



## WISCONSIN

### Supplement

SK Charles "Mick" Olson, REGC

Editor: Eric Brooks

920-397-8109

eabrooks53@gmail.com

Web Site: gcktwis.org/



Greetings, Sir Knights!

Happy Valentine's Day to all our Sir Knights, but more importantly to all our Ladies, without whose support our Grand Commandery could not exist. Whether they are actively participating with us, or simply just not objecting to our absence as we pursue our craft, their support is most evident and greatly appreciated. Here's to you, our dear Ladies, for all you do to support us.

These articles are written about six weeks before you read them, which means things can, and these days often do change before you get to read what we wrote. Just announced... we have a vaccine! This is the news we have all been anxiously awaiting; news that means there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It will take a bit longer, but we can reasonably hope that soon we will be able to resume our normal activities and life as we know it will return to the chaotic 'normal' that keeps us all so busy. We are constantly evaluating the risk vs. reward and will resume in-person conclaves as soon as it is prudent to do so.

As I planned this year my intention was to devote much of our time to education and communication. Two building blocks to begin growing our commanderies and strengthening Templary in Wisconsin. One of the great successes of the year has been our Commander's Meetings. These bi-monthly virtual meetings of all our Wisconsin Commanders have exceeded my hopes. In a normal year, February would have been the start of Inspection season. During our last Commanders' Meeting we discussed how we might 'substitute' for the originally planned inspection season. Our Commanders all agreed we should not sit idly by and lose the opportunity to learn. They eagerly agreed that virtual schools of instruction were a great compromise between our hopes and the reality of COVID. Plans are being finalized, and as you read this, we will soon be holding our first 'Inspection'. Our schedule by the time you read this is finalized and most of you will have this training opportunity on your already scheduled inspection date. Check the new and improved website 'gcktwis.org' and see when you can join us for instruction, fun and fellowship. Alas, no food, but we'll take what we can get!

In a recent conversation I was reminded that Masonry was the original Social Networking Site. The lodge was a place we could all gather and meet with men who shared our ideals of integrity, brotherhood, and service. For many today, Facebook and other internet offerings have taken over as the 'gathering place' for those with shared ideals. During these past many months, I have grown to feel sorry for those people. Only by meeting in-person can we genuinely enjoy each other; share a handshake or brotherly embrace, converse on topics of mutual interest and help one another grow as a man, and as a Mason; to improve ourselves as we strive to improve our community and our world. Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery offer us the camaraderie so many are hungry for. Share the word with them that there is a 'site' where their appetite for 'something more' can be sated. Masonry is still a face to face, mouth to ear business, and we do not usually need a computer to socialize with our brethren. For now, we must rely on 'virtual', but very soon I hope to...

See you in the Asylum!

Courteously,

Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REG

Kristoffer Pillar

The Power of the Knights Templar Community

This year has taught us many lessons. As a Knight Templar and a Mason, we are all a member of a larger community.

Throughout 2020, we had to make several changes in our way of living. We endured Toilet Paper shortages, business closures, and a rocky stock market, to name a few changes. One of the biggest changes is our inability to meet in person. This lack of personal contact is creating massive amounts of anxiety and increased occurrences of mental illness. We attempt to mitigate our lack of contact with electronic meetings, more emails, and text messages, but is this enough?

We belong to a Community, a community of men with like interests and goals getting together to combine our individual resources for the overall betterment of society. But how do we do this today? We must stay in contact with our Brothers, Companions, and fellow Sir Knights. Technology can help us remain connected.

1. Send an email to our brothers, this is very easily done with the aid of your Smart Phone or computer. You can contact several people at once, but the message is usually impersonal.
2. Texting is useful for near instant communication. The message is short and easily responded to. Your smart phone is a handy tool for texting, but again, the message is often impersonal because feelings are lost in the exchange.
3. Call your fellow Brother. Calling is one of the most difficult forms of communication because it requires us to make time, overcome our fear of not knowing what to say, and forces us to break out of our technology shell.
4. Video chat a brother is even more difficult, but a good way to connect more personally. A video chat requires more planning because both parties need preparation before the chat begins.

We must remain in contact with our fellow man to further the sense of belonging. Emails, texts, and instant messages are easy, but taking the time to call one another is much richer and more personal. Please, pick up the phone and call someone who you haven't talked with in a long time. Reconnect with a Brother Mason, family member, or friend. Remake those connections that are so necessary.

Remember, without community, you are just a commodity.

Grand Generalissimo

Kris Pillar