

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights and Brothers: We are now coming down the home stretch, and I realize that there are still a lot of things that I had hoped to complete before my time is up. I did not think that time could fly this fast. We have started on our track to get "Back to Basics," but we also have a long road ahead of us—to see the results that the Grand Officers are trying to go forward with. One thing that I hope that each Sir Knight will remember is that nothing is possible if we do not have the help and support of all Sir Knights.

I have had the HONOR of installing several commanderies' officers for the coming year.

This is something that will always stay in my mind and will never be forgotten. It is a great honor anytime that you can do something that will help your Sir Knight or Brother. This is one of the duties that any person should and would gladly do for anyone in our great fraternity. I remember back to the beginning—the day that I was first initiated as an Entered Apprentice. I looked around that room later and saw many Masons that I had known for many years, but I had not known that they were Masons. These were the leaders of the city that I lived in. This was my goal—to someday give back to these fine men some of the fellowship and honor that they given me. These brothers are now my family, and I can never forget them.

I would remind each commandery officer that the Grand Conclave is coming up on April 27–30, 2008 at Lake Mary, Florida, at the beautiful Marriott Hotel. Those Sir Knights that have not been to the Grand Conclave before need to come and give us your support. This is the one event that every dais officer should attend and learn what is going on through out the state. Get your reservations in early. We need your attendance!

We are now in a new year, and I would hope that all commanderies have their new officers installed. Now we need to get started on degree work in each district. Let's get out and get in some new members. Our membership is below 5,000. We cannot continue to lose members at this rate.

Membership in many branches of Freemasonry is on the decline. During the past several years, the total membership has consistently dropped, year by year. As a result, many Masonic bodies are reporting net losses annually.

With all the distractions of the modern world: movies, television, computers, long hours at work (to name a few), men seem have less free time. Professionals and businessmen will not take the time to sit through long delays in opening and closing ceremonies (especially the business portion). Therefore, officers should to become thoroughly familiar with, and proficient in, their responsibilities. Proficiency in ritual work by officers may well give some commanderies new life as well as increasing attendance.

I have traveled to several states where there membership has grown over the past several years. Yes, we all have lost a lot of members because of age, but as in any form of life, if we don't replace them with new and younger members, we cannot survive. This job is up to each and every Sir Knight out there. If each commandery would just get 10% of their membership in new members, we could be on our way back. Over the next year, let's all try extra hard to increase our membership.

Remember that trying is no small act of courage. Knowing you did your best is a reward in itself. George Bernard Shaw said "Success covers a multitude of blunders." And always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.

Courteously and Fraternally,

Leroy Fackler
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Encampment has a new web site located at:
www.knightstemplar.org
The next time you are online, check out the site and let us know you visited us by signing our guest book.