

West Virginia Supplement

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Vincent E. Perry, Right Eminent Grand Commander



From the Office of your Right Eminent Grand Commander,
Sir Knight Vincent E. Perry:

Greetings to all Sir Knight and their families.

I hope this supplement finds all our Sir Knights and their families well.

As most of our Knights are aware, the Most Eminent Grand Master Jeffrey N. Nelson issued General Order No. 14 on Nov. 1, 2020, concerning the reopening of Templary for 2021. Our Grand Encampment Officers acted decisively when the Covid-19 pandemic started. However, we know now that this pandemic is not subsiding as quickly as many had first thought. Many of our members and their families are individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, lung problems, and diabetes. All of these cause our immune system to be compromised. Our age group average is 67 years or more.

I know that we all look forward to being together and having regular business meetings and special meetings to confer work on new candidates, but we must use good judgement about these meetings and observe social distancing.

Please be aware that General Order 14 supersedes General Order #12 issued on May 4. In addition, under regulation Section #65 of the Constitution our Grand Master has authorized the Commanders of constituent Commanderies within each Grand Commandery to convene a stated or special conclave if teleconference (such as Zoom) is available to all, which in our state is not.

The Grand Encampment of Knight Templar reopening is composed of different phases. As set up they are as follows: zero, one, and two.

As such all are in guidelines in our Knights Templar web site. Sir Knights please read carefully. We are in stage zero as of this writing, until I give notice. As your Grand Commander, this is where we are at. Again, please read the website carefully.

For all phases, the common guidelines are to avoid socializing in large groups, maximize social distancing and personal protective equipment in public, minimize travel, and all vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place.

An overview of specific Phase Zero guidelines are as follows: Stated or Special Conclave, Battalion, District, Division, et. Meetings for regional or statewide activities should be limited to virtual conclaves and conference calls only. Video will only show the dais officers. In-person conclaves at any location are prohibited. Drill team practices are prohibited in person as they make it impossible to maintain proper social distancing. Grand Commandery Conclaves, Reconsecrations, York Rite Festivals, receptions, parades, in-person Commandery religious observances, posting of colors, casket honor guards, military balls, Christmas observances, social events, and any similar activities are prohibited. Travel for commandery purposes is prohibited. Any type of ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery orders on candidates is prohibited.

Let each Sir Knight pray this Covid-19 is over soon. In St. Matthew, chapter 20, verse 16: "So the last shall be first, and the first last; for many be called, but few chosen."

God Bless each and every one in our year 2021.

Vincent E. Perry
Right Eminent Grand Commander