



WISCONSIN Supplement

SK Charles "Mick" Olson, REGC
Editor: Eric Brooks
920-397-8109
eabrooks53@gmail.com
Web Site: gcktwis.org/



Greetings, Sir Knights!

We are now two-thirds of the way through our Templar year. This year has been **overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic**. As they say, 'timing is everything'. As soon as it looked like we might resume our conclaves in-person the pandemic numbers skyrocketed. In many of our Commanderies a fellow Sir Knight has contracted the virus, with several being hospitalized, a few suffering greatly, hovering near death. Sadly, we have lost several of our brethren as the battle continues. This concern has dominated much of our actions this year.

I have commended our Commanders and Grand Officers for their concern for our members as we discuss the option of resuming in-person conclaves. It is necessary we weigh the 'risk vs. rewards' of meeting in person and as I write this communication it is clear that the cold weather has given the virus new strength. New mutations are being detected making the virus even more contagious. While vaccines are being distributed, the danger still looms heavily before us.

I often wrestle with the idea we may be overreacting to the possible dangers. I see photos on social media of some Masonic groups meeting for parties with few masks being worn. But, then I read the comments of those decrying this lack of concern for a very real threat. While many contract the virus with little effect, sadly others are devastated, not only by the virus, but the necessary precautions that separate us from those we love. So for now we will continue to diligently protect our membership and not expose you to unnecessary risk.

The saving grace of this year has been ZOOM. This web platform has allowed us to continue our work even though we have been unable to meet in person. I am proud that most of our commanderies have embraced this opportunity and continue our work with this new tool. In all of Masonry we use tools and implements to teach lessons of morality and virtue. Perhaps this year we have adopted ZOOM as our tool to represent perseverance. Lodge Minutes tell us that in order to keep lodges 'active' during the Spanish flu pandemic the three principal officers, only those three, would meet at the lodge on the appropriate night to ceremoniously open lodge, displaying the three great lights in order to give all Masons hope that those lights would lead us through the darkness and one day, we would again meet on the level.

Masonry survived that last pandemic, and so long as we remain vigilant our craft shall again prevail. So this month I salute our leaders for their concern for our members, and also our members who, like those principle officers of yesteryear continue to meet virtually to keep the light shining in their commandery, to guide us through the darkness until we can resume our labors, together once more. Please, continue to attend your conclaves and support your leaders, and our beloved craft.

For now.... I look forward to seeing you on ZOOM!

See you in the Asylum!
Courteously,
Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REG

Greetings Sir Knights,

It appears we are still in a pandemic and I thought I would do something different and educational. I am going to write about a few of the Honors and Awards with the Commandery for both Men and Women. Additional Information and Forms can be found at the Grand Encampment Honors and Awards Page at knightstemplar.org or on our Wisconsin Grand Commandery Documents and Forms Page at gcktwis.org.

Let's start with the something for both Templars and Non-Templars as well as has been the main recognition of our Ladies, which is the 'Companion of the Temple' (CT). This is an Honor which is given for service to the Order, the Fraternity, the Community, or Mankind. All nominations should be made through the Grand Office and the Deputy or Deputies for the Program. It is not just for ladies.

The 'Knight Commander of the Temple' (KCT) is an Honor for which only existing KCT Members can make a nomination. This Honor is for Sir Knight's only and is given for service to the Order, the Fraternity, the Community, or Mankind. All nominations require a resume' with fee and are made directly through the Deputy or Deputies for the Program who then need to approve the nomination.

The 'Knight Templar Cross of Honor' (KTCH) is to be given to one member, per state, per year, and Grand Officers are not eligible. Local Commanderies send a Nomination with your Annual Report to the Grand Office. There is a form that needs to be completed and the Grand Commander reviews all of them to make the selection.

The Grand Commandery 'Meritorious Service Medal' (MSM) is available to each Local Commandery to award to one Sir Knight per Templar year. Selection criteria are in the Grand Constitution and Statutes. A committee from each Local Commandery must make the recommendation, complete the form and submit to the Grand Office with the fee.

Lastly, I want to draw your attention to an award that has the greatest value, every Sir Knight can earn, and is the easiest to achieve. That is the Two-fer Award. Any Sir Knight being the top line signer for two petitioners, who are either Knighted or restored to membership, is eligible to receive the Wisconsin Grand Commandery Two-fer Award.

The Two-fer Award itself is a financial credit on the Local Commandery's Annual Report in the amount of \$45.00 for the Awarded Sir Knight's Grand Commandery Per Capita. This is truly an award that will pay for itself as well as dividends for Templary! Once earned you are well on your way to the 'Grand Encampment Membership Award' for recruiting ten new members!

I hope I was able to give you a little light as we approach the end of the pandemic tunnel. Until we meet again Sir Knights, may god keep you safe and bless you all.

Courteously Yours,

Shawn P. Noble
Grand Senior Warden