

**2023**

# **Preliminary Report**



## **Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta**

**MEC Jeff Knight – Grand First Principal**

**REC (MEC) Jerry W. Kopp – Grand Scribe E**

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### Preliminary Credentials Report

- **I, REC Jerry W. Kopp move and seconded by REC Ken Ionel that this Grand Chapter has an adequate number of Chapters present at this Convocation that meets the requirements of a quorum. CARRIED: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_**

### Motion to receive and approve Minutes of 108<sup>th</sup> Convocation

- **I, REC (MEC) Jerry W. Kopp – Grand Scribe E & PGZ move and seconded by REC Robert Cantwell – Grand Scribe N, that the 2022 Grand Chapter Proceedings as printed,**

**exhibited on the Grand Chapter Website and distributed to the Constituent Chapters of this jurisdiction be approved by this Grand Chapter.**

**CARRIED: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Report of the Grand Executive Committee**

Grand Executive Committee held their regular annual Meeting via Zoom. This was a well attended meeting. The Grand Scribe E reported on the voting rights for this meeting. Previous minutes were adopted.

The first Committee to report was the **Finance Committee** and the Grand Treasurer, but unfortunately due to the Grand Scribe E's information on Finance, the thumb drive having over-heated all the collected information over the past five years have been lost. The thumb drive has been sent off to specialist to see whether any information is recoverable. It has been over three months and they are still working on the recovery, we hope. Chairman of Finance asked the Financials be laid over to the May meeting.

**Grand Scribe E** reported a total lost of 48 Companions, with a balance of 784 Companions. There 46 Companions admitted, 27 Affiliated, 3 restored, 68 demits, 32 suspensions for NPD and 24 deaths.

**Jurisprudence Committee & Constitution & Regulations** report that the motion that was tabled relating to the length of term a Grand Scribe E & Grand Treasurer, will be withdrawn. This motion is being withdrawn for the sole purpose of re-examining the election process for the two position and perhaps replacing it with a need to seek out qualified Companions. There is one motion being brought forward for a vote which is related to the number of Companions required to open a Chapter, which is 7 at the moment and the amendment will seek the approval of 9 Companions.

**Committee on the Work** continues to answer questions from the Companions, collecting information on errors in the various rituals which will be amended at a later date.

**Youth Endowment Fund** has had three requests for financial support and the content of their report will be disclosed, in the Preliminary Report. No concerns.

### **Grand Website Committee**

The Website continues to be an effective tool for the Chapters, and the site itself is available world-wide and the Committee has received many positive comments. The Committee has placed restricted access to some areas, they do not want to have exposure to the public domain, but the membership has easy access. The Committee report contained in the Preliminary Report outline what is available to the membership.

### **Membership & Long-Range Planning**

The report contained this Preliminary Report is fairly clear and there is no need to repeat what is contained therein.

**Regalia Committee** reports that many of the Grand Chapters Officers are equipment new or excellent condition aprons and sashes. The Committee still needs to examine a couple of aprons to determine whether to replace or keep. Grand Chapter Officers who visited sister jurisdiction have some comments that the Grand Chapter of Alberta Officers look very professional with their new aprons.

**Memorial Service** under the direction of the Grand J, the Grand Chaplain & Grand Organist are in place.

**Credentials Committee** are ready to receive the Companions for registration and issue the required ballots.

**Honour & Awards Committee** were informed that the Grand Executive extended the nomination date to the end of February and also voted that three Companions will be eligibles for the Alberta Distinguished Service Award.

## Report of the Grand Second Principal

Most Ex. Grand First Principal and Companions,

I would like to start off by thanking you all for giving me the Honour and opportunity to serve this Grand Chapter of Royal Arch masons of Alberta as your Grand Second Principal, it has been a wonderful experience as well as a learning experience.

Since the Grand Convocation in May of 2022, I have had the pleasure of accompanying our Grand first Principal M Ex. Companion Jeff Knight on his official visits to Chapters and other events across the province, along with our Grand Third Principal R Ex. Comp Jaime Wong.

In May 2022, we attended the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan Convocation in Saskatoon where we attended their High Priest degree, Memorial service, installation, and banquet, it was a very enjoyable weekend.

I have supported the Grand First Principal on all of his official visits to all of the Chapters in Districts 3 and 4, I also attended the district meetings of districts 1, 3 and 4, I had a conflicting meeting on the day of the district 2 meeting.

In September 2022, I had the pleasure of attending the outdoor field day in Drumheller put on by Strathmore Chapter 21 and Eheyeh Chapter 27, where we saw 17 Brethren go through the MMM and MEM degrees. The meeting was well attended and very well organized, hats off to both Strathmore and Eheyeh Chapters for a job well done, if you have never attended this annual meeting, I strongly recommend that you do, you will not be disappointed.

Also, in September 2022, I attended the Grand Chapter of BC and Yukon Grand Convocation in Abbotsford, along with the Grand 1st principal and the Grand 3<sup>rd</sup> principal as well as several other Past Grand 1<sup>st</sup> principals from Alberta, this was a very enjoyable weekend, we attended the High Priest degree, memorial service, installation, and banquet.

I have supported the Grand District Superintendents of District 3 and 4 on their official visits to the Chapters in their district and I have attended as many installations as possible and installed Chapter officers when asked.

I have attended all the Grand council meetings held through the year as well as other committee meetings and Jurisprudence committee meetings. I chaired the Grand Executive meeting in February 2023 which was held on zoom to prevent Companions having to travel in harsh weather.

I have attended Chapters in the districts who were doing degree work, one Chapter put 11 companions through the RAM degree, and another put 7 through while other Chapters are putting 2 or 3 through, this is great to see as some of the companions have waited for 2 years to get their degrees, getting new members into the Chapters will strengthen them for the future, along with a focus on training and education to retain the new companions

In February I met with the GDS and the GDS elect to discuss any issues in the districts going forward, this was a very important meeting to have, and I would like to see it repeated annually.

Thank you to the GDS for the work they have done in the past year, well done, I wish the incoming GDS well in their upcoming year.

In April 2023, I attended the Grand convocation of Manitoba in Winnipeg along with the Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principal and the Grand 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal, we attended the High priest degree, the memorial service and the banquet.

I would like to thank M Ex Comp. Jerry Kopp for his hard work and dedication to this Grand Chapter in the last several years as our Grand Scribe E, thank you for your guidance and support, it is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the members of the various committees that work diligently behind the scenes for their hard work and dedication to keep this Grand Chapter running like a well-oiled machine, thank you all.

Thank you to our Past Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principals who have given many years of service to this Grand Chapter and still work diligently to keep it going in the right direction, thank you all.

A special thanks to M Ex Comp. Don Gillies for your guidance and mentorship through the years, it is greatly appreciated, thank you.

To M Ex Comp Jeff Knight, thank you for your leadership this past year, your work on the Chapter walkabout ceremony and craft lodge presentations will be very useful in the years to come, it has been a great year and a pleasure to travel with you in this jurisdiction and others, thank you for your hard work and dedication to this Grand Chapter, I know I have big shoes to fill.

I would like to thank the Grand Chapter officers and companions who travelled with me on various visits and events, I'd also like to thank all the Chapters we visited as well as the district meetings for their warm and friendly greetings on our visits, it makes me very proud to be a Royal Arch mason.

R. Excellent Companion Jim Carswell  
Grand Second Principal,  
Grand Chapter of RAM of Alberta.

### **Report of the Grand Third Principal**

MEC Jeff Knight and members of Grand Council, first and foremost, thank you for enabling me to have rewarding year as G3P.

My final report will be in bullet form and is as follows:

- As G3P I have made it a priority to be at as many places where the G1P was making his official visits.
- I travelled jointly with the G2P because we live in Calgary and belong to the same Chapters and it was more pleasant riding in the same vehicle with Jim.
- I travelled to many Chapter meetings including one in Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Frank in the Crowsnest Pass to name a few.
- In total thus far this year I have travelled and visited (21) times to various Chapters and Grand Chapter Convocations in Saskatchewan and BC.
- Both the G1P and G2P are experienced Masons and have displayed much knowledge when dealing with Grand Chapter Constitution and Regulations.
- As reported earlier at the Grand Executive Meeting, I have observed and still have much to learn from all members of Grand Council.
- MEC Jeff Knight is an amazing speaker and demonstrated his seamless ability to speak on any subject and in particular, the Constitution and Regulations.
- Memorable visits were to, Grand Chapter Convocation in Saskatoon and Abbotsford where each one of these Jurisdictions gave us Honorary membership.
- I took it personally to ensure that my job as G3P was to make MEC Jeff Knights' year a success by being at his side and supporting him as much as possible...it was a pleasure!
- Sadly, my only regrets were not being able to attend the Field Day in Drumheller and the Official visit to Harmony Chapter No. 26 in Brooks.
- My impression of Royal Arch Masonry in Alberta is positive and I believe we could be experiencing a growth spurt as a result of a couple of slow years due to the pandemic and I acknowledge that there are a few Chapters struggling to survive...a challenge to future Grand District Superintendents perhaps.
- I wish to thank all the Chapters I visited with REC Jim Carswell this year. All Chapters seem to be trying hard to grow and in particular I saw most Chapters are embracing education as part of all their meetings.
- Lastly, I want to thank MEC Jerry Kopp for his service to this Grand Jurisdiction as Grand Scribe Ezra. His passion for education has made all Chapters better whenever he was asked to deliver a piece of education, he delivered it with such conviction and clarity of thought.

- It's been a joy and delight to have served as G3P and I hope to follow in the footsteps of our current G1P – MEC Jeff Knight and MEC Elect – Jim Carswell both of these men are shining examples of dedication and class. I remain optimistic for a brighter future in RA Masonry and I am blessed to be a Grand Chapter Officer.

REC Jaime Wong – G3P

**\*Report of the Grand Treasurer**

**\*Finance Committee Report**

**\*Report of the Committee on Finance & Review**

**\*Motion to approve the Expenditures for 2022**

**\*Motion to approve 2023-2024 Budget**

**\* REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT GRAND EXECUTIVE & VERBAL TO GRAND CHAPTER**

**Report of the Grand Scribe E & statistics on membership**

This completes my fifth year as Grand Scribe E, which has given me a great insight as to mechanics and operation of the Grand Chapter Administration duties. First, and foremost much of the successes in the Grand Chapter Office is attributed to the full support and cooperation from the Chapter Scribe Es, THANK YOU SCRIBE Es.

Once again, it has been pleasure, to work the current Grand Officers and this attributed to MEC Jeff Knight and his line officers who have been very active in the performance of their respective duties. We will be going through another transition phase, as this is my last Grand Chapter Annual Convocation as your Grand Scribe E, and it will be great to see a new Grand Scribe E, REC Robert Cantwell [12]. I can assure you that for the next year or so, I will give Robert all the support he needs and I personally want to granulate him. Look well to the NORTH, SOUTH, EAST & WEST ROBERT.

