

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights,

We are still feeling the brunt of the pandemic, with the numbers rising and the deaths ever increasing. I was told one good thing is, that with all the COVID deaths raising the normal death rate from the common flu, driving accidents and other ailments are being absorbed by COVID 19. And those numbers are relatively lower. Go figure. With the time coming near to our 2021 Sessions, one can only speculate that the signs are, April will be no better to hold an in person event than it was in 2020. With this in mind, the Trustees of Oregon York Rite bodies have reluctantly begun to face the fact that a modified virtual session for the good of the bodies should be implemented. This will be the bare minimum requirements to let York Rite bodies proceed with some sort of satisfaction. May the Lord help us to make 2021 a more social time where some resemblance of years pass will enlighten us and let us again practice what we should be preaching. Close and in-person like we all want.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE, with February, we should again keep our hearts dear and close to our loved ones. Valentine's day is not only for the affection of sweethearts, but it should be a reminder to all who have broken bread in friendship to realize the long lasting commitment and caring we have for each other. We are very fortunate to live in a country that gives us the freedom to travel and be near one another. It is my hope that this trying time will pass and some sort of normalcy will return before we lose too much of "our Herd". Only then will we experience some growth. Until that time is here it is still my hope that the Knights will find things to peak their interest in the order.

Whether that be virtual contact with one another, learning ritual to be prepared to do a great job when the time comes, or even drilling in front of a mirror to keep fresh on the sword work.

With this message I am struggling to think that my term is near at hand and I will again retire my position of leadership to assist when asked. I know that I will be asked for help and my time will be given as needed. I would think that it will give me more time to portray the dignity of the York Rite in my Blue lodges with the hope that more will see the light and want to further their Masonic educations. After all, without Master Masons, we cannot grow and that would be a great loss, not only for those in the past and in the present, but also for those in the future who would lose all the joys and experiences we enjoy.

Finally with Easter nearing, don't forget to remember our Lord and Savior who gave his life so we may live eternal with our Father in that Mansion prepared for us.

Respectfully Yours,

Ralph G. Winters

Grand Commander of Oregon

