

Grand Commander's Program

Harmony Through Communication
2011 – 2012

Communication is a very important facet of our lives. It is essential in our day to day living.

We need to communicate with (1) God, (2) Members of our Fraternity – both new and long time, (3) Family and Friends, and (4) Ourselves.

It is important to convey to others the reasons we joined Commandery and to make our Commanderies more visible by such activities as participating in local parades, posting colors at local sports events and standing honor guard during memorial services.

When we communicate our plans and schedules with other organizations, we may be able to avoid conflicts of times, ideas, and goals. This communication with other Masonic bodies is essential to the welfare of all our organizations.

For years Ohio has been able to state that we have been the largest Grand Commandery in the Grand Encampment. This is no longer true! We are now the second largest Grand Commandery. We want to make every effort to return to the Number One position. My goal for the 2011 – 2012 Templar year is for every Commandery in Ohio to sponsor a "York Rite Education/Orientation Session" during this year. These sessions will be conducted by the leadership of Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery, and are designed to enlighten prospective members as to the attributes of York Rite Masonry. My experience with a program of this type has been very positive. The Grand Officers, Division Commanders, and Deputy Division Commanders are ready and willing to provide assistance with these sessions. Feel free to contact them.

Increasing membership is a continuing effort. We must seek quality and not merely quantity. If we knight a number of men, but they do not attend meetings and participate in the activities of our fraternity, we have gained nothing save numbers.

A mentor program will encourage new members to get involved, take office, and enjoy the benefits of membership in commandery. If you have a mentoring program in place, keep it working. If you have not yet established a program, now is the time to start.

During Inspections this year, the Commander may opt to have the ladies present for the Full Form Opening. This could eliminate introductions at the meal, have ladies more involved in the Inspections, and leave time for fellowship.

An addition to the Roster this year is the handicapped accessible symbol indicating that the Masonic Complex accommodates those with temporary or permanent mobility restrictions.

Arrangements have been made for the Grand Commandery of Ohio to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2012. It would be great to have a large number of Knights in uniform for that event!

We look forward to the fellowship of the Inspections and Visitations. With better communication we can make Commandery a more friendly, co-operative, and congenial organization!

Fraternally,

August C. Holzer

August C. Holzer, Jr, KCT

Attest: Bruce D Basil, KCT
Grand Recorder

