

Freemasonry on the Internet by Sir Knight Dan Pushee, PC, KCT

Are YOU ready to "surf the net"? Are you "on-line"? These are some of the current "in terms" used by people "connecting to the Internet" or the information highway."

Recently Steve Case, CEO of America On line (AOL), reported that "there were ninety-seven (97) million TV sets in U.S. households and thirteen (13) million personal computers or PCs. Steve also indicated that they currently have "over eight (8) million customers and AOL had a usage figure of one hundred (100) million hours in December of 1996."

Bill Gates, CEO. of Microsoft, also, recently indicated that he anticipates that every household will eventually have a PC.

How many companies are still using typewriters? Even our school systems are teaching our youth how to use computers. The company that I work for manufactures resins or "plastic pellets" that are used to "mold" the CRT enclosures for Sony Gateway computers. Over nine (9) million pounds have been utilized in that application since early 1996. That's a lot of CRTs!

The purpose of this introduction is to indicate that we in Freemasonry need to move "from the island of Malta to Cyberspace.

Sir Knight Jack Canard, E.P.C. of Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, located in Alexandria, Virginia, has taken an initiative to help all Masons to do just that. In late November Sir Knight Jack returned to the northern Virginia area after spending some time in California. He found that it was very difficult to find out information about Masonic activities in order to get "reconnected" in that area. Jack then decided to "build a homepage or wed site" on the Internet. In mid-January he published "The Virginia Masonic Information Net."

This net can be "viewed" at: <http://www.gslink.com/~gcanard>. This net contains EVERYTHING that a Mason needs to get started on his "search for more light" through the use of the Internet. Its primary purpose is to provide timely notice to the Brethren of northern Virginia on all items that need a quick response. Sick lists and funeral notices are given a high priority. It contains links to over twenty-two (22) Masonic Grand Lodges, seventy-two (72) Lodges with "homepage" and many other sites for Masonic research and discussions. It also contains many non Masonic links to help anyone discover and search the "Information Highway." This net currently contains over three hundred (300) members of the Craft who are able to E-mail each other instantaneously.

In addition to this net and as a cooperative to that site, another homepage has been constructed. This site is listed as "The Virginia Knight Templar Information Net." It can be viewed at: <http://members.aol.com/~kych52val/index.html>. The purpose of this net is to provide unofficial information on Commandery activities in Virginia and Templary in general. The page currently contains "Knight Line News," a schedule of events, a description of the Orders, information on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and an "In Remembrance" page to honor departed Sir Knights, and it provides a viable data base on all Grand Commandery officers, committees, and Virginia Commanderies. It will also carry the Grand Commander's schedule. This net has been on-line since January 22, 1997, and has an active list of over forty Sir Knights.

each one of these "sites" contains a "counter," so you can show your support by visiting. Why not "get connected," and let's go surfing on the net and spread the light of Freemasonry.

Sir Knight Dan Pushes is a member of Jerusalem Commandery No. 19, Fitchburg, Massachusetts; Grice Commandery No. 16, Norfolk, Virginia; and Portsmouth Commandery No. 5, Virginia. His address is: 840 Mildenhall Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322, E-mail: kych52va@aol.com.