



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

Christian M. Beard
Grand Commander

Greg Kenkel
Supplement Editor

kt.iayorkrite.org

Sir Knights:

I am excited for our Grand Conclave in Des Moines on June 3-5. We have a pretty robust program in place, and it looks like we will have a number of out-of-state visitors, which will give us a chance to showcase Templar Masonry in Iowa. I am sure we will put on a successful Conclave.

To say that things got upended in 2020 and 2021 would be a vast understatement. COVID was partially responsible, but other things were not related to COVID. I'm speaking specifically about VEDGC Kevin Christians' passing, as well as the retirement of Grand Recorder Hill. This has left a number of holes to fill, something that is well underway. However there is still work to be done.

To that end, I wanted to announce in this forum that I will be seeking to remain in the office of Grand Commander for the ensuing Templar year. It is the intent that the current Dias officers will remain in their respective positions for 2021/2022. The transition to Grand Recorder Anderson has been smooth, and he has done an outstanding job of "getting his legs underneath him," and we will continue to support him in his role.

We also have legislation to be brought before the membership at Grand Conclave. One item specifically is around the forming of the York Rite Corporation, a non-profit corporation to run the day-to-day business of all Iowa York Rite bodies. A second piece of legislation will be around creating all Sir Knights of Iowa as Life Sponsors in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Our goal has always been

100% life sponsorship, and Past Grand Commander Sheeler is proposing legislation to make this a reality.

It is imperative that your voice be heard at Conclave. I have always said that this is YOUR Grand Commandery, and the future of Templar Masonry is up to you. Your voice is important and we look forward to a healthy and productive dialogue in June.

In the coming year, my focus will continue to be strengthening our Commanderies, and ensuring that we have a viable and robust structure in place to ensure a long and prosperous future for Templars in Iowa. As I have mentioned in this forum before, our future is up to you and I want us to be honest with ourselves about what is working, and what changes need to be made to secure our future. I know many of us are busy and juggling many different balls to keep things going, but in many instances this is not sustainable. My focus, if elected, will be around laying the foundation for our sustainable future. We owe it to incoming generations.

To that end, I hope I have your support in June, and in the ensuing year beyond. I look forward to seeing everyone in Des Moines.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander