

April 26th 2020

Grand Chapter Officers and Members of the Executive Committee,

First, and most importantly, I wish to express my personal good wishes to you and ask you to extend them to those you love. Being Companions implies that we travel together and the road which fate has placed us upon is both unknown and hazardous. As Companions and Brothers, knowing that we do not travel alone, and that we have an extended family who are watching out for us and ready to share whatever the future may hold, we can have confidence in the future. I know we are all looking forward to once more sharing the grip of our Companions.

Attached is a copy of the Letter sent out by M. Ex. Comp. Jerry Kopp, the Grand Scribe-Ezra, formally cancelling Grand Chapter this year, extending the terms of all Grand Chapter Officers, Executive Committee Members and Committee Members, confirming that all Royal Arch Meetings and Functions are cancelled indefinitely, clarifying that there will be no "Official Visits" during the next twelve months, recommending that individual Chapters extend their Officers' terms by 12 months, and announcing three changes in Officer and Committee memberships.

To the Officers of Grand Chapter and the Members of the Executive, we will all remain in our respective positions. Our terms of office are formally extended through the Grand Convocation in May of 2021. For this additional service commitment, I most sincerely thank you. If, for any reason, you feel that extending your term places an undue hardship upon you, please contact me. Without judgment, I will immediately search out a replacement for you.

I am happy to report that Royal Arch Masonry is alive and well in the Jurisdiction.

My schedule of visitations has picked up, however my travel expenses are way down, I get home much earlier than normal, and not having the late night festive boards has been good for my waist line - all advantages of virtual visitations.

During the past several weeks I have enjoyed the following:

Thur.	April 2	Golden West Chapter # 5	Virtual Visit - Social	High River
Mon.	April 13	Alberta Chapter # 1	Virtual Visit - Social	Calgary
Wed.	April 15	Stoney Chapter # 41	Virtual Visit - Social	Stony Plain
Wed.	April 15	Golden West Chapter # 5	Virtual End of Festive Board	High River
Sat.	April 18	Grand Council RAM AB	Virtual Business Meeting	My Den
Mon.	April 20	Keystone Chapter #12	Virtual Visit - Social	Red Deer
Fri.	April 24	Proposed - Provincial Foodbank Fundraiser – Stoney #41		Edmonton

Events Cancelled or Postponed:

Thur.-Sun.	Apr 23-26	Grand Chapter RAM of Manitoba in Winnipeg	POSTPONED
Thur.-Sun.	May 7-10	Grand Chapter RAM Alberta in Red Deer	CANCELLED
Thur.-Sat	June 11-13	Grand Lodge of Alberta in Edmonton	POSTPONED

Future Events on my Schedule

Tues. April 28 Proposed Provincial Foodbank Fundraiser - Stoney #41 Edmonton

*Please ask your Chapter to invite me to any “virtual gatherings” they may be holding.
(remember the organizer can ‘mute’ me at any time)*

From a Jurisdictional standpoint, the Grand Second Principal has begun preliminary planning for a Grand Chapter “Virtual Symposium”, or “Web Cast” later this spring. It cannot replace our Convocation and the fellowship we enjoy there, however it can bring a large number of us together, if only on our computer screens.

The Grand Council will be holding a “Zoom” meeting again in May to consider and hopefully adopt the 2020 Budget proposed at the Executive Meeting last February. At that time we will handle any “housekeeping items” which may have arisen.

The Grand Executive, under the Chairmanship of the Grand Second Principal, can expect an Executive Committee meeting in early fall, likely held in “Cyber Space”. I encourage the various committee chairmen to touch base with their membership and be prepared for the meeting.

As I said a while back, Freemasonry has not gone dark. Royal Arch Masonry has not gone dark. Now, more than ever, our brotherhood, companionship, and charitable compassion are needed.

May I remind you - in times of difficulty “in Whom you place your trust”. Please continue to maintain your Chapter contacts by phone, text, email or social media. Check-up on one another. Make sure that no one is in need or want.

Please continue to:

***“Let your light so Shine before men that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father which is in Heaven “***

The good works we do have never been more needed!

My Companions - stay safe, be healthy, and keep caring for one another.
Stay Home if possible Practice Social Distancing and Wash your Hands!

Rod

**M. Ex. Comp. Rod Ponech
Grand First Principal
Grand Chapter of Alberta, RAM**