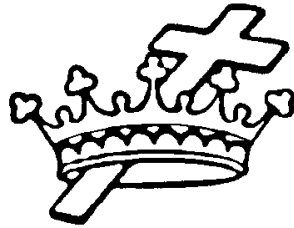


OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Greetings Sir Knights,

The new year is upon us. Hopefully all has celebrated the birth of our Savior and are ready to begin a new year on the positive side. I cannot stress enough the importance of family and also the fellowship we obtain by including them in our activities. It is always easier to smooth relationships if there is an understanding and mutual participation.

Like many of the Organizations I have led, I started this Commandery year with a lot of hopes and plans. Most have occurred by now and I feel that we are progressing, though there have been some set-backs. I have completed my annual inspections and am overjoyed to have had quorums in all cases.

The main emphasis was on membership, communication and education and still is. There has always been a need for all three and I feel that they are intertwined. I have asked those who would like to present the power point, "Welcome to the York Rite" to their blue lodges to let me know and I will send them a copy. I have also ask the Sir Knights to give the "3 minute drill" program to the blue lodges for further light. I'm confident that these programs will spread the light and add positively to communicate why those Master Masons would like to join our fold.

There has been some good work going on in this jurisdiction, but we have a long road to hoe. It seems that for every area experiencing growth, there are just as many feeling stagnate and looking for ways to proceed. What is the answer? Who knows? We can only stay positive, do the work, and hope to grow. There doesn't seem to be a miracle cure or fix all that will keep people active and involved. What works now, may not later. But one thing is for sure, there is a lot of history in our group.

I have also asked that each body pick a month and a degree or Order to exemplify each year. It seems that the festivals were not being cost effective, so maybe this would allow opportunity for candidates to proceed quicker, and get to know more of us. Also, this would address, learning the work and its meaning, as it will become more familiar. This would also be a great advantage for our smaller groups that have a hard time filling the parts for example in the Royal Arch Degree and the Order of the Temple.

Like always, we need input from everyone to find out what will work. The more input, the better the evaluation. On this note, I have asked that each Commandery let me know of events in their area to start a calendar portion on this letter. No luck as of now, but FYI, the Orders are now being held annually in Salem on September, October and November. Also the Degrees will be held annually in Forest Grove from February thru June. So if you have a candidate or you can assist, step up. I know it will be appreciated.

Finally, Sir Knights, be safe in your travels and don't forget to have a little fun.

Sincerely,
Ralph G. Winters
Grand Commander of Oregon

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to a scheduling problem the Grand York Rite Sessions are being moved this year only to the Salem Scottish Rite Building on our normal weekend. For those who book their rooms early please wait until further information can be provided. We ask for patience while we are working to resolve this issue.

