



THE GRAND COMMANDERY  
of VIRGINIA NEWS  
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Sir Knight Peter R. Spring, KCT  
*Right Eminent Grand Commander*

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Knighly Greetings to All,

This is the twelfth, and last, instalment of "Knighly Greetings" from me as your Grand Commander. Wow! Where has this year gone?

We started last May with a hybrid conclave of the Grand Commandery and we thought we were coming out of the pandemic then. Twelve months later and we are, apparently, still trying to put this "thing" in the rear-view mirror! I am, however, extremely grateful to all Sir Knights for your workarounds, diligence and plain hard work, in still managing to produce an excellent Chivalric year.

At the time of writing; it has been my great pleasure to personally "Knight" 60 new Sir Knights into our Grand Commandery of Virginia. With another 20 being "Knighled", 10 Affiliations and 4 Reinstatements, we are set to increase our membership by double digits this year. Of course, we must always temper our enthusiasm in the knowledge we have currently "lost" 46 Sir Knights to the Great Asylum above. All these departed Sir Knights will be duly honored with a visual necrology at the Stated Meeting of the Grand Commandery this May.

As one can imagine, this result in total membership does not significantly alter the 30-year overall decline in membership we are currently experiencing. We need to take actions that start right now and continue into the future.

Right Now:

There will be a Resolution at the Stated Meeting of the Grand Commandery, in May, that calls for a minimum quorum of just 5 Sir Knights to open a Commandery. A few years ago, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, sanctioned, by Resolution, for this to be allowed in Constituent Grand Commanderies. In Virginia, we voted to add 4 visiting Sir Knights to this number - to get back to the standard quorum of 9. Most unfortunately, we currently have several Commanderies that are unable to obtain a quorum of 9, to be able to open, and therefore ballot on new members. (A Catch-22 situation.) The Resolution in May will be put forward to the voting membership. While, as Grand Commander, I have no vote (unless a tie) I would urge all to seriously consider this Resolution to help our struggling Commanderies.

For the Future:

This year, we are fortunate to have a Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and a Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia - that are both Sir Knights! With the three Virginian Grands, all being Sir Knights, I have suggested a plan to encourage every Christian Mason to become a Companion and Sir Knight. (Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar!) When the plan reaches its final stages, it may take one or even two years to complete. Continuity of purpose is therefore essential in all three Masonic bodies. In addition to this, your Grand Line is making plans to

logistically divide and concur the State into new Membership Regions; all with Grand Line oversight. (As a Chinese philosopher once stated, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.")

I am very excited to inform you that our Grand Line has been repurposed this year. They have detailed specific duties and oversights that also provides teaching and knowledge. Meeting as a Grand Line, every month, also promotes understanding and consistency to help them act as one unified body.

On a personal note, it has been my upmost honor and pleasure serving you as Grand Commander this year. There are simply too many of you to thank personally. My dear Lady Sherry and I have been humbled by the hospitality, respect and indeed Love shown to us at the District Visits. We can never adequately thank you.

The role of being Grand Commander of Virginia is an odd one. I equate it to being the CEO of a \$2,000,000 company with 1,500 employees that never get paid! Difficult at times, but what a ride when it all comes together!!

I have also been most fortunate in having a brilliant set of Grand and Past Grand Officers supporting me. To them I promise my unswerving support and encouragement in the future.

Is everything perfect? No, but then again, it probably never will be. If we act with good intent, strategic thinking and a firm belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, we will be rewarded with the prize of leaving something a little better than we found it. I will be fully supporting my friend and S.K. Romi Capuno, due to be our 200th Grand Commander, in the same hope.



With all Knightly Courtesy,

**S.K. Peter R. Spring, KCT**  
Grand Commander