



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

First I want to provide my humble and heartfelt thanks to the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Iowa for electing me to serve as your Grand Commander for a second year. I am truly humbled at the honor of leading OUR Grand Commandery this year. I also want to thank all the Grand Officers, committee members and all Sir Knights who have stepped forward to serve this year. Thanks to everyone who came out to our Conclave in Des Moines in June. It was great to see everyone again in person!

Now that things are back to “normal,” we have much to accomplish.

As I stated in my address, I want to continue to strengthen our Order and become active in our communities. I would like a continued focus to be on strengthening our foundation as an Order. I believe we need to work on the fundamental challenges we face as an Order, and need to take a hard look at why we’re here and why we do what we do.

What brought you into Commandery? What was it that made you stay a member? What is it that keeps you wanting to come back? Or, for some, what is it that keeps you away?

One of the things I will be asking is for each Commandery to set a goal of putting on the Order of the Temple in their own asylum. If you don’t *do* the work and don’t *see* the work, how can you promote the organization to your membership and future membership? I will be asking each Commandery for a date on which they are going to confer the Order. This doesn’t need to happen in a vacuum. The Grand Officers

and other Commanderies will be able to assist and will happily do so.

Another focus will be on engagement outside of our Commanderies. A number of us are often called upon for arches of steel, cornerstone ceremonies and the like. But I think we can do more. The work that Gene Hatfield did in forming honor guards for the Honor Flights is a great example.

Another area of focus is on our youth. There are pockets of active Masonic youth organizations in the state that I believe we can more actively support. But not just our Masonic youth. What can we do to promote ourselves and our values to others that don’t know who we are or what we stand for? I’ve heard of examples of flag presentations at high school football and basketball games, for example. How powerful could it be to have the Flag Lecture recited in a public setting before the National Anthem?

My program this year remains largely unchanged, with the detail that I believe it is achievable, since we are able to meet, unlike the first 6 months of my term last year. The general gist of it is: I want us all to become more active, both within our local Commanderies and in our communities. We have a great story to tell, and a great message for the world!

*Ex nihilo nihil fit* – from nothing comes nothing. In this spirit, I look forward to working with all of you in spreading our great story to the world.

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander