

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons  
In Virginia



Executive Order No. 1  
2020-2021

[This Executive Order shall be read in its entirety as soon as possible but **NOT LATER THAN THE NEXT STATED CONVOCATION** of your Chapter.]

Whereas Section 97 of the Digest states (in part) “Every Chapter shall hold at least one stated convocation in each month;” and,

Whereas many Chapters have not met because the required nine Companions have not been present, and, more recently, because of health concerns as a result of the COVID virus; and,

Whereas, many of our Companions do not attend because of distance, family obligations, medical conditions, or other travel restrictions;

Now, therefore, by my authority as Grand High Priest, and in order to strengthen our Chapters and Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia, I direct that the following actions be taken.

1. **In-Person Meeting:** Every Chapter shall attempt to have its usual in-person monthly meeting at its regular meeting place with the required minimum of nine Companions. **AND there shall be a Zoom component to that in-person meeting** using the following procedures. The Chapter shall conduct its opening ritual and then activate Zoom to allow Companions who cannot attend the Chapter meeting in person to participate and see/talk with their Companions. Using Zoom we can encourage more of the Companions to remain active in Royal Arch Masonry, be able to engage with their Companions, and participate in Chapter activities.

During the Zoom portion of the meeting, introductions, reports of sickness and distress, committee reports, educational programs, and discussions can be handled. The Zoom feature shall be disabled during degree work, and before the closing ritual. Balloting shall be conducted in accordance with the instructions promulgated by the Information Technology Committee.

2. **In-Person Zoom Meeting:** If the Chapter cannot open because nine companions are not present, the Zoom feature shall be activated and both the in-person and Zoom attendees counted to fulfill the nine Companion requirement to open the Chapter. In this case, the High Priest shall declare the Chapter and Council open in ample form without conducting the usual opening ritual. All business can be conducted, including voting, but there shall be no ritual or degree work. Balloting shall be conducted in accordance with the instructions promulgated by the Information Technology Committee.

- 3. Zoom Meeting:** If the High Priest decides that it is not practical to have an in-person meeting, he shall conduct a Zoom meeting, with every Companion able to join from his home, office, or from the Lodge. Similar to the in-person Zoom meeting combination, the High Priest shall declare the Chapter and Council open in ample form without conducting the usual opening ritual. All business can be conducted, including voting, but there shall be no ritual or degree work. Balloting shall be conducted in accordance with the instructions promulgated by the Information Technology Committee. The High Priest in this case must ensure compliance with Section 90 of the DIGEST OF THE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS IN VIRGINIA.

To assist the subordinate Chapters, I have appointed a new Grand Chapter Committee on Information Technology chaired by Right Excellent Emmett Pate, our Grand Webmaster. The Committee is charged with reviewing the existing Grand Chapter information technology infrastructure and website to determine how to modernize our current systems to increase their efficiency, security, and usefulness both to Grand Chapter and the subordinate Chapters. In this context, the Committee has prepared instructions for balloting and a tutorial for Chapters explaining how to use Zoom in a safe and efficient manner.

In general terms, Chapters would be able to utilize Grand Chapter's Zoom account. In order to restrict attendance to authorized Companions and to keep the meeting secure, an invitation shall be sent to the Chapter membership, and other Companions - for example, the Grand Line, DDGHP, District Team, and perhaps the other Chapters in the District - notifying them of the date and time of the Chapter meeting and asking them to register.

Once they register, they will be sent a link to allow them to enter the waiting room at the date and time of the meeting. One or more Companions shall monitor the waiting room, and only allow those who have registered and are known to be Royal Arch Masons to enter the meeting.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at the City of Richmond this 21st day of November, A.D. 2020. A.I. 2550.



Attest:

(sig) Wayne H. Anderson  
Wayne H. Anderson  
Grand Secretary

(sig) Edmund Cohen  
Edmund Cohen  
Grand High Priest