



VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

Editor: S.K. J. Jeffrey McClelland, KCT
652 Punchbowl Lane, Jamaica, VA 23079
804.240.7367, Jeff.of.Jamaica@outlook.com
www.vagckct.org/



Knightly Greetings,

Welcome to the May issue of the Virginia Supplement!

Without doubt, this past year has been one of hardship, struggle, frustration, and sadness. I have personally lost a family member, a co-worker and my youngest Daughter was unfortunate to catch Covid-19, twice! I am certain many of you have shared similar losses and situations.

On the positive side, however, this pandemic has forced us to become resourceful and embrace different skills for the very first time. While we have not been allowed to assemble in person, I believe I have seen a greater number of Sir Knights, via the Internet this past year, than I would otherwise have done.

I have been truly amazed by the outpouring of fellowship, and indeed love, shown for our fellow Fraters during this period. Some Sir Knights have attended their Commandery conclaves for the first time in ages. They have witnessed our fellowship, good spirits, and humor at the meetings, and I believe this has been good, not only for our Commanderies, but for Virginian Templary as a whole.

Membership is the most critical issue to all bodies within Masonry, which includes us, the Knights Templar. To address this issue our Drill Team Committee has been working hard to encourage significant participation in drill related activities. When not used for the purpose of polishing tactics and Asylum floor work, drill related activities are an important and additional option that Sir Knights have to come together and perform in either exhibition or competition.

Exhibition includes color guards, flag ceremonies, and parades. Drill exhibition is one best and easiest ways we recruit. All we have to do is show up and march. When people see us in uniform wearing our chapeaus, it really makes an impression and people ask, "Who are they?!?"

Competition includes the Grand Commandery Drill Competition and the Grand Encampment Triennial Drill Competition. A team comes together, practices, and then performs as a unit. There are opportunities to meet other Fraters who are doing the same. This is one of the best benefits - drill activities build camaraderie and *esprit de corps*, thus encouraging membership retention.

The Drill Corps inducts Sir Knights who significantly participate in drill related activities. We encourage everyone to join our Drill Corps!

In this particular vein, membership will remain our top priority for some time to come. We really need to maintain contact with all of our current, and newly re-acquainted Sir Knights - as previously mentioned, while continuing to promote ourselves whenever and wherever possible. Just like the old Boy Scout's moto, we need to "Be Prepared" for the future. This current global malaise will end. By maintaining high spirits now, other Masons, and non-Masons, will see that we are good people, kind people and fun people to be with! After all, who among us would want to join any organization that makes one feel neglected or simply imposed upon? We do make a difference to the world in which we live. Through our philanthropies alone, we help mend and educate others that are unknown to us. If we are seen to be following our Christian ideals, I fully believe that where we lead, others will indeed follow.

With All Knightly Courtesy,

Peter R. Spring, KCT
Deputy Grand Commander