

WEST VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT



Sir Knight Chris Pedersen, Editor
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Greetings Sir Knights,

What first brought you to Knights Templar? Was it a friend asking you to join, seeing the organization on the sign board at the lodge hall, reading history books about the Knights Templar, or T.V. shows about Knights Templar?

More than likely it was from a friend asking you to join.

There are many masons in West Virginia that could Sir Knights and we need to talk to them about joining. Talk to them about their journey in becoming a Master Mason and explain to them that they started a journey that doesn't end there. The rest of the story is in the Royal Arch Chapter and The Commandery of Knights Templar.

When we recruit these new candidates, we must remember not to just turn the petition in and then walk away. In the Blue Lodge you are assigned a coach/mentor who helps you learn the workings of the lodge. We need to be doing this in the Chapter and Commandery. If we bring new members in and don't invest our time with them to mentor them into the York Rite, they will more than likely not come back. We need to take these new Companions and Sir Knights and spend time with them. Call them and offer them a ride to a meeting; this can go a long way in letting them know that they are important to us and worth our time.

When we get them to a meeting let's make a concerted effort to not overwhelm them. We need to make sure we have enough members present to fill the chairs so the new guys aren't put into the position of not knowing what to do and being embarrassed for not knowing what to do. You could get them to attend a couple meetings so they feel more comfortable about being there and then ask them to participate in some portion. If you need to pull up another chair and sit beside them so they feel more comfortable, why not do it?

It seems we have been putting new members in positions that make them feel uncomfortable and possibly embarrassing for them. We may not think anything about it when they don't know what to do, but to them it can be overwhelming. As a result of being placed in that position, it turns them off to ever coming back, or worse, they drop out completely.

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We as Grand Officers spend a great deal of time discussing these issues and trying to find ways to better promote York Rite Masonry. We have an identity problem. Everyone knows about the Scottish Rite and what a 32nd degree mason is. They don't know about the York as much. I would contend that we as York Rite masons are equivalent to 32nd degree masons, if not more prestigious. It all goes back to the fact that we are the body that finishes the story started in the Blue Lodge. The York Rite matters and we need to start believing this and promoting it.

Stay safe in your travels and I hope to see you in my mine.

Fraternally yours,

Daniel A. Witschey

Daniel A. Witschey
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Upcoming Events:

Easter sunrise service at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial on April 21, 2019.

Grand Officers meeting May 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM, in Wheeling at Oglebay Conference Center with Vincent E. Perry presiding.

145th Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of West Virginia to be held at Ogelbay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling from May 16th to the 18th, 2019.

Hotel Contact Information

Oglebay Resort and Conference Center

465 Lodge Drive

Wheeling, WV 26003

800-972-1991

www.oglebay.com

A block of rooms has been reserved for us at the rate of \$129.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy.

Check in is at 4:00 PM and check out is at 11:00 AM.

You are responsible for making your own reservations.

When making your reservations please state that you are with the West Virginia Knights Templar group.

Our block of rooms will be held until **April 16, 2019**. After that date prevailing rates will apply, and availability cannot be guaranteed.

If you have any further information about these dates, please email the Grand Commander at witch@suddenlink.net

Send news items 8 weeks in advance to:
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