



Missouri Supplement

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Getting Back to Normal with Caution!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I am very grateful for being elevated to the office of Grand Commander. I would like to give special thanks to all of my Brothers and Sisters for having helped me prepare for the last few years to get where I am today. Without their help and advice this transition would have been more difficult. I would also like to give thanks to my installing team.

We have survived this pandemic so far. Our Junior Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, has done extremely well. We are all very proud of him for keeping us safe.

My prayers go out to those who did not survive during this time. As Christian Knights we must continue to help the widows and orphans, as well as the homeless. A little bit of kindness with a meal or giving them a ride to church – all of these things add up to help make this world great again.

Since we might be opening the Commanderies without limitations in the near future, I will be very happy when we start bringing in new Sir Knights. The sooner we can bring in new Sir Knights the happier we will all be. Without new growth our Commanderies will wither and die.

We should all “go fishing” in our area Symbolic Lodges for new members for the York Rite of Freemasonry. There are presentations available to make in the Symbolic Lodges with the permission of the Lodge’s Worshipful Master. Sir Knights interested in obtaining these presentation materials should contact SK Greg Walker (gregoryjwalker@gmail.com).

I am hoping that the 2022 Grand Session will be back to normal for one and for all. It is very important to me that we be able to have fellowship in person again. I am sure that everyone is looking forward to renewing our friendships and remembering our Christian faith together.

May God be with you and I thank you. I am looking forward to a successful year.

Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Grand Commander

MOTIVATION AND LEADERSHIP

Grand Session is now behind us. However, all of the Commanders have their work cut out for them. After the months of inactivity or minimal activity, it is time, or soon will be, for the Commanders to take up the reins of leadership and do something with their Commanderies. One of the first challenges for a Commander will be to vote on moving up to Phase 2 reopening status. Then he needs to motivate his troops, to get their attention, so they will listen.

“Our Commandery doesn't do anything, so I don't waste my time going anymore!” “Someone needs to do something or we are going to lose our Commandery!” “What we need to do is get a bunch of new members to replace the ones that don't come anymore!” The Commander is confronted or possibly overwhelmed by the opinions and attitudes of the members. What should he do? How should he proceed? Here are a few ideas for our Commanders.

Before we can successfully recruit new members we must get the current members excited again about Templary and their Commandery. The challenge is getting them to listen again. We need to talk up the Commandery, plan up the year, plan up each month, plan up each and every meeting. Having a period of fellowship or a carry-in potluck dinner before each meeting can help encourage participation. Plus, we need to maintain regular, informative communication with our members. The plans, calendars, and agendas need to be shared with the active members and, more importantly, with the silent majority of members who are not currently active. We need to stop wasting our meetings because meaningless meetings are a waste of everyone’s time.

Playing with swords is a big part of Templary. Drilling can be fun, so shake it up. Organize several teams within your Commandery. You can have a Junior team of new members, an Officer team, and a Senior team of Past Commanders. You can hold your own drill competition events. You could even invite nearby Commanderies to participate.

However, there has to be more to Templary than just drilling, so mix it up. Practice/perform the full opening ritual, try out the short form on page 98 in the Ritual book, or review/discuss the opening rituals for the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta. Practice/confer the Orders one per meeting instead of using festivals. Provide educational presentations and discussions on historic Templary, modern Knights Templary, elements of the ritual work, and leadership. The bottom line is that we must maintain a positive attitude and stay personally excited, because excitement is contagious. Motivating a Commandery involves changing attitudes and opinions.

There is no cookie cutter solution or formula for motivating and leading a Commandery. A Commandery is not an object that can be tested, analyzed, diagnosed, and repaired. It is a collection of Sir Knights, of individuals working together in a common cause, and each Commandery has a dynamic character unique to that collective. Let’s all help our Commanders succeed and in turn help our Commanderies to grow and prosper.