

Wisconsin Forward

Grand Commandary of Wisconsin

gkctwis.org



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Sir Knights and Ladies,

Thank you, Grand Commander Shawn, for the opportunity to serve our state as Grand Sentinel. I have issue believing I am worthy of such an honor, yet here I am. As a believer in servant leadership, it is my hope to assist in whatever way I can to advance the cause of our organization.

Most of my life was spent in service to youth through the Boy Scouts. Through that organization eventually becoming a period reenactor portraying the Sons of Liberty era. Through that I met and befriended many wonderful men who held themselves to a higher standard. When I discovered they were mostly Freemasons I inquired and joined Waupaca Lodge.

The Master of Waupaca Lodge when I became a Master Mason was in line to become the Potentate of Beja Shrine, so I was immediately talked into becoming a Shriner. Serving as the president of our local Shrine club during his year as Potentate was a huge honor. I also joined the Valley of Green Bay the same year eventually serving as Trice Potent Master, Commander in Chief, and am now in line to become Sovereign Prince.

After serving two terms as the Master of Waupaca Lodge, 2007, 2012 and one year as an Area Administrator, I was asked to accept the position of District Deputy Grand Master for our area of the state. During my three years of service there was one Lodge in Wautoma I became very close to and looked for a reason to continue fellowship with the wonderful Brothers there. I was told they had a Royal Arch Chapter and was welcome to join. Taking the opportunity led to Council and Commandery in Oshkosh and serving as the head of all three. I would be remiss if I didn't give a huge thank you to my main mentor Leland L. Burlison PGC, who has steered me in many directions and is always available for council.

I am hopeful that the growing number of new Freemasons in our state are looking for something more in their Masonic journey. Over the years I have heard from some that we take away from the Lodge experience. Nothing could be farther from the truth! I personally believe that all the bodies of the York Rite along with the Shrine, Scottish Rite and several others enhance the Lodge experience in a huge way. I will continue to preach this for all my remaining years.

Our Grand Commander has set our focus on education and connection. Attending the "School of the Knights" is a great way for all Sir Knights to advance their education. I also find them a great deal of fun. I have always enjoyed learning new things and

refocused on the known. It's also a great way to connect with other Sir Knights from other Commanderies.

In closing I will simply say that my greatest love in all Masonry is the connections I have made with my Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights. Little in life compares to this.

In Brotherhood,
A. Chris Gans
Grand Commandery of Wisconsin
Grand Sentinel

