



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

After a cold and snowy winter so far, I am looking forward to spring and a warm-up in our lovely Iowa weather. I trust you are, as well!

As we enter March, we will be continuing the opening of our Commanderies and Des Moines is planning on holding its annual York Rite Festival on March 20. The Chapter degrees will begin in the morning and we will conclude with the Order of the Temple in the afternoon. If Commanderies have not already conferred the Orders on candidates, this is a great opportunity to work through the backlog of candidates we have had over the past year. It will have been over a year since any Commanderies orders have been conferred, and I am anxious to have a great turnout in Des Moines.

However, as I have previously stated, this does not preclude individual Commanderies from conferring the Orders themselves. My offer still stands for the Grand Officers to help you confer these Orders in individual Commanderies. Some Commanderies prefer the intimacy of a smaller group, and that's OK. Either way, we should be able to get these candidates the Orders in a most solemn and impressive manner.

As many of you have probably heard, Sir Knight Rusty Hill, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, will be retiring from his role as Grand Recorder, a position he has valiantly and diligently performed over the past many years. I want to extend my sincere thanks to him and Lady Robin for their service to this Grand Commandery, and if you haven't already, please wish them well. This presents a large

vacancy in our York Rite in Iowa, and I know that these will be very large shoes to fill. Grand Commanders and Grand Officers come and go, but continuity in the Grand Recorder's office is what keeps our Order running, and I am thankful for the support Rusty and Robin have provided in my time as a Grand Officer in Iowa.

Another duty that falls into the purview of the Grand Commander is making recommendations to the Grand Master for the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. This is the highest honor that Commandery can bestow for exceptional service to our Order. Only Sir Knights that have not served as elected officers in the Grand Commandery line are eligible, and this is to recognize those Sir Knights who have served our Order out of purpose and not for recognition. If Commanderies have not yet done so, please send me recommendations for this high honor by early March, so I can ponder and make a recommendation to Grand Master Nelson. I'm sure each Commandery has a Sir Knight that is worthy of this honor, so I ask that you please give careful consideration to this recommendation.

With the reopening of Commanderies, I am pleased to see Grand Conclaves being held again in person. Specifically in our Department, Nebraska will be holding their Grand Sessions from April 15-17 in Kearny, Nebraska. I am planning on attending, and would like to see a large contingency from Iowa. Registration closes on April 4, so if you are planning on attending, please see me or Grand Recorder Hill for registration information.

I am especially excited to see creations of new Sir Knights, and look forward to seeing you all around the state soon!

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander