

INTENDANT-GENERAL ADDRESS TO DIVISIONAL CONCLAVE 2017

WORTHY KNIGHTS, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO PRESIDE OVER MY FIRST ANNUAL MEETING AND I OFFER YOU ALL MY SINCERE THANKS FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING. IT IS A GREAT DELIGHT TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CRAFT FESTIVAL IS TO BE HELD THIS EVENING.

I HAVEN'T ALREADY INTRODUCED OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED FAR AND WIDE TO BE WITH US TODAY AND I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE ALL ENJOYED THE DAY. I AM DELIGHTED TO RECIPROCATE THE FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO US WHEN WE ATTEND YOUR AGM'S. I PARTICULARLY WISH TO THANK ALL THE HEADS OF ORDERS IN SUSSEX, WITH WHOM WE HAVE A VERY HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP, FOR THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT, AND LONG MAY THAT CO-EXISTENCE CONTINUE.

I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HOLD THIS OFFICE. AT MY INSTALLATION LAST YEAR, I SAID I WOULD DO MY VERY BEST TO ENSURE THAT PREVIOUS STANDARDS WERE NOT ONLY MET BUT EXCEEDED. I BELIEVE THAT WE AS A TEAM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL OVER THE YEAR, BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO ACHIEVE AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT I CAN RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT. I WISH TO THANK MY DEPUTY INTENDANT-GENERAL, BERNARD FOR HIS SOLID SUPPORT IN EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE OVER THE PAST YEAR. BERNIE, YOU HAVE BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH FOR ME AND I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD YOUR FULL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE. I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AHEAD OF US.

WE HAVE A NEW TEAM OF OFFICERS TO ASSIST US IN THE DISCHARGE OF OUR DUTY AND YOU WILL ALL BE INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISATION AND RUNNING OF THE DIVISION IN ALL RESPECTS. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE APPOINTED AND PROMOTED TODAY AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR TIME IN OFFICE. TO THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD DOWN FROM OFFICE, I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PAST SERVICES. I ALSO PERSONALLY THANK THE DIVISIONAL RECORDER, ANDY KNIGHT, WHO, IN HIS FIRST YEAR IN THAT OFFICE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO ASSIST BOTH BERNIE AND MYSELF. WE ARE BOTH VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS.

I THANK THE DIVISIONAL SEPULCHRE GUARD WHO ATTENDED ALL THE MEETINGS WITH ME DURING THE YEAR AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT. THE TWO FULL TEAM MEETINGS DURING THIS YEAR WILL BE AT ST. PETERS CONCLAVE No 350 IN BEXHILL ON THURSDAY 8th JUNE 2017 AND AT WILLIAM DE WARRENNE CONCLAVE No 306 IN UCKFIELD ON MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018.

I THANK THE OUTGOING SWORD BEARER, P. KNIGHT ALAN WOODS WHO HAS ATTENDED EVERY MEETING THAT I ATTENDED EXCEPT ONE. THANK YOU, ALAN FOR YOUR MAGNIFICENT SUPPORT AND THE BEST ATTENDANCE RECORD OF ALL DIVISIONAL OFFICERS OVER THE PAST YEAR. THANKS ALSO TO IVAN BIDDLE FOR PRESENTING THE DIVISION WITH A NEW SWORD STAND. IT IS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND IS MAGNIFICENT.

FINALLY, I MUST THANK ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS MEETING THE SMOOTH - RUNNING SUCCESS IT IS AND ALSO THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ITS PREPARATION AND EXECUTION. A SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBERS HAVE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD TO MAKE TODAY HAPPEN.

**I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT AT GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE THIS YEAR THE FOLLOWING KNIGHTS WILL BE APPOINTED TO THEIR FIRST GRAND RANK,
COLIN DES MOULLINS TO PAST GRAND PREFECT (PERFECT)
ALAN WOODS TO PAST GRAND PREFECT
NOEL SCHOFIELD TO PAST GRAND WARDEN OF REGALIA
JOHN WALES TO PAST GRAND WARDEN OF REGALIA.
ERIC PARRISH WILL RECEIVE PROMOTION TO PAST GRAND HIGH ALMONER
(VERY ILLUSTRIOUS KNIGHT)**

**WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE 2 KNIGHTS BEING PROMOTED IN ACTIVE RANK,
TOBY PRATT TO GRAND ORATOR
DRIES VAN der BURGH TO DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL,**

PLEASE RECOGNISE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

LAST YEAR, I PROMISED YOU THAT I WOULD BE NAGGING YOU ALL TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR CONCLAVES BY AT LEAST 3 NEW MEMBERS A YEAR. I HAVE BEEN TRUE TO MY WORD AND I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD RESPONSE TO MY NAGGING. WE ATTRACTED 6 NEW MEMBERS WITH OTHERS IN THE PIPELINE AND I AM AWARE THAT 2 CONCLAVES WILL SHORTLY BE HOLDING "OPEN" EVENINGS AND INVITING ROYAL ARCH COMPANIONS TO ATTEND TO RECEIVE AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR ORDER.

