Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois

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Grand Commander

Illinois State News for January 2022

Happy New Year Sir Knights of Illinois,

We begin the New Year with hopes and dreams for a good year ahead of us. Some resolutions were made, yet many will not survive mid-January, but we make them anyway. If we didn't resolve change, we would be stuck in a rut. I resolve to make 2022 my best year so far.

At the end of 2021, all good Recorders made notation in the MMS database (Official Membership Record) of the Sir Knights who were suspended for various reasons, most commonly Non-Payment-of-Dues. Suspension of a Sir Knight should be the hardest act a Commandery can perform and should not be taken lightly. All Commanderies along with their Sister Bodies, Blue Lodge, Chapter and Council have invested a great deal of time and effort to bring a Brother to be known as a Companion and Sir Knight. Yet a quick notation in a computer database jeopardizes and nullifies these efforts.

It is a great time with the New Year upon us to see if these suspended Sir Knights can be saved through friendship and brotherly love. Suspensions do not have to be permanent and can easily be reversed. Each Commandery is hereby charged to have their Membership Committee and any interested Sir Knight, attempt to make personal contact with the suspended Sir Knight, see if they are having difficulties in their live, lost interest, moved, have a complaint, etc. that maybe at the root cause of the suspension. Dues can be remitted if a request is made for financial hardship, Interest can be peaked with good communications, Complaints can be addressed when communicated. The Commanderies have made an investment in each Sir Knight and warrants an additional payment of time and effort to not throw the investment away. *(If a Commandery has difficulty covering the dues of members who are on hard times they can apply to IKTOA our Grand Commandery Charity for assistance in meeting this obligation.)*

Now that the easy part is over, I challenge every Sir Knight to bring a petition for a new candidate this year. If we all find a worthy candidate, we be on our way to nearly double our membership and preserve our future. Recruitment is easy. You start by looking at yourself and quantify what makes you enjoy being a Templar. You are not alone, someone else is out there looking for the same satisfaction. Go to your Blue Lodges in the area, Chapters and Councils not affiliated with a Commandery, find an enthusiastic Brother who would benefit from becoming a

Templar. Tell them why you are a Templar and what you get out of Templary. The return on investment will come. Heck, you may make a new Friend and Brother even if they don't become a Templar right away. Be prepared to mentor, nurture, and support potential candidates and current Templars who are struggling. Templary may not be for everyone, but Templars should lend the opportunity to those they find worthy.

We often look at young men to become Masons and Templars. Unfortunately, these young men have the most fractured and complicated lives. They are trying to start families, careers, and provide basic creature comforts. We all know they could benefit from being a Mason, but their free time and resources are sparse and precious.

We should also, look for established men in the community. Those men whose career is established, their families are raised, and their basic creature comforts are met. Men who are approaching retirement in the next 5 to 10 years can use an outlet to focus their attention on. *(Get them out of the house before their spouses through them out.)* These men also have life experience to share with younger members.

Masonry is one place where a 20 something man can be friends with a 70 something man and share life experiences and friendship. That is because we all meet on the Level.

The Gauntlet is tossed! I challenge you to pick it Up and Run with it.

Happy New Year!

John M. Sansone, Grand Commander