

Iowa News for June 2023

Sir Knights,

It has been my pleasure to serve the Grand Commandery of Iowa as Grand Commander for the 2022- 2023 Templar year. I hold the Honor and Esteem of this office in the highest regards. This so far has been the Pinnacle of my Masonic Career.

Many Great men in Iowa Templary have held this chair. I have upheld the dignity, decorum and honor of this office to my utmost ability. I hope the record of my actions and tenure reflect well my devotion to our Order. This year has been hectic, I did not at first realize how much there was to doing this job, but soon learned. Anyone elected as Grand Commander needs to have the time available to serve the Order well. I also learned that I had much more power and authority than I first realized. I wielded it sparingly and did not abuse it. Our Grand Senior Warden unexpectedly demitted York Rite in midyear. I appointed SK Rusty Hill, PGC, to complete the term. I offer Rusty heart felt thanks for stepping into the chair and fulfilling the required duties.

The attendance at the Iowa Grand Conclave has slowly been diminishing over the past several years. This has happened with the Grand Chapter and Council Sessions as well. Many York Rite members have often asked why Iowa does not combine the Chapter, Council and Commandery sessions into one Joint Grand York Rite Session. Many other jurisdictions have done so to save money and free up an extra weekend. So, the heads of the Iowa York Rite bodies have worked together, as well as many of the officers to make this happen. If these combined Grand Sessions go well, this will continue. If there are too many problems, the sessions can be separated. As to the state of the Iowa Grand Commandery: We continue to lose more members than we gain mostly through attrition and deaths. We are getting a trickle of new quality members. We need more new quality members. We offer outstanding quality ritual and ceremony work. The high standards in our work and members must be maintained. This can be achieved with rigorous inspections and schools of instruction followed up with practice and rehearsal in the local Commandery.

We have two weak commanderies in Iowa, both in large metropolitan areas. They each need an infusion of "New Blood". This can happen with the support of strong commanderies in the area and strong leadership, infused or from the local ranks. Here at the Iowa Grand Conclave, I am granting a UD, Under Dispensation Charter to Adrian. They will meet at Acanthus Lodge in Des Moines. This Under Dispensation is good for one year. At that time, it can be relinquished, not renewed, extended or a regular charter granted. They currently have Ascalon Chapter #139 and Arcturus Council #63 but no Commandery. This will give them the full complement of the base York Rite bodies. Their application for UD is complete and well ordered.

Again, I express my utmost and deepest heartfelt thanks to all the Sir Knights of Iowa as well as the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Iowa. It has been my pleasure to serve.

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Iowa Jerry Loring Wahl

As editor of the Iowa news I would like to let you know of a change coming to the magazine. This will be the last monthly printing of the magazine, it will now be done on a quarterly basis with the first being in September. Also this is my last article as editor I was in this position many years ago and then someone else wanted to take it so I stepped out. When Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Kyle Peterson became Grand Commander he asked me if I would return to fill the position, I did and for the last 7 years have been doing that job, but now I feel it's time to step out and get some new blood and ideas. I want to thank all the Grand Commanders and Sir Knights I worked with as editor and will continue to look at the new work of whoever takes this position.