

Missouri Supplement

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Sir Knights:

The time is approaching to finalize the Grand Session in Jefferson City. We hope everyone is planning to attend the Grand Session.

Please get your monthly reports and annual reports in to the Grand Recorder.

This is the Easter season and since we are a Christian fraternity we should all be thinking more about church and spiritual things than at any other time during the year. Easter is what makes Christianity different from any other religion in the world! Jesus is ALIVE! "If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him." 2 Timothy 2:11-12. This gives hope to the Christian at Easter time and throughout the year. Celebrating Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is crucial for Christians. Without this, there is no Christianity and no Easter.

Put on your new "Easter outfit" on Easter Sunday and let it represent the fact that God makes all things new through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Invite someone to go to church with you.

Everyone should be keeping **Edgar Coonrod** in your thoughts and prayers during his difficult time.

Thanks go out to the regional officers for their preparation for the Regional York Rite conferences. We have had some good discussions and a lot of information has been presented. There will probably be some changes made in the Regional Conferences because of the information that has been presented. If you have any ideas, please pass them on to the Grand Line Officers.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in May at the Grand Session.

Thought for the day----If you died today, why should God let you into heaven?

Remember to let your light shine in 2009!

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Remember Grand York Rite Sessions in Jefferson City, starting on Wednesday, May 13th with the Golf Tournament.

WOMEN OVER 40!

Andy Rooney thinks about women:

As I grow with age, I value women over 40 most of all. Here are just a few reasons why:

A woman over 40 will never wake you in the middle of the night and ask, "What are you are thinking?" She doesn't care what you think.

Women get psychic as they age. You never have to confess your sins to a woman

Grand York Rite of Missouri--Charity Golf tournament
Tuesday, May 13, 2009-12:00 noon Shotgun Start
Eagle Knoll Golf Club---Hartsburg, Missouri

TWO FLIGHTS

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Trophies by Flights

HOLE IN ONE CONTEST--LONGEST DRIVE

CLOSEST TO THE PIN--LONGEST PUTT

PUTTING CONTEST

11:00 a. m.

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT GRAND

YORK RITE CHARITIES

(For information on our charities, visit www.mayorrite.org)

Decline in Membership

While the early 19th Century shows that Masonry was growing and that it would continue to grow with the establishment of new lodges out across the state, this growth led to the decline when volunteers began to expend their effort on other worthwhile causes.

However, membership began to wane around the beginning of the 20th Century. This was quite awhile before we thought it began. Dr. S. Brent Morris 33^o one of our leading Scottish Rite Scholars, shows that some of the organizations that Putman (Professor Robert Putman) cites as evidence of the recent decline in volunteerism actually began their decline a lone time before the difficulties conjured up the phrase, "Bowling Alone." Research by Dr. Morris documents the last year of growth for several:

Knights of Pythias (1921)	Odd Fellows (1923)
Grotto (1925)	Knights Templar (1926)
Royal Arch Masons (1926)	Shrine (1926)
Royal & Select Masons (1927)	Master Masons (1928)
Scottish Rite Masons (1929)	

the "last decade or two." (*The Plumblin, Spring of*

2008, Volume He observes, "By the 1920's, fundamental changes in American Society were beginning to cause changes in fraternities. ... It is important to note that nearly all had experienced declining membership before 1929, and in fact had only significant increases before the last year of growth. By this time, many needs filled by fraternal orders either were not pressing or were met by other groups."

"This contradicts a thesis of decline by Dr. Putman based on, to quote Dr. Putman, 15, No. 1).

Dr. Putman is dealing with the enormous growth that took place after the World War II, when in actuality the decline of the late 1920's, which was only arrested for a short period of time in the 1940's. In the late 1950's, the decline got back on track.

Dr. Morris raises a valid point about the efforts of Masonry to meet the needs of the community. The following examples will demonstrate how all of these Masonic endeavors grew in importance until they were taken over by State and local government organizations.

Why is it whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over.