



WISCONSIN Supplement

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Greetings, Sir Knights!

It is hard to believe that June is already here. It seems this Templar Year just started, and now it is coming to a close with our virtual Annual Grand Conclave just around the corner on June 19th at 9:00 am. If you haven't yet registered there is still time, but act quickly. You can register at GCKTWIS.org. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion on the future of Templary in Wisconsin and support your Grand Officers. While there aren't many resolutions, your voice needs to be heard. I look forward to greeting you on June 19th and only wish we were meeting in person.

And so this term will end as it started, virtually. Last June the pandemic was new and we were unsure just how it would affect us. 'Two weeks to flatten the curve' were the buzz words and while it seemed to work, once Fall rolled around it became clear things would not return to normal for some time.

Many of this year's plans and programs had to be adjusted, if not abandoned altogether. Any in-person gatherings were canceled as we moved to the virtual world. It took a little time, but with everyone working together we learned how to make virtual gatherings work. We have a great 'tech team' who helped us learn and apply the new technology. Soon we were actually accomplishing more than we thought possible. Believe it or not, virtual meetings have made it possible to attend more meetings, and that includes visiting more conclaves. Together we adapted and improvised to overcome many of the pandemic challenges.

While it is always true that you never achieve all you had hoped in the short span of a year, it is especially painful this year. This year was to be spent in the Asylum, working with all our constituent Commanderies to learn together and build a strong foundation for our future. The new tires I purchased for all the planned travel haven't even needed to be rotated yet and I found myself cursing the low gas prices because I had nowhere to go. My deepest loss this year was not being able to spend time with all of you. We've done much via ZOOM, but you can't shake hands on a computer screen.

This year has been full of ups and downs We've dealt with COVID restrictions and loss as we bid farewell to our frater, S.K. Michael Mutter, G.Sw.B. I am proud we have met most of our challenges in creative and successful ways. Through it all we have persevered, striving to move Templary in Wisconsin 'Forward'. I have many to thank for making this year as successful as it could be

To the 2020-2021 Commanders, you guys rock! Your dedication and support were much appreciated as we worked together under daunting circumstances. Your eagerness to learn and try new things are greatly appreciated, as was your counsel on how to deal with the pandemic and continue our work. I was lucky to have you on my team!

An incredibly special thank you to the Sir Knights and the Ladies of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24 and Wisconsin Commandery No. 1. These are the men and women who have supported me, not only this past year, but for my many years in the Grand Commandery officer line. So many things might not have been accomplished without your support. Thank you, one and all.

To the staff at our Grand Office, I thank you for your efforts in the administration of our Grand Commandery this past year. Lady Heidi Farrell has continued her exemplary dedication and service to the York Rite. S.K. Eric Brooks has been an excellent Knight Templar Magazine Correspondent. S.K. Michael Fairbanks has served us well during his tenure as Grand Treasurer and we wish him well as he 'retires' from his office. I am very thankful to S.K. LeRoy Kifer, P.G.C. for agreeing to serve as Grand Recorder these past weeks. And to S.K. Michael Clinnin, my Aide de Camp, thank you for all you have done to assist me this year. From sounding block to counselor, you have been there for me. You are a true and most valued friend.

To our 'Technical Crew', S.K. Stephen Dake; S.K. Shawn Noble and S.K. Brad Bingheim, words cannot adequately express my thanks for all you have done to make this year a success. Your countless hours dedicated to facilitating meetings, assuring our technology was ready to achieve our goals, and teaching us how to implement that technology is most appreciated. We would have been lost this year without you.

To my fellow Grand Officers and Past Grand Commanders who have been so generous and helpful with their time in assisting me in the administration of this Grand Commandery, your support is greatly appreciated. It was an honor to serve with you.

Lastly, thank you to all of you, Sir Knights for the opportunity to lead you this past year. It has been a privilege to serve as your Grand Commander. I have not taken the honor lightly and endeavored to do my best to serve you to the best of my ability and to do what is right for our Grand Commandery. I pray I have proven worthy of your trust and performed my duties to your satisfaction.

I pray we may return to normal soon so we may accomplish those tasks we were forced to place on hold. I look forward to serving next year's Grand Officer Corps and know that S.K. Clinton Cagle will lead us forward with honor and integrity. I ask you all to support him and our Grand Officer Corps as they continue their efforts to make Templary in Wisconsin all it can be. With your support, I have no doubt we shall accomplish our goals.

May God bless all of you and our Grand Commandery. Soon I hope to
See you in the Asylum!

Courteously,
Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REG

