



DAVID C. LADD, R.E.G.C.

5304 Woodridge Dr.
Monroe, NC 28110
dladd@laddweb.net



Editor: Ludwik Wodka, KT – ludwikwodka@yahoo.com NORTH CAROLINA

Christian Greetings Sir Knights,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us and the Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons is in the rear-view mirror. Families are rushing to get in one last summer vacation and the kids will soon be starting school. It's definitely the time to switch gears and start thinking about getting back into your routine.

The majority of the North Carolina Commanderies open in form during the last four months of the year. If they've not already done so, the officers of your Commandery should start preparing for meetings. The members of your York Rite bodies have high expectations that you will maintain and hopefully increase the energy in your bodies. Your passion for the craft will ensure that the membership looks forward to attending and will encourage others to do the same. As I talked about in the district meetings, we need to be doing the things that will keep our members active and engaged. There are so many options in today world, we want to be the place that our members want to be.

Sometimes, just starting to prepare can be a daunting task. The question in your mind may be, where do I start? No problem, take a deep breath and remember you have an entire elected officer line to support the program. As an elected officer, you did accept the position to serve your body. Please step up and help. For the junior officers, your time is coming and what you help build this year will make your job that much easier. Also remember that your Past Commanders and your Grand Commandery officers are there as a resource.

Stuck on getting started? We want to help. Civic and Masonic organizations have certain basic activities that make them successful and others that define who they are. Templary is no different. As Knights Templar, we have ritual and obligations that set us apart. Let's be sure to celebrate what makes us different. Sir Knight Mike Daniels, Deputy Grand Commander, has

compiled a list of what we feel are the things that will make you successful. The format of this document parallels what other Masonic bodies are using to define excellence. This document emphasizes membership, recruiting, ritual, education, leadership and philanthropy. Obviously, you can't do everything that is listed, but if you follow the guidelines and work toward the items you've incorporated into your plan, your bodies will benefit. Shortly, this document will be available for your officers. Please take advantage of it.

As Knights Templar we possess many of the same characteristics of a military order. We are uniformed and possess manuals detailing tactics, ceremonies, uniforms and ritual. These differentiate us from other Masonic bodies and are something that we should be proud of. Working with Sir Knight John Walston Jr., the Chief Inspector-Instructor for the Grand Commandery, we have set a goal that each district hold a School of the Knight this year to emphasize properly opening and closing our conclaves and the proper conferral of the Orders per the ritual. Your District Commander and District Instructor will be coordinating this with the Commanderies under their responsibility. I am asking your Grand Commandery officers to assist. This will be a great opportunity to practice what makes us Templars. It is important for the officers and as many members as possible to attend these events. Please remember when you accept election or appointment to an office, you are no longer a 'volunteer' but have assumed the responsibility and taken an oath to perform the duties of the office.

As Knights Templar, we celebrate the birth and life of our Savior. It is only fitting that we should have some form of observance to commemorate this magnificent gift. Sir Knight Jay Callaham has prepared a guide that outlines ideas and the elements of a Christmas Observance. Additionally, please contact us if you need any assistance. Please go back to your Commandery and encourage them to do a Christmas Observance. Finally, Sir Knights, please remember to let us know when you are doing something special like a Christmas Observance or a festival. I would definitely like to share the time with you.

In His Service,
David C. Ladd
Grand Commander