



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

Christian M. Beard
Grand Commander

Greg Kenkel
Supplement Editor

kt.iayorkrite.org

Sir Knights:

Ordinarily around this time of year we would be excited about the return to fall activities and at least for me, my Saturdays would be spent watching college football. But, as of this writing (August), there won't be any fall college football for the B1G. Too bad, because my Buckeyes were the favorite to win the national championship, and you Hawkeye fans would have been able to take a shot at them this year! But unfortunately, this continues to not be an ordinary year. And this week I saw Christmas decorations beginning to be sold in stores. I checked my car thermometer and it read 84 degrees outside. So there's that.

However, we will still have a Department Conference on Saturday, October 24, beginning at 10:00 AM. No, it won't be in-person in Sioux Falls, but will be online via zoom. These department conferences are open to all York Rite Masons, and if you have never attended, now would be the perfect opportunity to do so. I would love to have Iowa represented well!

The agenda will be very similar to years past. The first couple hours will be focused on membership, and the afternoon dedicated to the Eye Foundation, its recent research grants, as well as previewing the 68th Triennial Conclave. I suspect our Grand Master will be in attendance, in his home department. In my years of attending Department Conferences, I have seen the Eye Foundation presentations transition from stories directly related to patient impact to our support of researchers, whom we currently support, yet the impact these make is still very

strong. This is a great charity and something we should be proud of sponsoring.

Last year we had quite a lively and productive discussion around membership, keeping the Sir Knights engaged and attracting new Sir Knights into our Order. It was very interesting to learn from other states and listen to their successes and challenges. I imagine this year will center around when we will be able to join the rest of our Masonic brethren in meeting in-person.

If you will be attending, please let me or Grand Recorder Hill know so that I can include your names in our roll call. Traditionally Iowa has the largest contingency in our Department, and I see no reason why that shouldn't be the case this year, either! Registration can be found on the Grand Encampment website.

We had previously been planning on posting colors at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, however this also has been scaled down and I don't believe we will be asked to do so in Sioux City. Too bad, because I was really looking forward to it. If this changes, I will let you know.

Of course, our biggest challenge with regard to membership is conferring our Orders. I am hopeful that we will be able to do so very soon and look forward to our first knightings of the year.

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,

Chris Beard, Grand Commander