

## **Grand Commander's Comments**

First, I would again like to thank all the Knight Companions that voted for me and had the confidence that I can perform the duties for all of you that make up the Nebraska Grand Commandery. Second, I would like to thank the officers that stepped up to fill the other positions in the Grand Commandery this year. All that being said, for those that were not able to make the installation of officers I offer below the theme of this year's Grand Commandery.

This year I challenge and direct all the Commandery conclave in the state to do the following four "Rs". I need you all to Reflect, Review, Re-establish and Re-invigorate.

By reflecting I want you all to study the histories of your Commandries because we are moving into our 150th year of existence in the state of Nebraska and some of you have amazing histories. You should use these histories as education moments during your conclaves and use them to instill pride in your conclaves for the items they have accomplished in the past. While reflecting I need you to move on to next "R", reviewing.

During the reviewing of your reflections, you should be able to find out processes and theories that worked well to maintain and grow membership or maybe even improve ritual or your conclaves getting together socially. You also should find some items that should instill great pride in your conclaves or items to begin to inspire your conclaves to be more active. Also, while you are reflecting and reviewing you need to take a serious look at the next "R", re-establishing.

After your reflecting and reviewing, I am confident that you will find an idea, concept or process that you can re-establish to improve your time together socially or in conclaves to improve not only yourselves, but that will instill a new bond of fellowship

across the members and their families. You may just re-establish something that you have recently stopped doing that was popular at one time but has kind of fell off the radar. Things like families getting together before the meetings and then having time for your ladies and kids/grandkids to get together and enjoy fellowship while you are in your monthly meetings/conclaves. One of the most important parts of re-establishing is reestablishing your participation and those of the members who may have difficulty in attending the conclaves because they can no longer drive at night or maybe do not have a ride. We are a fellowship of Brothers, Companions and Knights who have taken vows to assist our other Brothers, Companions and Knights so let's not just give lip service to those obligations and vows. Lastly in the re-establishing of your own participation, for those who think I have already done my part and now it is their turn, you are the ones I need to show up the most because though you have done awesome things to promote Commandery I need vou especially after COVID to assist some of your fellow Knights you have already inspired to help inspire a new generation of Knights. This all will lead to the last "R" re-invigorate.

If you do the first three "Rs" well this last "R" should be the easiest. We need to get out of the mode that COVID caused in making it easy not to attend meetings and conclaves. Masons are social creatures, so we need to re-invigorate ourselves and our fellow Knights to get back together and re-establish that fellowship that Masons claim they are so good at and what ties the Fraternity together. If you find and develop the information from reflection and review, you will have plenty of items for discussion and action to keep your conclaves busy and who knows maybe event develop new items and history for the Knights that follow you to reflect and review later and continue to keep your Commandries moving far into the future. Your predecessors did this for you, now it is our time to repay the bill and continue Commandery for generations to come.

Anthony T. Johnson Grand Commander Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska