



Washington Supplement

SK Richard M. Kovak
REPGC

SK Bryan D. Bechler, PC, COH,
KCT, Editor

bry.kat@frontier.com



Greetings Sir Knights:

By the time you read this article I will be a Past Grand Commander and a new line of officers will have been installed. We all have to move on from our present comfort zones to new places of challenge and opportunity.

I want to thank all of my officers who served under my command for doing an excellent job in their respective posts. Although their tasks may not have been as numerous as they might have been in a non-pandemic world, they did what was asked of them with promptness and efficiency. Several of them were willing and able participants in the Christmas and Easter Observances and did a great job there. Two of them, the Grand Prelate, SK Ian Hyde and Grand Historian, SK John Lawson did yeoman work in writing articles for the Knight Templar Magazine Washington Supplement thus giving me a needed breather from my writing duties. I want to thank my two Aides de Camp, SK Karl Reich REPGC and SK David Aponte, REPGC (FL) for their devotion to duty especially in hosting and presenting a jurisdiction wide Workshop on ritual, tactics and floor work. I also want to thank the constituent commanderies for plowing ahead with virtual conclave meetings during this pandemic period. At these virtual conclaves, the Sir Knights could at least keep in visual and audible touch with each other even if they could not do any Orders or other esoteric work. Now, as we approach the resumption of in person conclaves, all need to review their floor work, ritual and tactics so that the resumption of duties can proceed in uniformity and dignity.

I leave this off with a few recommendations which I hope and trust that the new line of officers will consider and implement in whole or in pertinent part:

1. Continue to produce and present a jurisdiction-wide Christmas Observance and Easter Observance.
2. Equip each conclave asylum location with a laptop computer capable of broadcasting a virtual portion of a conclave meeting.
3. Continue to produce and promote an annual workshop on floor work, ritual and tactics.
4. Present semiannual jurisdiction-wide educational programs on the history and culture of Knights Templar and on the KT Eye Foundation programs.

All of these items can be accomplished on the virtual platforms which we have been using over this past year. The technology is there. We must continue to use it to our advantage.

As we move forward with our respective lives, let us not forget that it is Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who leads us on. I close with the lyrics of a hymn which can serve as an inspiration and guide for all of us as we change offices, careers, or even habits – Lead On, O King Eternal.

This hymn was written by Ernest Shurtleff in 1887 as a graduation anthem from seminary. It serves as a paean to any commencement in life no matter what the occasion. Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come. Henceforth in fields of conquest, Thy tents shall be our home. Thru days of preparation, Thy grace has made us strong. And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song. Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er Thy face appears. Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest, lead on O God of Might!

Leaving you in the everlasting arms of love and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ

SK Richard M. Kovak, REPGC

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington