



New Mexico Supplement

2020 General Order 02
March 30 2020



D.W. Winchester, PGC
Grand Commander

To: The Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico and the Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Jurisdiction of New Mexico.

Sir Knights:

In order to comply with the MWB Ralph Easley's Edict No. 1 of no typed masonic communications during the Coronavirus and maintain comradery within our organization, the following order is in effect until further notice.

The world, national and state health agencies have declared an emergency due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Social distancing measures are being enforced and suggested at all levels to help stem the impact (slow the spread) to both allow our scientists to develop vaccines and treatment and to mitigate the impact to our medical facilities. While the nominal effects of the virus on an individual may not be more than most experience when they get the flu, our ability to treat it appropriately is the question driving these declarations. Further, it is impacting the largest generation of Americans (and age group of Masons) most – those over 60 years of age. In response, Most Worshipful Grand Master Ralph A. Easley has issued an Edict for all Masonry in New Mexico to cease all meetings and events related to Masonry. I hereby authorize Dispensations that would normally be required to be considered approved. It is also stated that the regular duties not involving meetings of the Brethren should be maintained. On Sunday, March 15, 2020, the Grand Heads of the York Rite Bodies in New Mexico met and agreed to the [dissemination of] the follow-

ing (General Order from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of USA Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Commander will cover the Councils and Commanderies):

1. The Grand Master's Edict governs our bodies.
 - a. No Chapters [Commanderies] are allowed to meet and no Festivals are to take place.
2. Grand Sessions is postponed indefinitely and will be re-scheduled when the Grand Master's Edict is either rescinded or allows for such to be planned.
3. We will act in support of the Grand Lodge, General Grand Chapter [Grand Encampment], and most importantly our Companions [and Sir Knights] to navigate this circumstance.

This is a time for the resilience of our gentle Craft to shine. Keep yourselves and your families safe and healthy, help Companions in need when possible, and give due attention to the prevailing circumstances of your communities.

D.W. Winchester, PGC
Grand Commander

Keep the Path to Jerusalem Safe

During this time of uncertainty in every corner, our traditions, institutional knowledge and trust is our strength - and we can share it! Not only should we all continue to “meet” but we should ensure that our lessons are noticeable to those around us. The follow up to the Edict allows (actually encourages) meeting electronically! What a time to discuss the work of your Commandery, plan for the future, share knowledge, and keep in touch with everyone (Cabin Fever is real, and a call from a Fellow Soldier can do some good!).

Please don't hesitate to contact the Grand Recorder if you would like to use Zoom - the Grand York Rite has a “pro” account, so you can schedule more than 40 min., and we will help you get it running so you can meet virtually with the Commandery! Reach out for assistance, but most of all, stay in touch!

Photo by Michele Balke

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