



Iowa News for April 2022

Christian M. Beard

Grand Commander

Greg Kenkel

Newsletter Editor

Sir Knights,

March has come and gone and the Special Conclave has come and gone and it overwhelmingly elected Sir Knight David Kussman as Most Eminent Grand Master, thereby removing Sir Knight Michael Johnson from office. I can't say I am surprised at the result, although I did not expect it to be decided by such a large majority. The previous dias officers will remain in their position, with the exception of Sir Knight Jim McGee. Sir Knight David Studley was elected as Grand Captain General for the remainder of this Triennium with the understanding that he will not be aspiring to continue in the progressive Grand Encampment elected line. As of now, all Department Commanders, including our own David Dryer, will remain in their positions.

I am deeply saddened by the whole ordeal for the sake of our Order, however the membership has spoken and it is time to move forward with the decisions. It is time to heal the wounds that were caused and rebuild that which was damaged. One thing that is certain is that our Order is able to withstand whatever adversity it may face and we will be stronger because of it. I have said from the very beginning that this whole ordeal was nonsense and unnecessary, no matter which side you were on. And this is a textbook lesson of what not to do to unite an organization. Lesson learned: when you're in a hole, stop digging.

On a happier note, April marks our Easter celebration, and I feel it could not come at a better time for our Order. Just as Christ triumphed over death to redeem fallen man, let us take the Easter message to heart for ourselves. It is truly a time to rejoice in the love God shared with us humans to pay the ultimate price so that we don't have to. A belief in God's grace alone is the only price we have to pay (sorry, that's the Lutheran in me coming out)!

Des Moines will also be conducting our Spring York Rite Festival approximately a month later this year, on April 30. We're hoping to have a large class, even bigger than the Fall of 2021. If you know of any candidates, if you'd like to participate (always welcome!) or just want to see outstanding ritual performed, please reach out to Department Commander David Dryer.

We are also finalizing plans for our Grand Conclave in June, and by this time next month I will have details to share. I look forward to another successful Conclave and to see everyone again.

And as a reminder, as your Commanderies are preparing for your Easter observances, please reach out to me with dates and times, and I will make every effort to attend. This does not necessarily have to be on Easter Sunday, it can be around the time of Easter.

Until we meet again, I remain

In His Service

Chris Beard, Grand Commander