**CHAPTER STATISTICS 2022**

|              | Or | 2021       | A  | A | R | D |   |   | D  | 2022 |
|--------------|----|------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|------|
|              | S  | t          | d  | f | e | e |   |   | E  |      |
|              | ta | m          | m  | f | s | m |   |   | A  | E    |
|              | rt | i          | i  | t | i |   |   |   | T  | N    |
|              |    | t          | l  | o | t |   |   |   | H  | D    |
| Alberta      | 70 | 4          | 19 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 81 |      |
| North Star   | 61 | 5          | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 |      |
| Assiniboia   | 19 | 0          | 0  | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |      |
| Shekineh     | 39 | 0          | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 39 |      |
| Golden West  | 29 | 2          | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 30 |      |
| Otuskwon     | 73 | 5          | 0  | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 70 |      |
| Keystone     | 33 | 0          | 0  | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 28 |      |
| Capital City | 64 | 1          | 0  | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 61 |      |
| Hillvue      | 16 | 0          | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |      |
| Mt Olivet    | 28 | 0          | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26 |      |
| Norwood      | 32 | 3          | 0  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 35 |      |
| Strathmore   | 59 | 4          | 0  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 58 |      |
| Crescent     | 27 | Amalgamate |    |   | 2 |   |   |   | 0  |      |
|              |    |            |    |   | 7 |   |   |   |    |      |

|              |            |           |    |   |   |   |   |    |            |
|--------------|------------|-----------|----|---|---|---|---|----|------------|
| Harmony      | 27         | 0         | 0  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 24         |
| Eheyeh       | 25         | 0         | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 25         |
| Edson        | 19         | 0         | 0  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 17         |
| Parklands    | 28         | 0         | 2  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 28         |
| Wapiti       | 25         | 6         | 0  | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 23         |
| Lebanon      | 8          | 1         | 1  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 10         |
| Cold Lake    | 26         | 0         | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 24         |
| Hanginestone | 62         | 4         | 0  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |    | 40         |
|              |            |           |    |   |   | 5 |   |    |            |
| Stoney       | 38         | 4         | 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 40         |
| Mountianview | 24         | 7         | 3  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3  | 30         |
|              |            |           |    |   |   |   |   |    | <b>784</b> |
|              | <b>832</b> | <b>46</b> | 27 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 24 | <b>784</b> |
|              |            |           |    | 8 |   | 2 |   |    |            |

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## STATISTICS 2022

### RESTORATIONS

|                   |                |                 |             |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| James E. Dunsmore | Strathmore #21 | Le Roi LaFleche | Norwood #18 |
| Keith Davis       | Lebanon #38    |                 |             |

### AFFILIATIONS

|                     |                  |                    |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Blair C. Foster     | Shekinah #4      | Byron Birch        | Golden West #5   |
| Douglas G. Ryder    | Parklands #31    | Keith B. Hanchruk  | Parklands #31    |
| Leonard W.J. Clarke | Lebanon #38      | Robert R. Cantwell | Mountainview #42 |
| Leif Hansen         | Mountainview #42 | Jay A. Jamali      | Mountainview #42 |

### DEMITTS

|                      |                  |                   |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Curtis Laughen       | Alberta #1       | Paul Gates        | Alberta #1       |
| Alan Lucas           | Alberta #1       | Edward Balleine   | Alberta #1       |
| Simon Smotkowicz     | North Star #2    |                   |                  |
| Warren Campbell      | Assiniboia #3    | Trevor Fahselt    | Assiniboia #3    |
| Darren S. Staruiala  | Assiniboia #3    | Alexander Urquart | Assiniboia #3    |
| Travis Hanson        | Golden West #5   | Gary Van Exan     | Otuskwon #9      |
| Kent Galbraith       | Otuskwon #9      | Attila Schild     | Otuskwon #9      |
| Rejean Bernier       | Keystone #12     | Mike Seesahal     | Keystone #12     |
| Frank Yakimchuk      | Keystone #12     | Adrian Wall       | Keystone #12     |
| Ian C. C. Bannatyne  | Capital City #13 | Michael J. Boyes  | Capital City #13 |
| Anir Abi Farraj      | Hillvue #15      | JR Beauregard     | Strathmore #21   |
| Kevin Patrick Cripps | Mt. Olivet #17   | Tony Gize         | Strathmore #21   |
| Lanny Defrease       | Harmony #26      | Doug Watson       | Harmony #26      |
| Darrick Klymchuck    | Edson #30        | Greg Templeton    | Edson #30        |
| Brian L. Byrnell     | Parklands #31    | Deric Delaney     | Wapiti #34       |
| Cal White            | Wapiti #34       | Rick Turcotte     | Wapiti #34       |
| Russ Napier          | Wapiti #34       | Ron Thoreson      | Wapiti #34       |
| Dan Student          | Wapiti #34       | David Gushue      | Wapiti #34       |

|                    |                             |                  |               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| James John Corbett | Lebanon #38                 | Ceilidh Grant    | Cold Lake #39 |
| Mark Mueller       | Hangingstone #40            | David Marson     | Stoney #41    |
|                    | Pierre P. Crocquet Rosemond | Mountainview #42 |               |

**DELETION – NPD**

|                      |                  |                   |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Kyle Brandshwei      | Alberta #1       | Lawrence Carr     | Alberta #1       |
| Ian McDowall         | Alberta #1       | Armand La Santa   | Strathmore #21   |
| Darrel Renkema       | Strathmore #21   | Toby John         | Capital City #13 |
| Douglas M. Choptiany | Capital City #13 | Angus Campbell    | Hangingstone #40 |
| Ronald W. MacNeill   | Hangingstone #40 | Todd Hanson       | Hangingstone #40 |
| Darin Mudge          | Hangingstone #40 | Kyle Lee Nikl     | Hangingstone #40 |
| Aronjol Rosenthal    | Hangingstone #40 | Cameron Cassels   | Hangingstone #40 |
| Corey J. Coffey      | Hangingstone #40 | Jason E. J. Davis | Hangingstone #40 |
| Joseph C.D. Genereux | Hangingstone #40 | Warrant V. Church | Hangingstone #40 |
| Paul Drudge          | Hangingstone #40 | Stephen McGrath   | Hangingstone #40 |
| Steven Welsh         | Hangingstone #40 | Svetland Valjic   | Hangingstone #40 |
| Daniel P. Gallagher  | Hangingstone #40 | Derek Paul Martin | Hangingstone #40 |
| Josh Drummy          | Hangingstone #40 | Jeffery Epp       | Hangingstone #40 |
| Sachin Pandit        | Hangingstone #40 | Angus McLean      | Hangingstone #40 |
| Jason Smith          | Hangingstone #40 | Jeffery Peddle    | Hangingstone #40 |
| Jules Ohelo          | Hangingstone #40 | Kalen MacNutt     | Hangingstone #40 |

**DELETION – UMC**

Nil Report

**Committee on the Work**

Compared to 2022 there was only one question from the Companions which was discussed and agreed on the appropriate wording by the members. The final version has been forwarded to the GSE for publication when required.

We would like to thank Companion who requested further clarification in the instructions. The items which were clarified and expanded follow:

***Updated position of the Principal Officers in sharing the word after the Z’s opening prayer***

The Committee members intend to continue to be proactive about demonstrating and/or discussing various points about the ritual within Chapters when asked and encourage Chapters to take the opportunity to have one of the committee members do so.

Questions and recommendations from Chapters are handled as received and we appreciate the Companions and Committees bringing these questions forward.

Members of the Committee currently are: REC Charles Slater, Chairman; REC Brian Hall; REC Ivan Hall; REC Barry Horner and MEC Jerry Kopp, GSE.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Slater

**Report of the Youth Endowment Fund**

During this past year we had three requests for assistance. One from Shekinah Chapter for \$2000.00 which was paid out to the Epic Youth Services in Cardston. Another from the Cold Lake Chapter for \$2,500.00 for



assistance for a young lady to help cover the cost of her education. We also made a donation to the St. Johns Ambulance for \$1,000.00.

We have had \$6240.00 in donations which were deposited into the YEF investment fund this year. We now have \$17,726.50 available for disbursement. The actual balance of the YEF will be included in Don's financial report.

## 2022 Financial Report

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Donations received       | \$6,240.00   |
| Donations given          | \$5,500.00   |
| Balance in Donation fund | \$400,046.00 |

On behalf of the YEF committee which consists of Eric Weigelt, Don Murray, and myself I would like to thank all the Chapters and Companions of Alberta for their generous support and commitment to the future of our youth in this province. I personally would also like to thank the members of the YEF committee for their support this year.

Bill Sheppard

## **Committee on Jurisprudence & Constitution**

The Jurisprudence Sub-committee is pleased to report that since our last report at the Grand Convocation in May, 2022 we have completed the following:

1. Incorporated all of the Motions approved during the 2022 Grand Convocation into the Constitution and Regulations and placed the updated revision on the Grand Chapter Web Site.
2. Reviewed and recommended approval of the revised bylaws for Keystone Chapter, Otuskwan Chapter, and Mount Olivet Chapter
3. Reviewed and provided recommendations on the proposed Chapter bylaw changes proposed by Lebanon Chapter
4. Provided guidance to several Chapters on what is required to be submitted when requesting a Chapter By-law change
5. Reviewed and provided support to the Grand First Principal and the Grand Scribe E on various draft documents.
6. Provided input to a C&R revision motion from the Grand Council
7. Reviewed and recommended Lebanon Chapter's By-law Request for approval.
8. Received direction that the 2022 Motion to limit the Term of the Grand Scribe E and Treasurer to 5 years which was tabled at the 2022 Grand Convocation has been withdrawn.

We are presently:

1. acting in conjunction with the Education sub-committee in support of the Grand First Principal' initiative to develop and education/mentorship program for Chapters and Royal Arch Masons of all levels. The Grand First Principal has provided an example of such a program presently used in New York.
2. Bringing forward the Notice of Motion proposed by the Grand Council and the Grand Executive Committee to adjust the number of RAMs required to open a Chapter meeting from 7 to 9. This motion (copy attached) will be read at the Grand Convocation in May 2023 for the Companions to discuss and vote on.

Respectfully and fraternally Submitted,  
MEC Wally Watts - Chairman  
Jurisprudence Sub-committee  
Jurisprudence Sub-committee Members  
REC Wes Johnson, EC Mark Mueller

**MOTION #1.**

**AMENDMENT OF Article C67 of the 2022 CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS**

**NOTICE OF MOTION:**

The Grand Council shall move or cause to be moved that:

The Motion to permit a RAM Chapter to open with seven (7) Companions present be replaced by nine (9) Companions present, in accordance with the 2019 Ritual and 2022 Constitution and Regulations, Article C53.

**REQUEST:** The Jurisprudence and Constitution Committee is requested to review the 2022 Constitution and Regulations amendment that did not revert the 2015 amendment to permit a RAM Chapter to open with seven (7) Companions present, back to the constituted number of nine (9) Companions present in the Constitution and Regulations prior to 2012.

**WHEREAS:** It was determined that the 2015 Constitution and Regulations had removed several important Articles which were felt to be important to the management of Capitular Masonry. Many key Articles were reinstated during the 2022 revision, but the requirement to have nine (9) Companions present to open a Chapter was not.

**WHEREAS:** It is believed that the number of Companions to open or hold a constituted Chapter ought to have been restored to nine (9), as depicted in Article 175 (1998) of previous versions of the Constitution and Regulations prior to the 2022 revision.

**WHEREAS:** Article C67.1, c., states: "Obtain dispensation from Grand Chapter to hold Convocations with only seven (7) RAMs present".

**WHEREAS:** No dispensation would be required under Article 67.1, c., unless a Chapter was needing to conduct a meeting with less than the constituted number of nine (9) Companions to conduct a RAM Convocation.

**WHEREAS:** It is expressed in Article C.53 of the 2022 Constitution that a constituted Chapter shall consist of nine officers, being the three Principals Z, H and J, the Scribes E and N, the three Sojourners and the Outer Guard.

**WHEREAS:** It is expressed in the 2019 copy of "The Work", during the Royal Arch Opening, that nine (9) officers constitute a Chapter for it to be regular.

**WHEREAS:** If only the elected and appointed officers of a Chapter were to attend the Convocation, the Chapter would always have more than nine (9) Companions in attendance.

**WHEREAS:** This adjustment to the Constitution and Regulations will ensure that Chapters can fully understand and meet the intent of the Ritual and Constitution/Regulations of our Order,

**WHEREAS:** The Grand Council has discussed the requirement to ensure our Chapters meet the regulatory and ritual requirements of our Order completely without shortcut,

**THEREFORE:** The Grand Council will cause to be brought forward, through the Executive Committee process, this housekeeping amendment to the 2022 Constitution and Regulations

Article C67 – Meeting of a Chapter presently reads:

No Chapter shall be opened or held except by seven (7) Royal Arch Companions, five (5) of whom shall be members of the Chapter, one of whom shall be a Principal Officer of the Chapter. The aforementioned also applies to a MMM or MEM Lodge. No Companion shall act as proxy for Z, H or J unless he has attained the rank of present or past of that office.

- 67.1 Should the above circumstances exist on an extended basis [maximum of three (3) consecutive Convocations, the Chapter shall contact the Grand District Superintendent (GDS) and discuss the following options:
  - a. Develop a recovery plan
  - b. Amalgamation with another Chapter
  - c. Obtain dispensation from Grand Chapter to hold Convocations with only seven (7) RAMs present.
  - d. Surrender the Charter.

Article C67 – Meeting of a Chapter would be amended to read:

No Chapter shall be opened or held except by nine (9) Royal Arch Companions, five (5) of whom shall be members of the Chapter, one of whom shall be a Principal Officer of the Chapter. No Lodge of Mark Master Masons (MMM) or Most Excellent Masters (MEM) shall be opened or held except by seven (7) Brothers. The same exception, five (5) of whom shall be members of the Chapter, one of whom shall be a Principal Officer of the Chapter will apply. No Companion shall act as proxy for Z, H or J unless he has attained the rank of present or past of that office.

- 67.1 Should a Chapter not meet the above requirements on an extended basis [maximum of three (3) consecutive Convocations], the Chapter shall contact the Grand District Superintendent (GDS) and discuss the following options:
  - a. Develop a recovery plan
  - b. Amalgamation with another Chapter
  - c. Obtain dispensation from Grand Chapter to hold Convocations with only seven (7) RAMs present.
  - d. Surrender the Charter.

Respectfully submitted by the Grand Council,

Consisting of:

MEC Jeff Knight – Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principal

REC Jim Carswell – Grand 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal

REC Jaime Wong – Grand 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal

MEC Jerry Kopp – Grand Scribe Ezra

REC Don Murray – Grand Treasurer

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY FOR 2022-2023**

To the Most Excellent Grand First Principal, M. Ex. Comp. Jeff Knight, Grand Chapter Officers and members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta.

The committee on the condition of Capitular Masonry have received the reports from the four district Superintendents for 2022 and 2023 and based on these summaries, report as follows:

**District # 1- Rt. Ex. Comp. Bob Lemmons**

Rt. Ex. Comp. Lemmons has completed all his visits to the Chapters in his district. He found the Chapters in his district in the following conditions:

**North Star # 2**

This Chapter is well run with several experienced members along with the enthusiasm of the younger members. They have new members coming in to the Chapter to join and their financial situation is healthy. The degree work in this Chapter is excellent.

**Capital City # 13**

This Chapter is healthy in membership. Although there have not been any degrees lately there will be degrees in the very near future. Fund raisers for the Youth Endowment Fund have met with success.

**Edson # 30**

This Chapter has a much more positive attitude than previous years. This change is a result of the efforts of Rt. Ex. Comp. Drebit and Poltorak. The Chapter is moving in the right direction with a good future.

**Wapiti # 34**

The official visit by the District Superintendent was scheduled for September 21, 2022. That evening, only four Chapter members attended which prevented the Chapter from opening. An informal visit with the companions that attended was carried out before returning to Edmonton.

**Stoney # 41**

This Chapter has good attendance at its meetings although some of the companions find it necessary to read their ritual work. This Chapter had 4 new members receive their MMM degree and MEM degree in Drumheller at the field day. They are planning to have a RAM degree in the fall.

**District # 2 – Rt. Ex. Comp. Al Brown**

Rt. Ex. Comp. Brown has completed all his official visits along with several fraternal visits of the Chapters in his district. He found the Chapters in his district in the following condition:

**Mount Olivet # 17**

This Chapter has dedicated members but many who are assisting in the opening and closing of the Chapter. They have not had any new candidates for approximately eight years, a real concern. Education is presented at meetings and a well run festive board takes place. With some assistance. This Chapter will be initiating some new candidates.

**Norwood # 18**

This Chapter has an enthusiastic membership with papers presented by the principal officers regularly. They have balloted on new members to join Royal Arch. Their ritual work could be improved overall.

**Parklands # 31**

This Chapter has a close relationship of approximately 12 members. Several of the members travel from Cold Lake to attend Chapter. This Chapter is having a MMM degree this year. New members will be advantages to this Chapter.

**Lebanon # 38**

This Chapter is very weak for members at the present time. With only eight members, they have one candidate for the MMM degree and one applicant for affiliation. Without an increase in members, this Chapter will be forced to amalgamate.

**Cold Lake # 39**

This Chapter appears to be having some difficulty with membership. There is no indication of any potential candidates for the Chapter. It is hoped this Chapter will be able to restore some of its members.

**Hangingstone # 40**

Although this Chapter is located in the most northerly point in the province, it is a very energetic Chapter with dedicated companions. This Chapter has candidates waiting to receive the MMM degree and MEM degree. After much of the property of the Chapter destroyed in the Fort McMurray fires, this Chapter has restored much of their furniture, records and charter. The outlook is very bright for this Chapter.

