



Wyoming Supplement

Jack C. Cook, Grand Commander

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Companions and Sir Knights

As Grand High Priest, I want to thank Grand Commander Cook for allowing me to address you in this supplement. I would like for you to know what is happening with your Wyoming Grand Chapter and what has led up to some of the changes taking place. As I progressed up this line, I found myself wondering what my duties were and what was expected of the Grand Chapter. Is this a title only position? We did not meet outside of Grand Session. We did not have any responsibilities. What was our role?

I have said several times that I would not take on a responsibility if I was not able to give it the attention, time and dedication it deserves. I made it clear when I took on the position of Executive Officer for DeMolay, I would only be able to do it for a few years as I was already committed to the obligations that were made previous to that appointment. The same is true in accepting the honor of being your Grand High Priest, knowing things needed to change. The past year taught us, we need to be ready to make decisions, adapt at a moment's notice and be ready to Zoom instead of opening in a regular meeting. We must find a way to move forward.

This year the Grand Chapter officers were given a list of Chapters and a Past Grand High Priest with whom to communicate. This should get them some insight to build on and prepare the Grand officer to become Grand High Priest. We should have a better idea of the successes and challenges in our local Chapters. The responsibility of the Chapter to the Grand officer is to communicate with them. We need to know what they are doing that may be working so we can share it with those who are struggling. We need to be aware of those

who are struggling, find ways to help, aid and assist them. We are only as strong as our weakest link. If the Chapter cannot meet in person, they are to join them via any electronic means they will be using. If they are not able to, or do not have the capability to meet electronically, we need to help them. They should be talking on a regular basis with the local High Priests at a minimum. Communication with Past Grand High Priests will help them come up with direction, ideas and develop them into a better leader for our future. We must always be ready to receive to the attentive ear the lessons we may learn from an instructive tongue. This should be an ongoing part of our journey through life.

Last year in Wyoming forty-four percent of Masons in our state were Scottish Rite. Forty-two present were Shriners. Twenty-seven percent were York Rite. Our twenty-seven percent are Masons who remain continually active in the Blue Lodge with several who are, as I call them, members of the choir belonging to many of the appendant bodies. We need to improve our awareness. We need to let Masons know who we are. I have asked all current and past Grand officers to wear their red coats to their lodge meetings during the month of January. We hope this will start a dialogue by the members asking questions about the jacket, leading into what we are about. It is my hope Most Eminent Grand Master will ask for the purple jacket to be worn in February and Commandry Class B jackets in March. This is a simple way to let others know we are here.

We have joined with the other Masonic bodies helping to build awareness for Freemasonry. We need to build our Blue Lodges. I hope you will pass on ideas you may have and items you will see coming out from this endeavor to those who are not Masons. We still need to be ever vigilant to guard the West gate. There are quality men out there who would be a great addition to our family. They would benefit from our teachings. This could bring on a better, stronger community and Freemasonry as a whole.

Yours in Faith

Timothy D Forbis, Grand High Priest