



Washington Supplement

SK Richard M. Kovak  
REGC

SK Bryan D. Bechler, PC, COH,  
KCT Editor

[bry.kat@frontier.com](mailto:bry.kat@frontier.com)



### Challenge of the Three Plagues, Part 2 SK John Lawson, Grand Historian

Thankfully the plague of Church and State together has passed. Today, we are challenged by two new plagues. The first is the new COVID-19 taking the lives of loved ones and temporarily threatening our ability to meet in fellowship and continue to do good works in public, while the other one continues silently, a diminution of our membership ranks in the Knight Templar Order and in Freemasonry in general. It is now 60 years old and remains in a freefall as it continues to take 50,000 members off our roles each year. We watch the statistics in horror over COVID and rightly so but somehow seem to not share the same sense of emergency towards the plague destroying our lodges.

As a knight who carries the shield of faith and the sword of truth into darkness, all of us who claim the title of Knights Templar must find our strongholds and begin again. We must fight the good fight in a modern world and new culture and reach the minds of men searching for direction and clarity. We are staring at a dragon seeking to devour our entire fraternity but like the hopeful vaccine developed by Pfizer which now shows an amazing 90% effectiveness to overcome the Corona virus beyond anyone's expectations, I contend we equally have the cure in our grasp to vanquish the third plague that continues to devastate our craft and it is ready to distribute to all of the brothers freely.

Each of us within ourselves has the same potential to succeed in our quest just as the knights of Europe who faced complete annihilation found a way to bring light into darkness against the odds. Our

order survived the 1918 Spanish flu and we will find a way to vanquish this new COVID plague far ahead of expectations as well but when we look at where we are today and the losses of our membership, it seems insurmountable to somehow regain the health and vitality of our craft to where it once was, but we stand on the shoulders of giants who demonstrated that it is possible to overcome our own plagues as well and make the impossible possible.

Small bands of great men promoted and taught the great truths that came finally out of the challenging dark to the guilds and to Masonry's roots no different from a life-saving vaccination. The influence is with us 1,000 years into the future and into our keeping. We must treat every new interest at our door and every brother as though his life depended on our ability to save him from the disease of ignorance, apathy and complacency with our message that have guided nations.

It is our pledge and our obligation to carry the mantle of our founders into a different kind of battle and realize they laid down their lives to ensure that these truths would be spread throughout the world. We must begin again, where an environment of growth is created and frank discussion and clear answers about who we are, why we are here and why the message of the Templars and Masonry have tremendous value in today's world. Only then can the curve be bent back upward, bringing men back into our ranks, willing to take up his shield and sword to fight in the war of ideals in a society that has lost its way and forgotten its values. As knights of truth and light, we are the cure to the third plague, the vaccination to the world against fear superstition and ignorance that bring about corruption, despotism and tyranny. Let's be known as the brothers that stemmed the tide and changed the curve.

Sir Knight John Lawson, Grand Historian  
Grand Commandry, Knights Templars of Washington