**District # 3 – Rt. Ex. Comp. Ron Sigouin**

Rt. Ex. Comp. Sigouin has completed all his official visits including several fraternal visits to his district He found the Chapters in his district in the following condition:

**Otuskwon # 9**

This Chapter has well attended meetings on most occasions. The degree work could be improved in certain areas such as the wardens in the different degrees. Educational papers are presented at meetings.

**Keystone # 12**

This is a very vibrant Chapter with several dedicated members. They do excellent work and very willing to help other Chapters when required. They have an ongoing number of degrees with new members being admitted regularly.

**Strathmore # 21**

This is another Chapter who has a very active membership. Their degree work is well done by its members. This Chapter has a strong list of officers with a good future.

**Eheyeh # 27**

This is a small Chapter that has bounced back from near extinction. Every year for nearly 20 years, this Chapter, along with Strathmore Chapter have conducted a field day. This past year saw one of the largest classes of candidates at 22 brethren receive their MMM degree. It is hoped that this Chapter along with Strathmore will continue on with this event

**Mountain View # 42**

This Chapter has grown in the community in the last years. Education is presented at nearly all meetings. This Chapter exalted 8 Royal Arch Masons this past year. The work was mainly done by the members of the Chapter. This Chapter appears to have a good future.

**District # 4 – Rt. Ex. Comp. Dave Rogers**

Rt. Ex. Comp. Rogers has completed four visits of Chapters in his district. There was only one report submitted for his visit to Shekinah # 4 and the other reports were from the Chapters during the district meeting. The reports were as follows:

**Alberta # 1**

The District Superintendent visited Alberta # 1 and commented that there was a good attendance of members and Grand Chapter Officers. The remainder of the information for this Chapter is from their report to the district meeting. Alberta # 1 has 70 members. They met 8 times during the year with an average of 16 members and 11 visitors at each meeting. They have conferred the MEM degree on 3 MMM and exalted 7 MEM to the RA degree.

**Assiniboia # 3**

As this Chapter has not met for the last 3 years, there is no report from this Chapter. It is expected that this Chapter will be possibly amalgamating with Harmony # 26.

**Shekinah # 4**

This Chapter has a constant membership from year to year. No degrees have taken place since the return of meeting in Chapter. Educational papers are presented on a regular bases.

**Golden West # 5**

The District Superintendent visited this Chapter and commented on the small attendance. No report was given regarding the Chapter other than the report to the district was submitted. Although this Chapter is small in number, there is educational papers presented at each meeting. They have advanced two new MMM, received two MEM and exalted three brethren to the HRA.

**Hillvue # 15**

No report received from the district Superintendent.

**Harmony # 26**

No report from the district Superintendent regarding this Chapter. A letter from Harmony Chapter to the district Superintendent indicated they have only been able to meet once since Covid. At that meeting, they received the Grand First Principal. As it appears, Assiniboia # 3 will longer exist, it is hoped that those members from Assiniboia Chapter who wish to maintain their membership in the Royal Arch will be able to affiliate with Harmony Chapter.

All four district meetings have taken place.

It is recommended that the following district Superintendents receive their permanent title as Rt. Ex. Comp.

Rt. Ex Comp. Lemmons, Rt. Ex. Comp. Brown, Rt. Ex. Comp. Sigouin.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Ex. Comp. Don Gillies - Chairman

**Report on the Royal Arch Website**

The Website Committee Members are:  
Rt. Ex. Comp. Terry Gould – Chairman;  
Rt. Ex. Comp. Jack Drebit-Webmaster;  
Rt. Ex. Comp. Dave Roberts; &

Rt. Ex. Comp. Curtis Enerson

The Grand Chapter Website continues to demonstrate being an effective tool of the Grand Executive and our membership in Alberta and advertising Capitular Masonry to the world. At all times, sensitive material is available for members behind a password challenge. If you have difficulty with access, please contact any of the Committee members or the Grand Scribe E. Our Grand Webmaster continues to operate very quickly with uploading new material and pictures when provided. Companions and Chapters are encouraged to forward documents and jpg pictures to your respective representatives who will forward the information to the Grand Webmaster.

Planning for the future, we encourage interested Companions to contact the Chairman if you wish to join the committee and/or take over the responsibilities of Grand Webmaster or Chairman. We need to have replacements identified when the need arises, so please consider how you can support and expand the Grand Chapter website.

The Website not only provides current information on all Chapters and Grand Chapter business but continues to archive a digital historical record of Capitular Masonry in Alberta. The Website areas that are frequently used are:

- Downloadable/copying our Grand Chapter forms
- A Historical record of the Grand Chapter of Alberta's Annual Proceedings from inception
- The enhanced Grand District Superintendent's section that includes the approved 2022 revision of the GDS Manual and separate file storage sections for each District.
- Grand Chapter of RAM of Alberta's Constitution and Regulations
- Downloadable digital recording of the music for all Chapter degrees
- Explanations, references, and resource material for all York Rite Concordant Bodies

The Website Committee recommends an increase of \$100 to the annual budget resulting in an overall cost of \$1,300. This will pay the annual hard costs, (approx. \$650) and provide a modest allowance to the Webmaster for his work. Inflation has increased the hard costs and are paid in US funds. We thank the Companions in our Jurisdiction for having had the opportunity to administer and maintain this wonderful resource.

Fraternally submitted:  
Rt. Ex. Comp. Terry Gould

## **Report on Membership & Long-Range Planning Committee**

Firstly, as the members of this committee have a fairly broad view on Masonry in general and Royal Arch in particular it was hard to get to the facts. We found that the various experiences and situation we have encountered, lead us to believe there definitely is not just one issue, or more specifically just one solution. Ken Cameron has compiled numerous numbers relating to statistical evidence of what we are seeing in masonry. We also find that some of our Chapters and Lodges are not following those trends.

