



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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### Greetings Sir Knights:

I first want to thank all the Sir Knights who have been attending cornerstone events across the state. It is appreciated by the Grand Commandery and the two York Rite Colleges. Please keep up the good work. I especially want to thank PGC Wade Sheeler and our current Grand Recorder (and PGC) Rusty Hill for sending out email reminders about upcoming cornerstones. Those types of communications are very helpful as we all try and navigate busy schedules.

Second, it is coming up on York Rite Festival season. Again, while it is not a mandate, I encourage local bodies to get away from the Festival mentality. Yes, I realize there are a lot of benefits to getting the mandatory York Rite degrees accomplished in one Saturday. However, I would caution you that far too often that long of an experience is diminishing the quality of the Order of the Temple. Also, if we leave candidates with a subpar first experience in the York Rite due to the length of the day, tiring performers, and sensory overload - we cannot really expect them to become active members or want to join the various and sundry bodies that becoming a York Rite member opens to them. Think about it. Please.

Third, I am working on the schedule for the Grand Commandery session next June. My goal is to shorten the session to a Friday/Saturday. This is by no means to lessen the importance of what we are doing. Quite the opposite. I am trying to better utilize the time spent as well as being considerate of the time and expenses Sir Knights spend on the event. Yes Sir Knights, I know this is change. Yes, I know change is hard. However, before simply discrediting the idea before you have even seen a schedule - give it a chance. I will gladly have the debate with anyone who thinks that the current way we are doing things is either working or

is a recipe for future success. As such, we have to try something different. We simply do. Please give this a chance.

I would like to see the ritual competition move to its own Saturday. Perhaps as part of the statewide school of instruction. Have an event after where Sir Knights can have a libation and a plate of appetizers and spend some time in friendship prior to returning home for the evening with their families. We need to be brutally honest - the Thursday before Grand Commandery ritual competition format is no longer successful. It simply is not. Again, we need to try something different. Circumstances dictate such an outcome.

Hopefully all of your local Commanderies are scheduling inspections. I know this can be daunting. I appreciate that. We need to not get so caught up in the scores. All of that stuff is secondary. What is important is the friendship that grows from a shared practice experience. We are all part of something bigger than us. Practicing and performing the Order of the Temple helps the local body grow and develop. It is a great opportunity to work on ritual and tactics and to try Sir Knights out in different parts. Again, do not get so caught up in "winning" as much as the other benefits such an activity can bring.

The holidays are coming up. These are perfect times to schedule some type of Templary event. We need things to do in order to justify the collecting of dues. Get Sir Knights involved. Plan an event. Execute it on time and with precision. Have different needs filled by different guys. Apathy is our greatest enemy Sir Knights. We must combat it at every turn. So grab the opportunity to be doing something.

God bless each and every one of you and please enjoy the holiday season.