



## Wyoming Supplement

Jack C. Cook, Grand Commander

T. Mark Mickelson, PGC, Editor  
PO Box 219, Big Piney, WY 83113-0219 307-413-5024  
e-mail: tmark711@hotmail.com

This March message is being written in December, and my crystal ball is not working to well so I am not sure where we are in our struggle to have meetings and save our order. In a normal year we would be congratulating our new companions and Sir Knights that had received their degrees and orders in the Southwest Festival, the central Wyoming Festivals in Casper and Riverton. I would also be reminding you about the Sheridan Festival this month.

In November we received the long-awaited General Order 14 from Grand Encampment, and as this finally allowed us to meet in Commandery there was confusion in the asylum due to the plethora of accompanying phases and guidelines. While sorting out the meanings, and if and how we could have meetings, a new wave or surge in COVID 19 hit the country. Wyoming's Grand Master of Masons chose to give lodges and other Masonic bodies the choice to meet or go dark by issuing a blanket dispensation.

Some of my visits were canceled because I tested positive and had to stay in home quarantine until I got better. Finally, by determination of the County health authority I was released to once again carefully to re-enter society. Some of my visits were canceled because the local bodies had chosen to go dark. During this time to, help keep our members safe I chose to rescind the general order for Inspectors' General travel to make visits and I rescinded the general order to hold Christmas Observances. I also sent out letters to each constituent Commandery saying that, if they choose to go dark, they need to have a plan on how they were going to stay in communication with their members. I suggested calling committees, conference calls, zoom, or whatever they could come up with. Our biggest problem always has been communication even in the best of times. Our need to communicate with our members during these troubling times is paramount, are they OK, healthy, do they need help in getting groceries, meds, or just the reassurance

there is someone out there who cares enough to call and check on them. Loneliness and fear are more dangerous to us as Masons and as a society than the pandemic itself. By the way, I have received nothing in response. Cheyenne York Rite has continued business meetings by telephone conference calls and maintains a monthly newsletter.

If the reports of the progress on immunizations is proceeding as it is hoped to be, we as a Country should begin to see some relief and some hope. The world may still be fighting the infection but, bit by bit I hope we are seeing a glimmer of hope on the horizon.

Now I ask you what did you do to keep connected to your Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights. When safe to gather in two's and three's, did you call everyone to check on their health and their needs. Did you make repairs to temple and paraphernalia? Did you go shovel walks of the elderly? What did you do for your members or the community to help? We wave our banner and claim that we are Followers of Christ, we carry the light to battle the darkness. We should not hide our light under a bushel, but let our light so shine as to glorify our Father in Heaven.

As March signals the beginning of spring and the hope of rebirth to come to the world, so let it be with us. Stay safe, stay vigilant, offer hope to the those who need it!

Yours in Faith  
Jack C Cook REGC