OUR ALLOCATION OF GRAND RANKS IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIPS WE HAVE AND THIS IS THE OBVIOUS AREA TO PROGRESS TO ESTABLISH A GOOD FUTURE FOR THIS DIVISION. REMEMBER THAT I HAVE INTRODUCTION BOOKLETS FOR DISTRIBUTION AT NO COST SO PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM AND DISTRIBUTE THEM TO LIKELY CANDIDATES. REMEMBER THAT CANDIDATES WILL NOT COME TO YOU, YOU MUST MAKE AN APPROACH. I HOPE WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS AREA AND OUR MEMBERSHIP WILL GROW EVEN FURTHER. THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THE RECRUITMENT AREA.

WITHIN THE LAST YEAR I HAVE WRITTEN TO ALL PAST SOVEREIGNS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF EMMANUEL CONCLAVE AND VICTORIOUS CONCLAVE IN ORDER TO BOOST THEIR MEMBERSHIPS. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN REASONABLE BUT COULD BE BETTER. IF YOU ARE STILL UNDECIDED, PLEASE DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH MYSELF, BERNIE OR ANY MEMBER OF THOSE TWO CONCLAVES.

I WISH TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL SIDE OF FREEMASONRY IN THIS ORDER. WE ALL ATTEND MEETINGS, REHEARSALS AND VARIOUS FUNCTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR OWN CONCLAVES. MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE IS FOR THE DIVISION TO ORGANISE ONE ANNUAL FUND RAISING DAY AND ONE SOCIAL FUNCTION WHERE WE WILL NOT BE ASKING YOU TO RAISE FUNDS, BUT RATHER, COME ALONG WITH YOUR LOVED ONES TO ENJOY A SOCIAL FUNCTION AND LET OUR WIVES / PARTNERS MIX WITH OTHER WIVES / PARTNERS FOR A PLEASANT LUNCH OR SOMETHING ELSE.

THIS WILL NOT PRECLUDE ANY CONCLAVE FROM ORGANISING THEIR OWN SOCIAL FUNCTION WHETHER THAT BE FUND RAISING OR NOT AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT

THE ANNUAL SUNDAY LUNCH ORGANISED BY ROSE OF ST. MARY CONCLAVE NO 274 IN EASTBOURNE WILL CONTINUE WHILST THERE IS STILL GOOD MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT FOR THIS TYPE OF FUNCTION FROM A LARGE SECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DIVISION.

VERY RECENTLY I WAS OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD A DAYTIME FUNCTION AT THE GRAND SOVEREIGNS HOME IN TURNERS HILL. I ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE PUT FORWARD MY THOUGHTS AND IDEAS OF THE TYPE OF FUNCTION IT COULD BE. ALL CONCLAVE RECORDERS HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER OUTLINING MY THOUGHTS, WHICH ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION, AND BY NOW, YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THAT LETTER. THE DATE WILL BE SUNDAY 13th AUGUST 2017 AND PROCEEDS WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE GRAND SOVEREIGNS CARE FOR CHILDREN FUND AND SUSSEX DIVISIONAL FUNDS. I HAVE INVITED EACH CONCLAVE TO NOMINATE A MEMBER TO ASSIST WITH A SMALL COMMITTEE TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO PROGRESS THIS DAY. I PROPOSE TO HOLD ANOTHER CHRISTMAS LUNCH BUT THIS YEAR IT WILL BE HELD AT TOTTINGTON MANOR ON SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER. DETAILS WILL BE CIRCULATED AFTER THIS AGM BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS VENUE IS WOW!!

FINALLY, I WANT EVERY MEMBER OF SUSSEX TO BE HAPPY IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF THIS WONDERFUL ORDER AND THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICES YOU ALL PERFORM. NEVER FORGET THAT THIS IS A HOBBY AND THAT IT IS MEANT TO BE AN ENJOYABLE PASTIME. IF YOU HOLD OFFICE, ALL I HAVE EVER ASKED IS THAT YOU GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT TO YOUR OWN SATISFACTION AND THE SATISFACTION OF YOUR PEERS AND CANDIDATES.

THANK YOU ALL ONCE MORE FOR ATTENDING TODAY. WE ARE SHORTLY ABOUT TO ENJOY REFRESHMENT AND A GOOD LUNCH. TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING THE CRAFT FESTIVAL, ENJOY THE EVENING AND TO ALL THOSE RETURNING HOME, I TRUST YOU WILL ALL HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.