We believe that we need to have our District Superintendents not just do the official visits to the Chapters, and to collect data, but also to have more input from those members that are attending Royal Arch at the present time. We need to raise questions such as why did to come to Chapter tonight? Why do you continue to attend? What has changed in the last five years? These changes may not be the same in all Chapters. We know that many societal changes are driving our directions, those we can't stop. We can manage them to our benefit? The other questions that came up were, are all four Districts of Alberta Royal Arch Masonry feeling the same issues in the same ways?

Alberta Grand Chapter has used, in combination with the various Chapters and districts, various methods to manage the efforts of this Committee in the past. We have had the delivery of talks at open houses for Chapters, delivery of portions of our ritual that do not reveal any of our secrets, but do deliver the wonderful messages that we as Royal Arch Masons enjoy each and every time we hear the lectures and degrees delivered.

The Chapters that seem to be doing well are those who have a spokesman or a group of companions that attend the various craft lodges activities to deliver the Royal Arch message. We do profess in masonry the practice of visitation which only encourages future visitation with your Chapter and those Chapters you visit. The travelling Lantern is a good example of this, currently in District #3.

We must be careful when giving statistics as they do not always give a clear picture of what is happening. There are many things effecting these numbers but, we may use them as one of the tools to bring awareness of the situation. If we do not take the good with the bad and highlight the positive numbers we see in our Grand Chapter, and use those examples to build upon, then we are just self defeating. We saw a turnaround in the membership numbers of our Grand Chapter pre covid where our decline had slowed and our membership was actively participating in various events and activities. MEC Keng Wei Chiew just had a very successful Chinese New Years Event on January 28, 2023 in the name of Grand Chapter of Alberta RAM. The Companions, Masons and friends got behind this event and had a good time after our 2-year hiatus since that last one was held.

It is important to not forget our Craft Lodges, because as we state as masons, a strong foundation is most important to build a strong structure. Support your lodge and deliver the message of the Holy Royal Arch, when the situation is appropriate, and the time permits.

This Committee is just beginning it task as the Membership and Futures Committee for Grand Chapter RAM. We can not do this by our selves. E Comp. Ken Cameron, REC Bob Cantwell and I, are open to your ideas and suggestions. It may be impossible to implement them all, but the brain storming that we can do will help formulate ideas to build a bigger and vibrant Grand Chapter for us all.

Respectfully Submitted;  
MEC Duncan Strachan

## **11:00 PM – Registration & Balloting declared closed**

### **Report of the Regalia Committee**

The Grand Chapter Officer regalia is nearing completion of the renewal of the Aprons, Collars & Sashes. We still have a couple of Aprons & Collars that need to be examined by the Chairman of the Committee or the Grand Scribe E. Below you will note a spreadsheet outlining the condition of the regalia with ratings between 1 to 5, with 5 being new or excellent condition. The spreadsheet on the condition of the regalia indicates that five (5) aprons, three (3) collars and four (4) sashes need to be purchased to complete the renewal program for the Grand Chapter Officers regalia.

The Chairman of the Regalia Committee or the Grand Scribe E, will randomly examine the regalia annually at the Grand Chapter Convocation. Grand Chapter regalia is purchased through Canadian Masonic Supply of High River, Alberta, who in-turns purchases much of his supplies through a source in England.



We have had comments from the Grand Chapter of British Columbia & Yukon, that the Grand Chapter of Alberta Officers look very professional which has been attributed to the new regalia. This comment reflects very positively and we hope to continue with the restoration or replacement of regalia when the conditions arise.

**CONDITION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER APRONS & COLLARS - RATINGS 1 - 5**

| Office         | Apron | Condition | Legal | Replace | Collar | Condition | Legal | Replace | Sash | Replace |
|----------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|---------|------|---------|
| Grand First    | X     |           |       | No      | X      |           |       |         |      |         |
| Grand Second   | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 3         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| Grand Third    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| Grand Trea     | X     | 2         | Yes   | Yes     | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Scribe       | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| GDS Dist #1    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 3    | No      |
| GDS Dist #2    | X     | 5         | No    | Yes     | X      | 4         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| GDS Dist #3    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 4         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| GDS Dist #4    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 2         | No    | Yes     | 4    | No      |
|                | Apron | Cond      | Legal | Repla   | Coll   | Cond      | Legal | Replac  | Sash | Repla   |
| G Scribe N     | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 4         | Yes   | No      | 3    | Yes     |
| G Princip Soj  | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Historian    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Chaplain     | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Sr Sojourn   | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| G Jr Sojourn   | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| G D of C       | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Sword Bear   | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| G Registrar    | X     | 4         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 4    | No      |
| G Lecturers    | X     | 5         |       |         | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 2    | No      |
| G Organist     | X     | 0         | uk    | Yes     | X      | 0         | u/k   | Yes     | 0    | Yes     |
| G Puruivant    | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| G Piper        | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
| G Tyler (Sent) | X     | 5         | Yes   | No      | X      | 5         | Yes   | No      | 5    | No      |
|                | Apron | Condit    | Legal | Replace | Collar | Condit    | Legal | Replace | Sash | Replace |

Prepared Feb 11 2023

REC Curtis Enerson – Chairman  
Regalia Chairman 2022 - 2023

**Honours & Awards Committee**

This Committee consists of two Royal Arch Masons appointed by the Grand First Principal, with one of the Companions being appointed as Chairman. The Chairman has the option of selecting an assistant(s) for the purpose assisting the Committee in the preparation for the Annual Convocation. The Grand First Principal and the Grand Scribe E are also ex officio Companions of this committee.

The Grand Chapter Executive Committee approved a resolution at the February 2023 meeting to extend the nomination period for potential Alberta Distinguished Service Award candidates, to the end of February 2023, the normal cut-off is on the first of February and also that for 2023 only the Committee is to select three worthy recipients for the Award.

## **REPORT OF THE RESEARCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Interim report of the Chairman of the Research and Education committee and the Gr. Historian.

