

GRAND COMMANDERY of North Dakota  
State News for July 2022  
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Web site: [www.ndyorkrite.org/gckt](http://www.ndyorkrite.org/gckt)



### Greetings Sir Nights

Sir Knights, as I write this, another Grand Sessions is coming up shortly in Grand Forks. It's shaping up to be another great few days. SK Greg Taylor: congratulations on a successful year as Grand Commander. I hope you can continue your success as the Grand Illustrious Master in the Chapter.

As far as I go – I am a simple man with simple pleasures. I was born in on the Air Force base in Cheyenne, WY. After moving a few times due to my dad's AF career, my parents, two brothers, and I settled in West Fargo. I currently live in Fargo as a bachelor, and I recently celebrated my 37<sup>th</sup> birthday. My niece's birthday is two days before mine (I kept telling her mom to wait it out, but she didn't listen) and we like doing something together every year. I'm not a huge outdoors kind of person, but I do like taking the occasional road trip with friends to some random place just to see it. We also get together once a month and just hang around the house, play card/board games, and shoot the breeze. For work, I had spent 12+ years in customer service (11 in a restaurant and 1 as a bank teller) and decided that that was enough. Now I'm in my third year of doing internal support and file maintenance at a bank, and I don't plan on looking back.

Masonic – I celebrated my 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a Mason in March. In Fargo's Sunrise Lodge #130, I am a Past Master and as well as the current Ritualistic Director. I also have plural membership in Shiloh Lodge #1. In the Scottish Rite, I am a

Past Most Wise Master and a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree KCCH. For the York Rite, I am the treasurer of Fargo's York Rite bodies. My memberships include the Red Cross of Constantine, HRAKTP, York Rite College, and Knight Masons. Additionally, I am the junior Past Prior of the ND KYCH Priory. And finally, I am (or rather soon will be) the Grand Scribe in the Chapter and the Grand Conductor of the Council in the Council.

This past masonic year was a very successful one. Sunrise Lodge raised approximately 10 new Master Masons, and we recently initiated four Entered Apprentices. The Fargo and Grand Forks Commanderies again worked together to create four new Sir Knights. I was rather well traveled this year as well. My fellow Companions and Sir Knights in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota were all very welcoming and made my first (of hopefully many) visits there very enjoyable.

On a personal note, the loss of Fargo's Past Grand Everything Chris Christianson almost two years ago was especially hard on me. He took me under his long, playful, knowledgeable wing when I became a Mason. He was someone to whom everyone could turn for advice or help. I was honored to have him be the Installing Master after I was elected Master of my Lodge. Selfishly, I am sad to not to be able to ask him to install me when I am elected to be Grand Commander. You are sorely missed by everyone, Chris.

After having life go back, more or less, to what it was before the pandemic, I implore everyone to take an extra step to stay healthy. If 2020/2021 taught me anything, it's that it's as important as ever to remain active. Not just physically, but also mentally. Go for a walk. Put down that burger (at least occasionally). I also urge you to reach out to your Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights. Contact your friends and relatives. Talk with someone you have not seen in a while. Stay in touch, even if it's just a quick text or phone call to say hi. As someone who struggles with mental health, a simple check-in from time to time goes a long way.

Finally, when this article is published, masonic activities will be generally put on the back burner for a few months. As you enjoy your summer with friends and family, I'll leave you with this quote from Red Green: "Keep your stick on the ice."

Fraternally,

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