



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

We are in the final preparation for our Grand Conclave, to be held June 3-5 in Des Moines. We will be holding the session at the Scottish Rite Consistory and the headquarters hotel will be the Hilton Downtown Des Moines. A group rate for this even has been secured, and I'm looking forward to a nice turnout. We will be holding the Ritual Competition in the 10-Man Opening from 2-4 on Thursday, June 3. I know of a few Commanderies participating, but I would like to see a few more. The informal opening will be the Vesper Service, where we will welcome Pastor Paul Smith to give a presentation on his Holy Land Pilgrimage, which was accomplished shortly before COVID hit in 2020. I am sure he will have an engaging talk and I look forward to hearing about his experience.

We will have significant business to accomplish at our Conclave on Friday and Saturday. Most of the proposed legislation will involve the forming of a non-profit corporation to execute the duties of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, in addition to discussions around Life Sponsors for the Eye Foundation. These are important discussions that will impact the future direction of your Grand Commandery, so I encourage all to come and make your voice heard.

As I have said in the past, I believe we are at a crossroads for our Grand Commandery, but also our Grand Council and Grand Chapter. The reality is, we only have a handful of constituent Commanderies, Chapters and Councils meeting on a regular basis. If you think back to my first note in this publication, and the unveiling of my program, I asked you to think about WHY you are a Sir Knight, and what that means to you. Are you only a dues-paying member? If so, why? Do you want to be more active, but feel like you are only one of a few in your area? Or is there someone who is in charge and shouldn't be? What can we do to light a fire with that spark? I urged you back in the summer to think

about why you became a member, and why you still are a member. Now that we have had the restrictions lifted, there is no reason to not be meeting, conferring our Orders and becoming the light in our communities that we should be. I would like to encourage this conversation at our Grand Conclave. I realize there are a variety of difficulties to overcome family and work obligations to get in the way, compete for our time etc. But I think you joined this Order for a reason, and I am asking you to reflect on this and be honest with yourself about its meaning in your life. If this is no more than a social club to you and you like it that way, that's fine, too. If the Order itself is meaningful to you and you wish there were ways to get others to see it that way, let's have a talk.

I believe that as a country we are in the process of finding our collective way back to God and spirituality. Don't listen to all the trash coming out of the radio, TV, internet and movie theaters. That's a distraction that I don't believe is reflective of society. I see a spiritual awakening happening that remarkably may be the one positive thing that COVID taught us. We have a wonderful opportunity to harness that and proclaim our devotion to Jesus to our communities and be a source of inspiration for good in our world. That is the one reason for why I am a member. (It sure isn't because of the drilling and ostrich feathers!)

I ask you to use this time to reflect on what this Order means to you, and come to Grand Conclave to have a discussion on the topic.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander