



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

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### Sir Knights:

As we enter fall (seems like summer just began?) I'm looking forward to increased activity throughout the state. Grand Lodge will be holding its Annual Communication on Friday and Saturday September 17 and 18 in Davenport, at the Radisson Quad City Plaza hotel. Grand Master Heflin has asked that the Grand Commandery of Iowa post the colors for the opening session on Friday morning. I am planning on being there, in full uniform, and request a contingent of Sir Knights to assist me. I will be reciting a modified version of our Flag Lecture, and believe this will be a great opportunity to showcase the York Rite, and specifically Templar Masonry, to our fellow brethren who may not be aware of who we are and what we do. I hope to have a nice turnout of Sir Knights to assist. Grand Master Heflin has been very supportive of the York Rite, and it has been my pleasure to get to know him and Lady Linda during this past year. Whenever he has been asked to be there, he has obliged and I am glad to return the favor for him.

In our own Department, South Dakota has been forced to move their York Rite sessions to September 15-17 in Huron, SD. The Grand Commandery of South Dakota will convene on Friday, September 17 at 8:15 AM. The session will wrap up in the morning. To those that will not be attending Grand Lodge, I ask that you please represent the Grand Commandery of Iowa in South Dakota. With COVID restrictions in 2020, it is good to see other jurisdictions "open up."

As I revealed in my program earlier this year, I want us to continue to have a focus on public engagement. I sent out some ideas on how this can happen. One of them was volunteering to post colors at civic events. I have seen examples of this in the past at high school sporting events such as football or basketball games. As of the time of this writing we don't yet know if there will be any additional lockdowns due to the so-called Delta variant, I am operating under the premise of full speed ahead for Templar Masonry, and I am taking Grand Master Johnson at his word when he stated in Iowa that Grand Encampment will be open for business. I would like each Commandery to look for opportunities to be present in civic affairs, especially areas that support our youth.

We will also be discussing whether or not to hold a ritual competition at Grand Conclave next year. Right now I am on the fence about it, and on the one hand I would like to see more robust participation. But on the other hand I see how participation has been lacking over the past few years.

Another goal of mine is to visit a stated meeting of each constituent Commandery this year. I will be planning these visitations and will give you an advance notice before I show up. The goal is get an action plan together on when you will be scheduling Knighting's and just the overall day-to-day work of each Commandery.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon, and until then I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander