



## WISCONSIN Supplement

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Greetings, Sir Knights!

Happy New Year! And, please forgive me for this, but good-bye, or rather good riddance 2020! New Year's Eve is traditionally a time to remember the year past and set goals and hopes for the year to come. This year I'd rather forget toilet paper shortages, shut downs and 'stay at home orders, school shut-downs, murder hornets, mask mandates, racial tensions, being inundated with political advertisements, and not being able to meet with my fraters except via zoom. Perhaps 2020 was not the best of years.

But... The year did offer some unique opportunities. While the meetings continued virtually, the time we normally traveled to and from left us time to reach out. I've enjoyed talking with fraters to 'check in' and 'catch up'. Our virtual meetings have allowed many to join us who were unable in the past due to time constraints. I've even 'zoomed in' on two meetings in one night! Our fraternity is in 'the people business', and we have not let the virus take that away.

As I write this, COVID numbers in Wisconsin are spiking and it is unclear just how long we will have to keep our Asylum doors shut. Grand Encampment and the Grand Lodge have given us guidelines to follow when we can meet in-person once again, but winter is looking rough. A new vaccine is promised soon, but exactly how long is still unknown.

For now, virtual meetings are the rule.

My favorite time of year, our 'Inspection Season' as we know it will not happen this year. But our leaders are refusing to 'do nothing'. Virtual Schools of Instruction are being planned in lieu of an inspection. We will use this interruption of our 'normal' to make preparations for when we do receive the 'all clear' and resume our labors.

You see, 'New Year' is also traditionally a time of resolutions, of making plans to improve ourselves and our lives. Whether to lose weight or learn a new skill, our focus is on improvement. So I ask you, at this time, to resolve with me to make 2021 a great year; a great year for us and for Templary. Focus on how we can prepare for the re-start of Templary. Learn a new ritual part; take on a new duty or office. Reach out to our members and renew their passion and excitement for our craft. Contact our candidates who have been patiently waiting and renew their excitement and anticipation of joining us soon. Now is not the time to sit back and let COVID control what we are doing, but seize control and prepare for that day when normalcy returns. If we plan and prepare well we will resume where we left off, or maybe a few steps ahead. But failing to plan is planning to fail. That is never an option.

Sir Knights, it has been a heck of a year. It may be a long and dark winter, but there is real hope just beyond! Enjoy the extra time now with your family, because soon we will back! Soon, God willing... I will see you in the Asylum.

God bless. Happy New Year!

See you in the Asylum!

Courteously,  
Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REG

From the Grand Junior Warden,

Well, it's January 2021 and I gleefully say goodbye to 2020!! Admittedly it was a unique, challenging and unfortunately tragic year in the US. From the COVID-19 pandemic to an election that will be remembered for decades to come to periodic mandated isolation, 2020 could not end soon enough!! In the wreckage of the past year our society has become more partisan, violent and less forgiving. Have we forgotten the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", or just changed it to justify our actions, "Do unto others BEFORE they do unto you." Have we put our selfish wants and needs ahead of long forgotten societal mores?

Never have our Masonic and Templar ideals been so lacking in society, at least that's what is portrayed in the nightly news. From Police Officer involved shootings, political upheaval and violent protests, our social fabric is in turmoil.

As Masons and Templar Knights, it is inherent upon us to be examples of how society should conduct itself with Brotherly love, relief, and truth. We must, as SK Mike Mutter stated in his November 2020 contribution, "Be a gardener and plant the seed." Show others why you've embraced the Templar lifestyle. Be an example of how a good citizen promotes and contributes to society, for that is sorely lacking these days.

As I close my contribution to this month's magazine, I climb down off my soapbox called frustration with the hope for a better year than last. That 2021 will bring about a semblance of rationality and goodwill towards ALL men to our national conscience. As my father used to say, you cannot see what is in front of you while you look behind you. The past is history and cannot be changed, tomorrow is not yet written, all we have is today's gift called the present.

Forever and always,  
Jeffery Lancelle  
Grand Junior Warden

