



Iowa News for June 2022

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Sir Knights

June is here and this marks the end of my two years as having the honor and privilege of serving the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Iowa as your Grand Commander. In some ways this feels like an incredibly long time (and it was) and in others it seems like it just began. Our Grand Conclave will be June 3 and 4 in Des Moines, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there!

What began under rather muted conditions via Zoom 2 years ago has now evolved into a Grand Commandery that is strong and robust. I am pleased that there are more Sir Knights wanting to assume elected positions that we have available. This is a testimony to the strength of our Order. And I know the Sir Knights of Iowa will choose wisely those called to lead.

Much has happened over the past two years. During COVID none of us fully realized when things would get back to “normal.” Thankfully they did. I had a few vacancies to fill in the elected line. First was the unfortunate and untimely death of Kevin Christians, who was to succeed me in line. I know he would have served the Grand Commandery of Iowa well. Next was the resignation of Sir Knight Rusty Hill as Grand Recorder, requiring me to appoint Sir Knight Tim Anderson, who has performed his duties admirably over the 1+ year. Next was the resignation of Sir Knight Truex as Grand Generalissimo. And we also can’t forget the transition from one Grand Master of Grand Encampment to another. The circumstances surrounding this were highly unusual and unfortunate, but we must respect the will of the Sir Knights, which the previous Grand Master failed to do.

I think my tenure can best be described as a time of change. What I mean by that is we have transitioned from a period of uncertainty in COVID to questions about the leadership of the Grand Commandery. And I am pleased to say that I believe we are in a strong position to continue to grow our Order. I wish Sir Knight Wahl all the best in his tenure as Grand Commander. I know he will do an excellent job, as will Sir Knight Renner behind him. I have the utmost confidence in their abilities. And they, along with the support of Sir Knight Anderson, will leave our Order in an even stronger position.

Regrets? Yes, there are a few. I regret the decline of certain Commanderies in the Sir Knights, and that we were not able to slow the decline, often caused by the Angel of Death. I also regret that there have been no inspections during this tenure. I firmly believe this must be a focus

area going forward. If the Sir Knights do not learn and perform the ritual, it will be lost. And without our ritual, the strength of our Order is diminished.

I am pleased with the York Rite festivals we have had since the COVID lockdowns were ended. We have a great crop of Sir Knights that are eager and anxious to participate. At the last festival, a couple Sir Knights approached me that they came back to view the Order as a Sir Knight, having been created in the fall. This is encouraging as I believe this is the future of our Order. Let's keep them engaged and excited about what their membership means. I am also pleased that we have become a 100% life sponsor state, and I heartily thank REPGC Sheeler for his efforts in ensuring that we invest our monies wisely to keep this going. This is a big deal and we should all be very proud of this fact.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege serving the fine Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Iowa. I will still remain active and support all the Sir Knights in the state and within Grand Encampment. I heartily thank you for the trust instilled in me, and look forward to the future of our great Order!

Until we meet again, I remain

In His Service

Chris Beard, Grand Commander