



IDAHO SUPPLEMENT

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The Changing of the Seasons

It is March, and that means Spring is just around the corner and will be here by the end of the month. The days are getting a little longer each day and the weather a little bit warmer. In many places the grass is already starting to turn greener and even a few trees are getting leaves. Soon the flowers will be in full bloom and the cycle of life will begin again.

I hope a similar situation is occurring in our lodges and our Commanderies. Certainly, COVID-19 is not yet a distant memory, yet the data is showing that things are improving. I am hopeful that by the time you are reading this the trend is continuing to even better outcomes. I know I look forward to a return to normal and the resumption in earnest of our daily activities. What that will look like remains to be seen, but I am confident that with the love, care, kindness, and assistance of each other we will come out of this stronger and better. But it takes work!

Speaking of labor, the plans are continuing for our annual grand conclave to be held in Lewiston, Idaho in April. The appendant and chair orders will be held on Thursday, April 15. The annual meetings for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar will be held on Friday and Saturday. The annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday, April 17. We will be celebrating the awards recipients for both 2020 and 2021 since we were not able to do so last year.

Full details are available on our website at www.idyorkrite.org. Please go register and reserve your hotel rooms now. I know our companions and sir knights from the Lewiston York Rite are planning a wonderful time for each of us.

I know that with all that 2020 brought us that some may be concerned about whether the annual meeting will occur as planned. Rest assured that the grand officers are watching and observing as conditions unfold. If plans need to be adjusted, they will be, and due and timely notice will be given. However, it is simply not possible to wait until the last moment and plan a conference of quality for our membership. Thus, we must march forward with plans for April, keeping an eye on the changing landscape. I look forward to seeing you there!

As we look to the last six weeks of this Templar year, I am sorry that we were not able to do many of the things we traditionally do. But we also did some new things. Virtual meetings have allowed some members to attend gatherings of their Commandries that they haven't been able to for years. The virtual Christmas Observance was a success with attendees from all over the USA and Canada, including the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment! While I wasn't able to visit any Commanderies in person due to the restrictions, I have been able to visit most via Zoom.

There is still time to help accomplish one goal this year. Idaho is only 23 members away from 100% life sponsors with the KTEF. For a mere \$30, it will forever relieve your Commandery and the Grand Commandery of the annual assessment for the KTEF. More importantly, you will be funding premier research into eye disorders. Remember, you must purchase a life sponsorship in all Commanderies of which you are a member. If you can, please help us achieve this goal and show the larger jurisdictions that Idaho can keep up!

God Bless you all!

– Jeremy C. Vaughn, Grand Commander