

September 2022 Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia  
SK Douglas N. Cohen Grand Commander, SK Carter L. Diggs Jr. Editor

Greetings, Sir Knights. I trust that you are enjoying the spectacular weather and all the summer activities with family and friends.

We have had a marvelous York Rite Picnic while the same day offered three other social events, as well as a Festive Board following the conferral of the Royal Arch Degree which starts the journey of more candidates for the Templar Orders. And that was just one beautiful day of one weekend of spectacular weather.

We have earned it! Two (plus) years of lockdown and isolation was quite enough punishment! Past Grand Commander Kevin Mathews shepherded us through those two years, followed by Past Grand Commander Robb Mitchell dragging us back out into the light and re-kindling the Order with "Regeniture". We are now almost halfway through the year of Renaissance - (OUR) Rebirth, and are slowly but inexorably rebuilding our Commanderies, re-establishing our forms and Rituals and getting the "work" done.

Eminent Commander Elijah Mills (our Grand Instructor of the Works) has already led us through several Conferrals of the Orders, and Commandery No 1 has presented an excellent program on rebuilding our ritual. We are moving forward, once again, and it feels good! It truly IS a Renaissance.

We have reached out to, and been included in, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware Conclaves and Conferrals as well as invitations to attend other sessions of other Masonic organizations within the Mid-Atlantic Department. As a result, we are being included and recognized with immense success throughout the Region.

I was honored to attend Maryland's DeMolay installation of new Officers in Salisbury, Maryland - quite spectacular and VERY well done as well as a reminder to us to work on our outreach and encouragement of new young men who may become first, future Masons, and potentially, Sir Knights.

Yes, we are moving forward, recovering and rebuilding, and we have earned this vacation time with friends and family. However, that having been said, this is NOT the time to pause for long nor overly congratulate ourselves. There is still a long way to go and a lot of work to be done before any self-congratulations. Which brings me to my old "saws"...

Ritual needs to be practiced and perfected at EVERY Conclave. We need to focus on ritual and work toward a point where we minimize and eventually eliminate the need to rely on open Ritual Books. We should be opening in full form at each Conclave. Orders should be conferred without the help of ritual books. We need to return to memorization.

Uniforms - one of my favorite points to address. I have often pointed out ways to INEXPENSIVELY build your uniform sets, and suggested timelines that would have every Sir Knight properly attired, inexpensively, in less than a year. If anyone wishes my thoughts on that, again, do not hesitate to contact me directly I will be delighted to reiterate my suggestions. To steal from Gunnery Sergeant Tom Highway "If you start looking like Sir Knights, you will start acting like Sir Knights..."

We need to participate whenever possible in public presentations and show a presence in the community. Parades, Color Guards, civic charity participations and being SEEN -- doing by example, are all part of our Obligation as Sir Knights. There was a time when I led our Color Guard Detail, and we got to be quite good. It would be an excellent program to rekindle.

We need to continue to re-connect with our Mid-Atlantic Department comrades in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware [et.al.](#) and support them as they have and do support us. Rebuild and expand the ties and communications. Find ways and opportunities to connect and support each other. Look for or create opportunities for interactions; and not just at the Jurisdictional level, but all the way down to our Commanderies. Individually, when there is an opportunity to confer the Orders, volunteer for a part. Try to attend as many Conclaves as possible (in and out) of our district. This strengthens ties, expands understanding of various Ritual variations, and confirms friendships.

Overall, we ARE making forward and reasonable progress, which is heartwarming to see, and this is NOT meant to be any more than a bookmark and reminder of where we are and where we hope to be. I am quite pleased with our progress and hope that you take this as not only an acknowledgement of your efforts but as an encouragement to continue the work of Rebirth and Restoration.

Please ENJOY the rest of your summer and your time with family and friends! Family ALWAYS comes first, even for Masons and Sir Knights and is time that, once gone, never comes again! And NEVER forget that there is ONE, above, to whom we owe everything and our full thanks and devotion!

Fraternally, zealously and with all Knightly courtesy,

D. N. Cohen - REGC

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