery and show your Sir Knights the pride that goes into an inspection. It doesn’t have to be a daunting or

intimidating experience, any Commandery can do it! I remember I was an “inspection candidate” when I was knighted, and I’m sure it will make for a memorable experience for any candidates you may have waiting. An inspection also does not have to be on your regular meeting night (although it can be). Inspections can be scheduled for any time, such as a weekend, where it may be more convenient and ensure greater participation.

Sir Knights, although the pandemic is not yet behind us, I would like us to have the mentality that we are back on the path to normalcy. Of course, those Sir Knights that are at risk or feel otherwise vulnerable will never be asked to participate or attend. However, for those Sir Knights that do feel comfortable meeting as we have in the past, I want to afford us that opportunity. Precautions must be in place to ensure everyone’s safety, however I believe that we can pay attention to those details while still offering an impressive Templar experience to our members and new candidates. I am excited for this return and am hopeful that we will not be subject to any further restrictions from Grand Encampment as well as from governmental officials.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander