



SK Darel W. "Butch" Winslow, REGC
 Knight Templar of Michigan
 "Serve passionately until relieved"



Knights, for months now Federal, state and fraternal leaders' have been forced to make decisions regarding the COVID pandemic. One of those decisions comes in the form of a General Order from SK Jeff Nelson, Grand Master, Knight Templar USA. As Templars are bound to adhere to his orders unlike our York Rite Brothers who are not bound to National jurisdictions. I have been in contact with SK Nelson & our Department Commander SK Gerald Pugh, several times and very recently. In all our communications it is clear that SK Nelson will not lift the restrictions forbidding Knight Templars to gather in mass, in time to conduct the background work needed for a regular Grand Session. Therefore regrettably I have decided after communications with the elected Grand officers to cancel the participation of Michigan Grand Commandery in the scheduled Michigan Grand York Rite session. This was a very difficult decision as you probably know. Many things sadden me but one thing saddens me deeply. I will not get the chance to stand beside my companions MIGM Gene Newman and EGHP Carl John Peterson for the final time as your elected leaders. For many years I have watched the friendships develop between elected officers and for us that is also true. I wish we could all face you one last time as a group. To Gene and Carl John, I wish to say thank you. By no of ours. our year will be noted as one of the most "unique" in the history of the Michigan York Rite. I know that without the support and communications between us, I would not have gotten through this year at all. I hope that you each will accept these words of thanks and my sincere brotherly love as the cement that will bind us in brotherhood and friendship for a life time. To the Knights of Howell #28, I can not put into words how much your continued support and guidance has meant not just since my election to the Grand line but from the day SK Loren placed his sword on my shoulder with those cherished words "I dub thee Knight"... You have all become constant companions, and cherished friends. To all the Sir Knights of Michigan, Thank you for trusting me with this high honor, you have no idea how much it means to be supported by so many. Although this may not be my last article as your Grand Commander, I don't want to miss another chance to say THANK YOU to you all.

Butch

Darel W. "Butch" Winslow KYGCH
 Grand Commander
 Knights Templar of Michigan



In these changing times, the flow of information is more and more critical. Please the information you have for others to participate. Make sure to visit the Grand Commandery Web page often, WWW.Kt-MI.org always remember it they don't know they won't go.



2020 Grand Session Information

Notice these plans are subject to change based on Federal, State and Fraternal leadership decisions.

Regretfully, I announce that due to restrictions on Templar gathering imposed by the Grand Master Knight Templars USA, **Michigan will not be participating in the Joint York Rite Session, scheduled for the end of this month. Our altered session will instead be held:**

September 26th 2020, We have several changes for this compressed one day session. Should restrictions be lifted :

Session Location; Pinckney Masonic Center, 210 Mann St, Pinckney Mi. Pre-registration by email to SK. Jay Kennedy will be required {skjpk@yahoo.com) not later than September 23rd, 2020

In person check in will begin at 0730 and will close promptly at 0830 Sorry: Session will be Knights Only, no Visitors or Ladies

please, Also there will be no food served. Bottled water and maybe coffee will be accessible. Please plan accordingly. For those who choose there will be a Virtual link so you can join us from home, information will be provided by SK Jay Kennedy prior to the session by mass email for all who are preregistered.

Please direct questions regarding the session to the Adhoc committee of Myself, SK Kennedy or SK Murphy or SK Winn. Any of these knights can get you to the right person regarding specialized questions that may come up for this unique session.

The virtual Age

Changing times mean we must change as well, it is critical that we embrace every chance to keep on track and more so to stay in touch. , I encourage Commanderies to hold "Virtual" Conclaves. These work well for maintaining proper business communications, even holding election and installation of Officers. During these virtual sessions no ritual can be performed or discussed. Simple rule of thumb if we could legally do it in public it is safe for a virtual meeting. Check out internet programs like Skype, Zoom, Go to meeting. These are just a few of the free of inexpensive programs out there.

Upcoming Activities

Check your local calendars to make sure there are no restrictions in place and of course you are encouraged to ensure we are not violating any edicts of orders