



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF NEBRASKA

EST. JULY 24, 1865

GRAND COMMANDER – SK STEVEN R. BARCHUS

GRAND SECRETARY – SK DENNIS A. NEWMAN

January 2024

It is 2024!!!!

Wow, another trip around the sun. It seems like 2023 just got started.

It is time. Time for each of you to make a difference to York Rite in the state of Nebraska. How many of you attend lodge? If not, why not? Are you active in masonry or just a card holder? Are your line officer's members of York Rite?

For those of you that are just card-carrying members I want to thank you for your membership. As much as we would like everyone that is in York Rite to be active at all levels of masonry, I know that will not necessarily be the case.

We are in desperate need of all your help. We see membership decline year after year. It is not just in Chapter, Council, and Commandery. If as a group we do not make changes and promote this fraternity that we love, one by one the different bodies that we have will disappear. We are all Freemasons for many distinct reasons. Some of us it is family history. For others it is the philanthropic work that is done. In some cases, it is purely social. Whatever the reason, you have a love for the fraternity. To make sure it is something that lasts until the end of time, we need to work together.

We need all of us to bring in one member to lodge. We can ask. We all know someone who could benefit from being associated with people of integrity. I have met so many people who I never would have known without my involvement in masonry. For me it was spending time at The Shrine Hospital in college. I wanted to join and did not know anything about masonry. The extent of my knowledge was thinking my dad may have been involved. He was.

So, my charge to each of you. Bring in one new mason to your lodge. Bring your advancing line into York Rite. This will help them know the rest of the story and improve their leadership skills.

I put an ad into the Nebraska Mason promoting Royal Arch Masonry. After being in there two times, someone contacted me. They will become a Royal Arch Mason this Spring. My hope is that if they see that work, they will want to see the rest.

Be the spark, be the inspiration, be someone's light. It is time for all of us to be part of the solution.

Our Future depends on each one of us.

Sincerely,
SK Steven R. Barchus
Grand Commander - Nebraska