

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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The Grand Commandery held it's conclave by zoom April 10th. New officers were elected and appointed for the next year. The virus inoculations are being distributed and many of you have received that measure of protection.

Another serious problem facing all of Masonry is now present and infectious within our membership and that of our society. We have been restricted from church, school, Lodge, sporting events, and assemblies. We have become less dependent on the social aspects of our lives. Masons offer brotherhood and fidelity to each other and we have rarely practiced it for the past year.

I encourage every Commandery to hold a reception for the Knights and their ladies. Hold a brief program to welcome Sir Knights, and if any have been called to heaven, celebrate and share the times you've had together. This should be a celebration and renewal of fellowship, companionship, and brotherhood. Try not to hold this at a stated conclave, but a special event. Have the ladies present and make it special. If you were to open, the ladies would be captive for a while. Make them feel as special as they truly are and honor their gift of time.

Make sure to call each member, check on their welfare, and hear their situation. Invite prospective candidates, those that have petitioned and other guests. See if any need a ride or a special menu, a special parking space, or aid. Make more handicap parking available than normal. We are all getting older, and like me, may have knees of steel and plastic.

At the time of this writing, we are allowed to meet with special conditions; 35 square feet per person, masks, sanitizer, and distancing. Most of our Asylums will accommodate all knights likely to attend.

I would suggest at your first stated meeting to have the Captain General hold a school of instruction, or some other Knight that is well versed in the correct tactics. It is not our intention that we would expect everyone to be proficient in drill after this long recess. Make it fun, informative, and productive. We do not need it to be a disciplinary school of instruction, but one of education.

Evaluate how well you performed, and if necessary, or possible, offer a course on drill and tactics at a time and place suitable for most of the knights. We will soon have dozens of candidates ready for the orders and we should be presentable.

I request, that each Commandery, prepare and practice for the Orders of Red Cross, and Malta. We only have one chance to make a good impression on a new Knight. Make it a good one. If any Commandery needs assistance in conferring these orders, you are encouraged to call me or our Inspector General for assistance. We also have several York Rite Colleges in our jurisdiction that are pledged to assist when asked.

The Orders of the Temple should be conferred as the crowning ceremony of Knighthood. It is my proposal that if necessary, Commanderies with proper facilities and paraphernalia be requested to either assist or to confer the Order of the Temple by the request of the Commandery in need of assistance. These conferrals need to be prestigious, and represent the high honor bestowed to these new Knights. A dinner or reception is not out of the question.

By the grace of God, and our Savior Jesus Christ;

S.K. Grant Sharp, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oregon

