

South Dakota



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Herb Cook
Grand Commander

Greetings of the New Year to All Sir Knights and Your Ladies,

As the Year 2020 begins we are all reminded of the usual tradition of making resolutions to improve whatever it may be that we think might need to be improved. Then we truly set forth to make those improvements. I can't think of one time that I didn't want to make improvements. This year I see especially important causes that need my personal work to achieve their forward progress.

My primary goals, as your Right Eminent Grand Commander, center around our Knights Templar Eye Foundation and its research. My first request is that all Sir Knights comply with the Order from the Grand Encampment to donate \$10.00 or more to the KTEF before April 30, 2020.

The second goal also complies with a requirement from the Grand Master that all Grand Commanderies form a Membership Committee to address the continuing issues facing attrition in the Knights Templar.

If we are going to sustain KT and the worthy research of the KTEF, there is much work to do. We must grow in membership and become more visible within our respective communities. The individual Commanderies must therefore also choose a Membership Chairman and a committee to assist him. This work will take resolve and commitment from everyone. It won't happen overnight, but with continuing effort it will happen. By remembering this, "all Christian Masons should be Knights Templar" and sharing this principle, we will grow.

Growth in membership does not ignore the need for the current members. Always remember to include your existing members to mentor new members, to recall traditions and activities that have been successful and interesting and bring wisdom and experience to your conclaves. Calling back inactive Sir Knights often encourages their return.

As I travel and visit the state's Commanderies, I plan to share a general membership format for reference in making your own plans. Membership ideas should not be secret but shared in the hope that what works for some may also work for another. I hope to hold a statewide Membership committee meeting in January to share ideas and plans with other Sir Knights and Commanderies.

Please contact me with questions or suggestions. My email is herbertcook@centurylink.net or my cell is 605-787-3486. please leave a message or text. I hope everyone has a very Happy and Safe New Year!!

Herb Cook

Right Eminent Grand Commander
Knights Templar of South Dakota

Anything new or exciting planned this year. Let us know. Send an email to your editor and we can publish it in the supplement.