



## Missouri Supplement

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## Let's Get Back Together!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Your Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, SK Kevin B. Sample, wrote this month's article. I would ask that you read his musings thoroughly with care and introspection as his article brings into focus what we, as a Fraternal Order, should strive to achieve. Thank you Kevin for your missive.

As of this month, 60 percent of the 2018 - 2019 term has been concluded. There are several administrative items to call to your attention.

First, for those Commanderies desiring to participate in the Drill competition in June, the registration form needs to be to the Grand Recorder's office not later than 01 February 2019. Conversely, if your Commandery filed paperwork to compete and discovered you are unable to do so, then the final date to withdraw without penalty assessment is mid-February. This is necessary so that awards can be ordered and on hand for the June Grand Session.

Second, information regarding the 7th Annual Mid-America Easter Observance scheduled to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, may be found on the Grand Encampment website. SK Aaron Rose secured better room rates from the Westin Crown Center than were available in past years. I hope to see you there.

Third, Lewis and Clark as well as Honor Commandery Award forms have been posted on the MGYR website. It is not too early to pull these up and get them initiated for submission. Completed form due dates begin in early April.

Fourth, the South Central Department's Grand Commandery Annual Grand Sessions begin at the end of this month. I plan to be in Alexandria, LA for the Louisiana GYR Session, 28 February through 02 March.

My scheduled visitations for February (weather permitting) are as follows: Friday 01 February - Oriental (Kansas City), Monday 04 February - Liberty (Liberty), Tuesday 05 February - Emmanuel (Macon), Wednesday 06 February - Ascalon (St. Louis), Thursday 07 February - East Gate (Kansas City), Monday 18 February - Poplar Bluff (Poplar Bluff), Tuesday 19 February - Lebanon (Lebanon), Wednesday 20 February - Ascalon (St. Louis).

February contains the Feast of the Presentation, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for

revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." (Luke 2: 29-32 RSV)

### Be Strong In The Lord!

Sir Knight Roger D. Fleer, Grand Commander

### MASONIC SOCIALISM

The older I get the busier we all seem to be in our lives. Information seems to travel at us faster (and not necessarily good information). And the more I think that we have lost something in our society and in our Fraternity – SOCIALISM.

That got your attention! This will be the only time you hear me speak in favor of socialism. However, I'm re-writing the definition for my intent here. I'm not talking about political or economic socialism. I'm talking about the social aspect of our Fraternity. Our Grand Commander, in his many visits around the State, has reiterated the need for all of us to visit together without the constraints of asylum walls, business meeting rules, or even ritualistic endeavors. We need to come together in social activities as friends and families to really learn who each of these men are who we call our friends and Brothers. We need to discover what makes our friends and Brothers tick.

I feel like sometimes we all just get tired of going to meetings for the sake of going to meetings – that we all crave more. Maybe this is why we have lost so many in routine attendance – because, well, let's just say it, our meetings are boring. Don't get me wrong, they are not always boring, but we all get into a rut and ruts are definitely not exciting. It might be more fun to just go mudding through an old bottom road with the objective of seeing if we CAN get stuck, then pulling ourselves out.

We need to make the time and take the time for the social aspect of our Fraternity. It is time to return to the old-fashioned front-porch visit. It is time to return to walking across the street to visit our neighbors just to say hello. It is time to return to getting together for dinner and talking about our families. It is time to return to talking about the things that really drive us and the things that are really important to us.

Our fraternity, and the men we choose to associate ourselves with, are also family. Even as dysfunctional as we may seem to be from time to time, we need to be true to one another, support one another, really talk to and know about one another. Family is the tie that really binds us together. So, pick up the phone and call your crazy Masonic Uncle that you haven't seen in years and ask how he's doing. Go visit your Masonic Nephew who is struggling with work and a young family. Take your Masonic Mother or Grandmother out for dinner and a movie. Come together around a purely social meal to just visit with each other and pay attention to what is really going on with your family. You never know, you just might make a new friend and adopt more folks to your amazing family. Let's be social with each other. Let's go get muddy.

Sir Knight Kevin B. Sample, Grand Standard Bearer