

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ARIZONA

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Greetings Sir Knights!

Welcome to a new Chivalric Year. I'm pleased to see that we are shaking off the dust of inaction from the isolation of Covid and are meeting again with our Commanderies and other Masonic Bodies. I would like to share the initiatives with you that I have for this year: Commandery Renewal, Basics of Templary, Community Outreach and Exposure, and Membership Retention. I will expound on each of these in detail in the coming months, but let me start with the Basics of Templary.

I believe that we all enjoy the ceremony and ritual associated with all the bodies of Masonry that we belong to. Commandery asks a bit more of us in that it is military in spirit and asks for a bit more precision and polish in its execution. So, it is my belief that we should strive to perform our basic Commandery rituals as well as we can, even to the point of practicing them to make them better. Do you have both of the required manuals, the Ritual and the Tactics? If you do, I would suggest cracking them open and giving them a review. If you are missing either one, please see your local Recorder about getting your own copy.

Has your Commandery ever had a sword practice? I have visited Commanderies that do and don't have them. I will say that those that do appear more confident in their handling of one of our basic tools. Does your sword fit you properly? When held at "Carry Swords", the tip should come just below your earlobe. Having a sword that is too long or too short makes it uncomfortable to use. Is your sword in proper order? Does it come in and out of the scabbard easily? Is the handle tight and in proper alignment? Is your sling or belt hangar adjusted properly? Having these items in proper order makes it easier and more comfortable to wield your sword for its intended purpose.

Finally, your uniform. Whether Class A or Cap and Mantle, do you have a uniform that fits you properly and is it in good repair? Do you have all of your needed insignia? A while back, SK Jim Hughes put out a pamphlet on how to wear the uniform. If you do not have one and would like one, please let me know.

Why am I bringing up these very basic items? As we come out of "hibernation", we will need some focus to get ourselves back on track. It's all connected – uniform and equipment foster pride in membership, pride in membership fosters pride in ritual, pride in ritual and membership fosters pride in organization, which then fosters the desire to show the organization to the community.

I know that you've heard a lot of this before but here's where I'm leading. As we are asked to perform things like Flag Ceremonies or Arches of Steel for our Masonic brethren or the Community, we must be able to put our best selves forward. The best way to do that is to have all of the basics in place.

Yours in Knighthood,

Roderic L. Wagoner, Jr. KTCH, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander