



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois



SK John M. Sansone
Grand Commander

Editor: SK John T. Riedas SR, REPGC, KCT john-olvr@att.net

Illinois State News for July 2022

Greetings Sir Knights of Illinois,

As I am writing this, the reality that my term as Grand Commander will be coming to an end at the end of July is setting in. It seems like a little less than a year ago that I was installed as Grand Commander. I jest, but I have had a wonderful time, yet still in some ways I am disappointed. As anyone who sat in the East will admit, only a portion of their goals become reality. Time is our enemy for accomplishing our goals, and yet still, our greatest source of wisdom.

Man is a unique animal in our world because we learn from the past, keep our successes, and let go of failures, and then build on what we learned to improve the future. We are ever evolving just like our fraternity needs to be evolving. We must be willing to try new things, assess the successes and failures and build upon the experience. Masons call themselves the builders, yet if we didn't communicate the successes and failures of those who laid down their working tools or walked before us, we could not move our fraternity and civilization forward.

Who would have thought a few years ago that we would hold business meetings and annual conclaves by video conferences? I personally would rather video conference the reading of the minutes and paying of the bills without having to spend \$5.00 a gallon on gas to sit in a generally boring meeting. Yet, I do enjoy the company of the Sir Knights and Companions when we do meet for work, practice, or socializing. Perhaps some adaptation in how we conduct the business and performing the work is in order. *The work should always be performed in person.*

One major problem in our fraternity today is participation by members at our Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies. The closures during the COVID-19 pandemic got us all out of the habit of going to our meetings, whether they be business, practice, work or social. My gut feeling is attendance is down by 10 to 20 percent. It is very hard to learn from the past when the past is not available to communicate with the future. As Einstein is believed to have said "*the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results*". If we are not cognitive of the history, we are doomed to repeat it. We can only be cognitive of our history when we all participate, critique, and communicate it.

This year your Grand Commandery officers were able to meet monthly by video conference, to discuss business and operations of the Grand Commandery, as opposed to quarterly meetings that were the norm in years past. It is much easier to get together and address issues that arise in real time without having to drive 2 to 3 hours each way to meet in person. Communication is one

of the greatest inventions of mankind. It is amazing how far we have come. I recall sitting in my engineering classes and pondering what would happen if we could only develop a Blue LED. We could make video displays that we could hold in our hands and use light to transmit intelligence along glass fibers. Now it seems like we were trying to discover fire or invent the wheel. In short embrace the future with learned caution.

Thank You all for your support and tolerance.

2022 Conclave

The 2022 Grand Sessions will be held at a new (different) location this year. We will be meeting in Springfield, IL at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701, July 28th through the 30th. Grand Chapter will meet on the 28th, Grand Council on the 29th, and The Grand Commandery on the 30th.

Hotel Reservation can be made online at: www.my-event.hilton.com/grandyorkritesession/
(deadline July 5, 2022, for special rate of \$109.00 plus tax)

Meal reservations can be made on-line at: <https://conta.cc/38ACiYh>
(deadline July 15, 2022)

The awards banquet will be held Thursday evening, *business attire*.

Pack your favorite Island wear for our Margaritaville Themed Gala on Friday Night!



My Lady Christine would be pleased to have your Lady join her for the Lady's Luncheon on Saturday. She has been planning something for this event over the past few years. Sorry, whatever is planned is on a need-to-know basis, and I have finally concluded I am not worthy of knowing. Put if you find out from your Lady, please let me know.

Check the Illinois Knights Templar Website for more information and updates at: <https://il-kt.org>

Stay healthy, God Bless and see you in Springfield!

John M. Sansone, Grand Commander

Check the Grand Commandery website regularly for latest updates