



# *Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia*

**James Paul Nunn**

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

April 14, 2025

To: The Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests, Grand Officers, District Deputy Grand High Priests, High Priests, and Members

From: James Paul Nunn, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Subject: Executive Order 2025-02

Companions all,

Prior to reading Executive Order 2025-02 to the membership of your Chapter, I wanted to take a few moments of your time to explain my rationale for this Order.

First, I am aware that this Executive Order may be considered controversial by some members of the Grand Chapter and will be lauded by others. In both cases, it is important that the membership, as a whole, realize that this order was not issued casually or in a vacuum. In drafting this order, I sought input and guidance from the Jurisprudence Committee, the Chair of the Committee on Work, and the Grand Council to ensure that both the approved ritual and Constitutions of the Grand Chapter in Virginia were respected at all times and deviations from either were thoroughly studied as to their possible impact to the operation of Subordinate Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Second, in discussions with members at various chapters regarding attendance at stated convocations, or more specifically, a member's decision to not attend a stated chapter meeting, one theme was recurrent. *"Will there be enough to open a chapter?"* A member's answer to this question decides whether he will give his time and efforts to attend a meeting of his chapter or elect to not attend. In many cases, especially in the western portion of the state, a chapter meeting cancelled due to lack of attendance, involves hours of driving, fuel cost, and most importantly time spent apart from the members family. Executive Order 2025-02 is intended to address this issue by allowing all chapters the flexibility to meet and conduct business with less than the required nine members.





It is my hope that this order be welcomed and utilized by Chapters that may be struggling with attendance. I have directed the Grand Secretary to issue this Executive Order to each Chapter holden under the Grand Chapter of Virginia, each secretary is directed to read this Executive Order at your next stated Convocation, and the members of the Committee on Work are directed to assist each chapter with implementing the Executive Order with the accompanying ritual. Once read and implemented in your Chapters, your labors are not complete. I further encourage all officers and members of your respective Chapters to reach out to members who may have not attended in recent months for fear of not opening and inform them of the implementation of this Executive Order, and while there may be other reasons why they may not attend, opening a Chapter should no longer be an issue.

Any questions, comments, and requests for interpretations regarding Executive Order 2025-02 and its associated ritual should be directed to your District Deputy Grand High Priest or District Lecturer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Paul Nunn".

James Paul Nunn  
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