The Education committee has been working with the executive committee on a Chapter Walkabout Ceremony for Chapters to use as a follow-up to the RA degree. The original documents were used with permission of the Gr. Chapter of New York and it appeared to the committee that the whole Ceremony was similar in intent to the lectures from the York Rite EA degree and so we took the ritual and using the format of the New York document came up with the Alberta version of the Walkabout Ceremony.

The next step will be to have a couple of Chapters use the ceremony and provide feedback before developing the formal Ceremony to be presented for approval and implementation.

The committee is now working on an INTRODUCTION TO CAPITULAR MASONRY program. This course is intended to give those who have been elected to membership in a Chapter a basic understanding of the organization they have joined. This includes a brief review of the history of Capitular Masonry, and a high-level review of some of the key points in each of the four Degrees. The program is designed to be a workshop type program given following each of the degrees and finally concluding with the Chapter walkabout following the RAM degree.

MEC Knight has also provided the committee with a couple of papers that are being reviewed and hopefully will be available on the website in the near future.

The Gr. Historian has traveled with the Ex. First Principal on a number of his visitations and photos of those have been posted on the website.

I have also reached out to the Glenbow Western Research Centre at the University of Calgary where the archives of the Royal Arch Masons Grand Chapter of Alberta are located. I have had an initial response and obtained a link to the Archives and I am waiting to talk to one of the researchers to better understand how to access the Archives and what further documentation may be able to be stored there.

Respectfully Submitted - VEC Don Anderson

### **Report of the Gr. Historian Report of the committee on library, research and education**

To Most Ex. Comp. William Jeffrey (Jeff) Knight, the Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Alberta

As the Gr. Historian, I traveled with the Ex. First Principal on a number of his visitations and photos of those have been posted on the website. It was reassuring to see that almost every Chapter was providing an opportunity to present some education within the Chapter and of course on the days the Ex. First Principal was visiting he presented one of his papers.

I have also reached out to the Glenbow Western Research Centre at the University of Calgary where the archives of the Royal Arch Masons Grand Chapter of Alberta are located. I have had an initial response and obtained a link to the Archives and I am waiting to talk to one of the researchers to better understand how to access the Archives and what further documentation may be able to be stored there.

The Grand Chapter is still waiting for any material that RE Comp. Tapley may have had stored at his house and that may be able to be included in the Archives. Along this same line the I am encouraging the Chapters to update their Chapter histories that are stored online on the Gr. Chapter website and to digitize their records for ease of storage. I continue to work with the Grand Webmaster incorporating appropriate material within the website. This is a relationship that can only benefit the Chapters as they continue to use the website as the primary basis for information within the Gr. Chapter of Alberta.

The Committee on Library, research and education spent much of its time this year working with ME Comp. Knight on rewriting some educational papers from other jurisdictions to fit the Alberta model of York Rite Masonry. As some of these papers and programs came from the United States the rewrites were quite extensive with wording, officers and ritual changes that needed to be researched and reworked.

The CHAPTER WALK-ABOUT DOCUMENT has now been forwarded to some Chapters to present and to report back with comments and suggestions and hopefully it will be completely ready to go by the end of 2023.

The committee also worked providing feedback for ME Comp. Knight on the Royal Arch Degrees Introductory Lectures which are now posted on the Gr. Chapter webpage and have been used in a number of Chapters by both ME Comp. Knight and others providing Chapter education.

The committee is now working on an INTRODUCTION TO CAPITULAR MASONRY program. This course is intended to give those who have been elected to membership in a Chapter a basic understanding of the organization they have joined. This includes a brief review of the history of Capitular Masonry, and a high-level review of some of the key points in each of the four Degrees. The program is designed to be a workshop type program, given following each of the degrees and finally concluding with the Chapter walkabout following the RAM degree. This rewrite is proving quite extensive and the committee hopes to have it done by the end of the year.

It has been a relatively productive year after a couple of years of dormancy for the Gr. Historian and the Education Committee but hopefully the Gr. Executive committee will allow the committee to complete the work started in 2023 as these projects seem to be quite well received.

Respectfully Submitted  
VE Comp. Don Anderson  
Grand Historian

## **Report of the Grand Lecturers**

The Grand Chapter of Alberta had only one Grand Lecturer for 2022-2023. The Grand Lecture South was busy with providing Education to the Chapters and his services extended into the Lodges as well. When a presentation was made to the Lodges it was not for the purposes of promoting the Royal Arch. The Education presentations in the past years have been welcomed and greatly supported. We encourage the Chapter first, to groom some of their own Companions to make Education Presentation and also occasional look to have a Grand Lecturer make a presentation. We do have many learned Companions quite capable of make such presentation. Grand Lecturer North will be REC Bob Lemmens and we welcome him on board.

Jerry W. Kopp  
Grand Lecturer South

## **Final Credentials Committee Report**

**Credentials final report** was as follows:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| No. of Chapters Represented        | _____ |
| No. of Chapters not Represented    | _____ |
| No. of Companions in attendance    | _____ |
| No. of RAM Companions No vote      | _____ |
| No. of Ballots issued              | _____ |
| No. of Visiting Companions         | _____ |
| No. of First Principals            | _____ |
| No. of Second Principals           | _____ |
| No. of Third Principals            | _____ |
| No. of Past Grand First Principals | _____ |
| No. of Executives & GC Officers    | _____ |

**REC Ken Ionel – Grand Registrar moved and seconded by REC Dave Roberts that the Final Credentials Report be accepted.**

### **Future Convocations**

With the success of the 2022 Annual Convocation at the Cambridge Hotel, the Grand First Principal MEC Jeff Knight has chosen to return to the same hotel for 2023, which has been renamed the Red Deer Resort and Casino. Arrangement have already been made to hold the 2024 Annual Convocation at the same hotel. It is important that in the future venue planning, that venues selected should be done at least three years ahead of time, this makes to the planning that much easier.

### **General Business**