

WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENT

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GRAND COMMANDER'S GREETINGS

Sir Knights, Family and Friends,

As I write this, my first official monthly message as your Grand Commander, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would be a Grand Commandery Officer, let alone serve as the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Wisconsin. The confidence that the Sir Knights have bestowed upon me (and my Lady Marilyn) will be returned with our best efforts to continue the traditions of the Order and the honor of the Fraternity. It is with humbled pride that we begin and go forward into the 150th year of Wisconsin's Templary.

I recall an old and timeworn adage that says, "If we're bored, then we're boring". I can assure you that there will be little time to be bored this year. The 150th Anniversary festivities of Wisconsin's Grand Commandery are just around the corner. The economic challenges of the country are our own challenges, as they translate into our personal financial health, and that of the Grand Commandery. Many of these problems are solved with diligent and disciplined budgeting. And, as membership in our our Fraternity increases, many of our problems will diminish. However, some special legislation may be required to correct our present Templar Law that is having an adverse affect on our financial well being. We also have the 2010 Inspection Season with its demands, and our patriotic and philanthropic activities. Who has time to be bored? We don't! It will be a great year!

Finally, we do not know what the future has in store for us. We do not know whether we have a long life or a short time remaining for us as individuals, or whether our Fraternity will prosper, or fall – as many other fraternities have fallen in the past. What I do know is this: If we stay focused on the task before us, remain diligent to our cause, keep faithful in our beliefs, and show our good works, then at the time appointed for us, we will hear "...Well done, good and faithful servants..."

My sincere hopes are that a year from now our membership will have increased, our financial well being will remain stable, and our society will be better today than a year ago, as of the results of our work in the cause of our beloved Order. If these hopes are indeed fulfilled, we can truly ultimately hope to hear those thrilling words, "...Well done, good and faithful servants..."



Courteously Yours,
Leland L. Burlison, Grand Commander

LELAND L BURLISON, GRAND COMMANDER, 2009-2010 Personal & Masonic History

Personal History: Leland L. Burlison was born in Deer River, Minnesota on November 7, 1950, third oldest of eleven children. Attended the public school system and graduated in 1968; was drafted and served in Korea and honorably discharged in the fall of 1971. From 1972, Lee attended and graduated from Itasca State Junior College, and attended Bemidji State University majoring in Accounting and Business Management, graduating in 1977. During this time, Lee joined the Masonic fraternity because many of those who most influenced his life were Masons.

Lee and Marilyn met on the 4th of July, 1990, and were married on September 28, 1991 in Appleton, Wisconsin. They have lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, since December of 1993. They had an infant son, Jonathan Lee, who died at birth. Lee and Marilyn are members of the Winnebago County Historical and Archeological Society.

Masonic Biography – Symbolic Lodge: Initiated in Bemidji Lodge No. 233, Bemidji, Minnesota, November 3, 1976. Passed, November 17, 1976, and Raised, January 15, 1977. Transferred to Oshkosh Lodge No. 27, PMP, Past Master of Oshkosh Lodge. Honorary Member of Hayward, Wisconsin's Keystone Lodge No. 263; holder of Grand Lodge Proficiency Card.

Chapter: Exalted in Bemidji Chapter, R.A.M. of Bemidji, Minnesota, exalted in 1977. Transferred to Tyrian Chapter No. 15, Past High Priest, PMP, Order of High Priesthood; PMember of Recharam Chapter No. 117; member of Royal Arch Tri-State; Plural Member of Wautoma Chapter No. 107; currently serving as Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Wisconsin.

Council: Member of Oshkosh Council 8, PMP, Thrice Illustrious Master Degree, Ish Sodi and Super Excellent Master Degrees; currently serving as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Wisconsin.

Commandery: Knighted in Oshkosh Commandery No. 11, PMP, member of Past Commanders Association. Plural Member of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24; member of Simon of Cyrene Tabernacle No. 15, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; Past Preceptor and Registrar, Crown and Cork Council No. 44; Knight Masons;

Other Masonic Affiliations: Valley of Orlando, Orient of Florida, A.A.S.R. – Southern Masonic Jurisdiction; Life Member, Valley of Green Bay, Wisconsin, A.A.S.R. – Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Member of 18th and 32nd Degree Teams, Life Member Scottish Rite Research Society; Life Member; Royal Order of Scotland, Life Member; North Central Wisconsin York Rite College No. 112, Past Governor, Treasurer, Life Member; York Rite Sovereign College of North America; Order of Purple Cross; Knights York Cross of Honor, Wisconsin Priory 16; Heart of Wisconsin Council #331, Allied Masonic Degrees, Installed Sovereign Master 2006; Member of Sword of Bunker Hill, Gen. Joseph Warren Order No. 119; Red Cross of Constantine, Recorder; Grand College of Rites, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis; Aad Temple Shrine, A.A.O.N.M.S. (transferred to Beja Shrine), Life Member, Member of Winnebago Shrine Club and Mascoutin Shrine Club; Order of Amaranth, Friendship Court 14, Past Royal Patron, Past Grand Royal Patron; Order of Eastern Star, Oriental Chapter 16, Past Patron, PMP; Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Bethel 2, Past Watchmen of Shepherds; True Kindred, Aloha #4; Member, Philalethes Society; Northern California Lodge of Research; Missouri Lodge of Research .