



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia



Executive Order No. 5 2025-2026

**TO BE READ IN ALL SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AT THEIR NEXT STATED CONVOCATION
THEN SUMMARIZED AT ALL STATED CONVOCATIONS UNTIL MAY 31, 2026**

WHEREAS, it is a primary responsibility of the Grand Chapter to promote the welfare, prosperity, and efficient instruction of Capitular Masonry throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a unified, statewide Royal Arch Festival offers an unparalleled opportunity for Companions from diverse Districts to gather in fellowship, witness the Degrees conferred with uniformity and solemnity, and inspire a renewed commitment to the principles of the Royal Arch; and

WHEREAS, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest is vested with the authority to oversee the Craft and issue Dispensations for special purposes during the recess of the Grand Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the Digest of Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia permits the holding of Festivals for the purpose of efficient Degree conferral;

NOW, THEREFORE, I KYLE WILLIAM STRICKLAND, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, do hereby AUTHORIZE, ESTABLISH, AND REQUIRE a Statewide Royal Arch Festival to be held under the following provisions:

- 1. The Festival shall be held at Richmond Washington RAC No. 3 – 9 (Manchester Masonic Temple) on Saturday, June 13, 2026.**
- 2. This Festival shall be convened and presided over by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and/or his duly appointed representative(s), and shall operate under the direct authority and control of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia.**
- 3. Richmond Washington RAC No. 3 – 9 shall be designated as the “Host Chapter” and shall record and disseminate all appropriate minutes and information.**

- 4. Section 67 (d) of the Digest of Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia which sets out the method and manner of Royal Arch Festivals, shall be duly observed noting the following:**
 - 1. No balloting shall be permitted at this called convocation; all candidates must have been elected at a Stated Convocation of the Chapter of which they have petitioned prior to the festival.**
 - 2. Each Chapter with candidates must present a letter from their Chapter listing the names of each of their candidates verifying that they have been elected to receive the degrees, paid all fees, and the Chapter has granted the use of courtesy work as laid out in Section 122(b).**
 - 3. Chapters with participating Candidates shall furnish all appropriate items including Chapter Pennies, Mark Sheets, and other items as may be appropriate.**
 - 4. Each Chapter participating shall have at least one member present to assist the Candidate(s).**
 - 5. A copy of the minutes with a list of all participating candidates will be promptly furnished to all Chapters with Candidates.**
 - 6. All Capitular and Cryptic Degrees shall be conferred on one day at the Festival.**
 - 7. The Lesson of the Mark shall be conferred on one Exemplar with the rest of the candidates observing and receiving the explanation of the Lesson of the Mark.**
- 5. Section 67 (d) of the Digest concerning the Lesson of the Mark is hereby set aside for the duration of this Royal Arch Festival.**

By this executive order I do hereby grant Dispensation for the conferral of the Degrees at a Festival one more than three candidates at the date, time and location specified herein in accordance with Section 67 (d) of the Digest and the provisions of this Executive Order.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at the City of Chesapeake, this 1st day of December, A.D. 2025, A.I. 2555 and in the Two-Hundred and Eighteenth year of our Grand Chapter.




Kyle William Strickland
Grand High Priest

Attest:


Wayne H. Anderson
Grand Secretary