



VERMONT NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY NEW YEAR Sir Knights,

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Well, we thought the COVID-19 pandemic was behind us and we could remove our masks and start to gather in large in-person groups again, then came Omicron. It is discouraging to see this virus mutate and infect/reinfect so many of our population, and with two (2) unvaccinated grandchildren who visit frequently, I have taken severe precautions to prevent them from being exposed. This includes wearing a mask, social distancing and avoiding large indoor in-person meetings whenever possible. I do attend my church services, which may seem contrary to the above, but my church has designated seating 6 feet apart, and ***EVERY*** member of our congregation wears a mask *without* exception! With 100% compliance I feel more comfortable but do worry about virus transmission. Immediately after services I make sure to discard my mask and thoroughly wash my hands. If everybody followed these precautions religiously (pun intended) then perhaps, we could put this pandemic behind us and return to our normal lives.

ST Aldemar Commandery #11 in Barre held the Order of The Temple on December 16th at their asylum in Barre. Seven (7) candidates were knighted by Eminent Commander Joshua Retchless and the members of St. Aldemar Commandery. The Order was well performed and our new Sir Knights were treated to some great work. Well done Sir Knights from St. Aldemar and congratulation to our newly knighted members. Hopefully these new Sir Knights will return to our Asylums on a regular basis and continue this great work.

Our Recorders will soon be receiving the returns for 2022. If you have questions about any category in the returns, please e-mail or call me rather than guess at your entries. Membership information is input into the Masonic Membership Solutions data base and correct spelling of names, addresses, birthdates, birthplaces, and dates of the orders is very important. E-mail and telephone numbers are also helpful. Returns are available electronically and in a Microsoft Excel format for those who have the ability to complete and return in this format. This also allows the constituent recorder to keep a copy annually for his records. The Grand Encampment utilizes the membership data system to double check our Grand Commandery annual returns so the more accurate this information is on your return, the more accurate my Grand Returns. This also prevents the Grand Encampment charging for members suspended, expired or demitted by December 31st each year. If you have suspensions, demits, or deaths during the year, I do not mind and prefer to report them as they occur to ensure our mailing lists and data base is up to date.

Watch your back! A picture from the archives show members of St. Aldemar Escort caught from behind by the roving photographer!

Courteously, Bruce

