

South Dakota



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Jon Gonsor
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

A benefit of being Grand Commander is the opportunity to travel. Observing the trials and successes of other jurisdictions made me realize that we, as Knights Templar, share more than just the bonds of Brotherly Love: we share a way of life. Regardless of our jurisdiction, our lives are full of the same politics being played out. The names or subject may be different, but we act the same. The joy and kinship are the same, as we laugh and share stories with our brothers. We exhibit the same kind of pride for those who are recognized for their labors. We all see the need for our Local and State Commandry to grow and evolve. Oh, what a wonderful journey. Just this past week I had the opportunity witness an example of this evolution when SK Shawn "Jake" Smith, DGC installed SK Ervin "Red" Alspaw, JGW as Commander of Schrader Commandry No. 9. That sense of pride was not only evident in the eyes of Eminent Commander Alspaw, but in the eyes of the Knights supporting him. I felt the swell in my chest for SK Alspaw, as I will for SK Jake Smith, when in a few weeks he will be installed as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandry of South Dakota.

SK Alspaw and I will be joining fellow Knights from South Dakota and around the world in Indianapolis, August 18-22, 2018, to participate in the evolution of our Grand Encampment at the 67th Triennial. We will elect a new Right Eminent Grand Captain General for the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar. There are four very capable candidates running for that position. It is difficult for me to decide what criteria I will use to make my selection. So, I make a list of characteristics of what

I think the person entering a progressive line should have. An understanding of the Principles of Templary, working knowledge of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Encampment, ability to communicate to all Sir Knights, organizational skills, the list could go on and on. What do I know of these four Candidates? I had the privilege of hearing each of these Worthy Sir Knights speak, either at various Department's Conferences, at the Triennial in Portland, and at some of the Grand Commandries I've attended, and I read their brochures. How can you go wrong with any of them. They all have capabilities that blow my list of criteria out of the water. How do I decide? I'm not trying to campaign for any one in particular. What I am doing is encouraging you to go out and participate in the growth and evolution of our craft. Remember growth occurs with new members.

I would be remised if I neglected to thank SK Lon W. Kvasager, REDC North Central, PGC-ND who will be preforming his last official function in Indianapolis. We thank him for all he has done for Masonry and most of all his friendship. I would like to congratulate SK Daniel R. Sherry, PGC-MN who will be installed as REDC North Central Dept.

Yours in Faith and Zeal

Jon Gonsor

Right Eminent Grand Commander of South Dakota

Don't forget to sign up for South Dakota Grand Yorkrite Sessions!!!!

September 20-22, in Sioux Falls, SD.

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15TH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

www.sdyorkrite.org for more information.