



# NEBRASKA KT STATE NEWS

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Sir Knights,

I had hoped to have some words of wisdom from your Grand Commander this month. Unfortunately, he is a very busy man and therefore I'll be giving a report from the 2022 North Central Conference session.

On October 22nd I attended North Central Conference for our departmental annual communications session. This was my sixth time attending North Central Conference. This year, for the first time since I've been involved, it was broken out into several days. Because of a busy work schedule, I was unable to attend the Chapter and Council sessions but I was able to make it up for the Commandery session.

For my first three years of attendance at North Central Conference I was in the York Rite Leadership classes. This program is amazing! If you haven't been involved with it yet, I highly encourage you to try it out! Over the years, I've attended many seminars like this (usually as part of an initiative at work), and the York Rite Leadership class was the best leadership seminar that I've ever attended.

Then, after completing the Leadership course, for the next two years I attended the Chapter sessions at North Central Conference since I was a dais officer of Grand Chapter of RAM. I thoroughly enjoyed each of my Chapter sessions at NCC those years. Both times we had some great speakers in attendance from General Grand Chapter, and I was excited to get back to the local Chapter to share some of the things that I learned there.

This year I attended the Commandery session, since I'm now a Grand Commandery officer. While all of my previous times of attending North Central Conference had been friendly, enjoyable, and invigorating... this one really was not any of those things.

I'm not sure why, and perhaps it was just my perception of things, but the Commandery session did not fill me with the same excitement and motivation that I experienced at previous North Central Conference sessions.

Perhaps it was the atmosphere during Roll Call that set the tone of the day for me. Instead of starting with a message that made me happy that I attended, we instead experienced a lengthy exchange between a meeting facilitator and the various Grand Commanders. For some reason this process felt adversarial and, at

times, it was outright confrontational. Perhaps this is the common process for departmental Commandery sessions, I'm not sure. However, I found it uncomfortable.

Then we had a presentation from the Supreme Worthy President of the Social Order of the Beauceant. This was fantastic. She was an excellent speaker and it was nice to see the ladies of Beauceant spreading the word about their Order to Sir Knights from jurisdictions that don't have any SOOB Chapters.

After a while, we broke out into groups by state. They had a project about goals for our Grand Commandery for us to work on. This project was well organized and the Grand Officers of Nebraska had some great conversations and brain-storming sessions about goals for the next several years. There were a few times where our Grand Recorder got a bit chatty and derailed things, but our Deputy Grand Commander kept us on task. It was a good project and I think everyone got some positive things from it.

Later in the day, there were presentations from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and that sort of thing.

So, overall it was a good session. I did learn some lessons that will help me for future Commandery sessions.

If you haven't been to a North Central Conference departmental communications session, I encourage you to go next year. Particularly if you're a Grand Commandery officer. Also, like I mentioned earlier, if you haven't attended the York Rite Leadership course, I highly recommend looking into that. It's great.



- Daniel Marr  
Editor