



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

It's hard to believe, but we have put the longest short year, or the shortest long year (depending on your perspective) to bed. Here's to a healthy and prosperous 2021, which will hopefully usher in a return to normalcy. As of this writing in late November, I have opened our Commanderies to Phase One, already allowing for limited in-person gatherings. It is my hope that by Christmas we will be able to begin Phase Two, which will allow a mostly return to normal, including conferrals of our Orders, traditional Christmas observances and the like. I know we have a healthy backlog of Companions awaiting their creations, so I hope we are able to welcome a new group of Sir Knights throughout the state.

This year promises to be a banner year for our Order. Not only with the number of creations we will hope to have, but it also draws to a close the term of Grand Master Nelson, who hails from our department. In August, we will have the opportunity to host the Triennial Conclave in our own department, just "up the road" in Minneapolis. At that time, we will also have a new Department Commander from the Grand Commandery of Iowa, our own Charlie Smithson. If you haven't done so yet, please congratulate him on this high honor. I know he will serve Grand Encampment well!

If 2020 has taught us anything, it has taught us patience and resilience. The former is, admittedly, not one of my strong suits. I have, as I'm sure many of you have, been rarin' to go, and I hope we can do so in very short order. For those Commanderies with candidates in waiting, please do not feel the need to wait for a festival. If you would like to confer the Orders in your own Commanderies, I would encourage you

to do so. Please do not let the lack of officers who can do the speaking parts be a barrier. Your Grand Officers are more than willing and able to travel to help you with the conferrals. We just need to know the time and place and we will do everything in our power to make it happen! Give us a couple weeks' notice and we will be there.

I am also hopeful that we will be having a statewide School of Instruction in February, where we will make plans for our Grand Conclave in June and discuss plans for the ritual competition. I am hopeful that we will have a strong participation from around the state, especially since we were not able to have one in 2020.

I am looking forward to accelerating Templary in Iowa in 2021 and I trust that you are, as well!

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander