

South Dakota



Jake Smith, State Editor
409 Kansas City Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
jake3404@yahoo.com



Jake Smith
Grand Commander

My Fellow Sir Knights,

The holiday season is now behind us and we can once again can start focusing on other matters. The last few months I have been talking about getting out there and doing things. Have any of you put serious thought into that? I expect each and every one of you to give serious thought about your investment in this Fraternity.

As the old saying goes, "You get what you put into it." It seems that many of you are waiting for others to do the thinking and then get told what you should be doing. These are your Commanderies, their success is dependent on every Sir Knight investing into them. Every Sir Knight has a voice. I have yet to meet a Sir Knight who does not have an opinion on how his Commandery should be ran or what it should be doing. You have a right to voice your opinion and you should do so. However, I caution you that others may not agree with you. The Democracy of our Commanderies means that once opinions are voiced, a decision is made and every Sir Knight is obligated to see that decision through to fruition.

The failure of a Commandery rests solely on the shoulders of the Sir Knights who are members of that Commandery. Each and every one of them had a chance to do their part. Each and every one of them had a chance to support the efforts of others. This failure does not stop at the Sir Knights who accept officer positions or who regularly attend meetings. It falls also on the Sir Knights who don't participate, who don't make time in their schedules to attend meetings.

I understand that this is an all-volunteer group. And the demand for our time is ever increasing. But remember what I said earlier, "You get what you put into it." Are you satisfied with what you are getting? I hope your not. I hope that at some point, someone will read these ramblings and be inspired to do more and hopefully that inspiration will spur on more excitement in others and the spark will become a blaze.

The task at hand can seem daunting at first, but take heed in a quote I always remember, "A flood starts with just one drop of rain, a fire starts with just one spark."

Jake Smith

RE Grand Commander, Knights Templar of South Dakota



DeMolay Degree of Chevalier being held in Pierre on 11-20-18. (L to R) SK Jon Gonsor PGC, SK Steven Butterfield PGC, pinning a Chevalier Pin from the GEKTUSA on Lanty Rice, David Wheeler Executive Officer South Dakota DeMolay, Christian Willis being pinned by SK John Willis, and SK Stan Schwellenbach PGC.