



Grand Commandery of Michigan

"Together, for a Better Tomorrow"

Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Sir Knights and Ladies:

Happy New Year!

Another fresh beginning is upon us. Another opportunity to set personal goals, modify ones already established, and for others, the sentiment, "eh, I'm good!" If you fit in the first two categories, have the strength and conviction to make them come to fruition and if you identify with the third, "eh, I'm good," congratulations, you've made it.

Myself, I like to challenge the status quo. I need to do things to stir things up, to keep myself moving forward. When you elected and installed me to serve as Grand Commander, I shared with you a couple challenges for this Chivalric year. First, I set a goal of growing the commandery of Michigan by 10%. Basically, that would equate to around 140 Sir Knights. The other challenge was to get 100% of our Commanderies to have all their Sir Knights become life sponsors of the eye foundation. That would mean a donation of thirty dollars for each Sir Knight.



A progress report-**Membership**: As of a couple days ago (12/23/21), the number of new Sir Knights, those knighted since August 21, 2021, stands at 14, those reinstated one, and new affiliations, zero. That puts us at .107% of the goal set.

Sir Knights, there are many Masons who are not Sir Knights. I truly believe we have a product that is worthy of their time. We just need to let them know. Many brothers don't know about the York Rite. It is incumbent upon us to share who we are and what we stand for. Designate Sir Knights from your commandery to become liaisons to their home lodge. Have them report activities your commandery is doing. Invite the brothers and their spouses to your awards dinners, Christmas Observances, membership days, drill events, and provide an honor guard for their installation. Make your presence known, share our chivalric ideals.

For those Sir Knights who were dropped for NPD or who demitted on their own, reach out and invite them to attend a conclave and for their lady to attend the lady's auxiliary. Plan a dinner before or fellowship activities after. Offer to pick them up if they need assistance. Make them feel welcome and rekindle that fire they once had that made them want to become a Knight in the first place.



Eye Foundation: The following Commanderies have 100% of their Sir Knights enrolled in at least the Life Sponsorship-Adrian, Bad Axe, Caledonia, and Lexington; 90-99.99%- Genessee Valley, Lansing, and Pontiac; all other commanderies are under the threshold of 90%. The MMS System does not list anything under 70% unless you search each commandery individually. If you would like an individual report, contact your local recorder. They can let you know exactly where your commandery stands.

The eye foundation has several levels of contribution: Life Sponsor-\$30.00, Associate Patron-\$50.00, Patron-\$100.00, The Grand Commander's Club-You donate \$100.00 and pledge to make an annual donation for nine more years at which time you are enrolled in the Grand Master's Club, and The Grand Master's Club is a donation of \$1,000.00.

I understand not everyone has the means to donate to this fine philanthropy. Whatever you feel comfortable with is greatly appreciated. For those who do not have the means, maybe your commandery can donate on your behalf, something to consider.

Sir Knights and Ladies, as we push the reset button on a new year, let us push the reset button on our fraternity. We have great ideals and a product across the board that is truly remarkable.



Let's tap into those moments of when we first became involved and all the excitement of the new adventure that was unfolding before our eyes. We were enthusiastic and adventurous. We didn't know where the journey was going to lead. Let's rekindle that excitement as we start this new year. Let's think of the possibilities and venture to make it happen.

Until our paths cross again, safe travels to wherever the journey takes you!

Gary L. Paquet, Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Michigan

