



Nebraska Supplement

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Greetings fellow Sir Knights, Companions, and Brothers, wherever dispersed! As usual I still pray that this day finds you and yours healthy, and secure. I need to write these articles two months before the publication is released to the public, so if it feels dated or out of sorts, please forgive me. In November 2020, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A., S.K. Jeffrey N. Nelson, issued General Order (GO) #14 (<http://www.knightstemplar.org/downloads/GO14.pdf>). In summary this GO called for the limited reopening of our Commanderies to hold conclaves/meetings again, with safety of our members being held to the highest concern and commitment. Also at no time should a fellow Sir Knight feel any pressure to attend a conclave if they do not feel safe for themselves or their loved ones.

I plan on resuming our Nebraska tradition of visiting the Commanderies in the state. Some of your secretaries/records should have received a request from The Grand Recorder or myself requesting a time for my visitation/reception. I want to meet each and every member of this great fraternity. I also want to use these meetings to determine the state of Commandery in Nebraska, and the challenges that we need to meet head on due to the COVID pandemic restrictions as well as our aging members. This is a great Christian brotherhood, so I want to get your input, on a personnel level, on what you feel we, together, can accomplish. Let's be honest, we need to work to bring more members into the Blue Lodge. I think of our Blue Lodge as the "well of souls" for our members. For we can only choose members that are already Master Masons. One of the challenges we face, is that we hear the same words repeated over and over

from Grand Encampment Officers as well as previous Nebraska Grand Commandery officers "We need to increase membership, so get your Blue Lodge brothers to join" This is a noble request. However, some of our Blue Lodges are in just as much membership trouble as their corresponding Commanderies, and hence the "well of souls" does not exist for you to choose members from. There may even be cases where your Blue Lodge Brothers just do not want to join for one of many reasons.

At these meetings, I want to work on getting your suggestions to increase membership in your Blue Lodges, I mean really try to come up with something tangible that will work for the recruitment for men in your area to become Masons. This means coming up with ideas to offer to new men showing them what we, as Masons and Knights Templars, have to offer. This also means you as Sir Knights, need to break out of your shells of common and ordinary, and doing something scary ... change! More than likely, each and every one of you have a person in mind that you would like to bring into Masonry. Why have you not invited him to join our fraternity? Remember that as Master Masons we take good men and make them better! This includes you as well. So take yourself, a good man, and become better by bringing new members to Masonry, then we can show them York Rite and Commandery with the goal of making these Christian men better, offering them friendship and brotherhood they may never have experienced before. This is a gift that you have experienced with your Sir Knights, Companions and Brothers, so why not give that gift to a man deserving of it as well?

So I pray to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that my fellow Sir Knights, Companions, and Brothers, may understand the power of the promise our Lord made to watch over you and your loved ones. God Bless and remember: Navare operam Quid impedit (Latin: Do your duty, come what may.)

LaVern J (Joe) Work (II)
Grand Commander