

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta



Jerry W. Kopp

Grand Scribe "E"

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Constituent Chapter
Grand Chapter Officers

Grand Council COVID-19 Restrictions – 17 October 2020

During the Grand Council deliberations this morning it was decided, and it is the direction of the Grand 1st Principal that formal In-Chapter Meetings and degree work of the Royal Arch Masons of Alberta continue to be restricted until January 2021.

In view of this the Grand Council recognizes that there is a need to permit Chapters to conduct education, business, elections, etc. and therefore approves the following:

- Opening and closing of Chapter meetings on Zoom (Virtual) is not permitted.
- For Zoom meetings, the Z calls the meeting to order, J does a simple invocation, followed by a normal meeting and when business is completed the Z calls of the J for a short benediction and then Z declares meeting closed.
- Zoom meetings are approved for Masonic Education purposes and may be conducted openly to include Royal Arch, Craft Lodge, and perhaps even the general public; dependent upon the content of the education.
- Zoom meetings are approved for all Royal Arch Companions in the form of a Business Meeting for the purpose of conducting Chapter business, accepting Petitions for Exaltation, passing of accounts, approving budgets, and socializing with members from other Chapters. Collars and sashes may be worn at the discretion of the individual Chapter hosting the Zoom meeting. Minutes and a Register of attendees must be produced
- Zoom meetings are approved for Royal Arch Companions of a specific Chapter only for the purposes of the Election of Officers, Chapter voting on Notices of Motion, and Balloting on Petitions for Exaltation. Zoom balloting may be used to conduct the ballot. It should be noted that the host of the Zoom meeting would not be able to vote, so should there be a Grand Chapter officer in attendance, they could be identified as host, enabling the Chapter Companion to ballot. Minutes and a Register of attendees must be produced.

It should be noted that Chapter Zoom meetings are limited to Chapter Companions only and should not be conducted where family members or persons outside the fraternity would obtain our secrets. Please **"Guard the West Gate"**, Companions.

Prepared by Grand Council and approved by the Grand Chapter Executive on October 17, 2020

Fraternally yours,

Jerry W. Kopp

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