

**The Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons  
Jurisdiction of South Carolina**



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June 2, 2020

**PROCLAMATION**

To: Excellent High Priests, Past Excellent High Priests, Kings, Scribes, Grand Chapter Officers, and Companions of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, Jurisdiction of South Carolina; Greetings!

**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**

By the authority in me vested, I, Larry A. Johnson, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of The Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, do with this proclamation give official notice of the cancellation of our annual session scheduled for October 29-31, 2020. The 2020 August planning meeting, the statewide exaltation, and the Red and

White Ball have also been cancelled or postponed. It is our plan to schedule the Red and White Ball for August 2021. Look for more information in the coming months.

We had several concerns with trying to host our annual session. They include readiness of the hotel to provide services with the proper health guidelines, our ability to maintain distancing requirements, and most importantly the health and wellbeing of our members. We are looking forward to the new year (2021) with our January planning meeting, the April Midyear session, August planning meeting, and our annual session in October. All of these plans are conditional upon the control of this COVID-19 pandemic.

### OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

In compliance with the Grand Chapter Constitution, Article 4, section 5; the elected Officers of this Grand Chapter will continue to hold their respective positions and discharge their duties until an election is scheduled or until the next annual session.

In compliance with the Grand Chapter Constitution, Article 8, Section 20 and 21, all subordinate chapter officers will remain in their respective positions. While we encourage use of social media to allow for communications with your members, elections will not be permitted until we are allowed to assemble together in a regular meeting.

### REGISTRATION

All members registered for the April session should have received refunds in the mail. If you have not received your refund, please contact Companion John Reeves at 803-261-4152.

### ANNUAL REPORT AND DUES

Please note that the annual report of each chapter is due to the Grand Secretary by October 10, 2020. I ask that each High Priest and Secretary communicate with the membership and collect the dues for this year. We encourage you to use social media, written communications, calls, and/ or texts to collect from your membership. I know that the chapters may still have expenses that require payment. Your Grand Chapter still has expenses as well.

While we are expecting everyone to pay their dues, we are aware that some of our companions may have been severely affected by the statewide shutdown. Therefore, we are waiving Grand

Chapter dues for members who have been unemployed for 60 days or longer because of the pandemic. Proof of unemployment for each member must accompany the annual report. Please note that this waiver is for Grand Chapter dues only. Any changes in amounts owed to your local chapter will be the decision of the officers and members of each chapter. We simply ask that the \$17.00 due to the Grand Chapter be deducted from the amount collected. Again, proof of unemployment must be presented before the reduction of dues.

The dues for the Order of High Priesthood were due in April. Many of you have not paid the \$6.00 to this order. We are asking the chapters to collect this money and pay by separate check to the Order of High Priesthood and mail to the Grand Secretary. Please attach a type written or neatly printed list of the Past High Priests in your Chapter with the total amount due. Again, dues will be waived for unemployed Past High Priest with the required documents.

### DEATH NOTICES

The pandemic and the health rules associated with it have prevented us from meeting and performing the rites for our departed companions. However, we still have the obligation to submit the donation to the companion's beneficiary. I know that communications are limited, so we will be adjusting our requirements for the present conditions. Until further notice, if a death certificate cannot be obtained, please attach a copy of the funeral program or a copy of the obituary from the newspaper or funeral home's website to the death notice form and mail it to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible. The forms are on the website.

### CHAPTER OPERATIONS

As stated earlier in this correspondence, I encourage all efforts by the High Priest to communicate with the membership. Many of our chapters have new members to bring in and some of you have already started your degree work. We all understand that we must hold off on the initiation process until the distancing orders have been removed.

On that same note, there are instances where decisions must be made to ensure that the business of the Chapter is properly handled. I ask the High Priest to confer with his Council and perform the duties as required by your circumstances. According to our Governor, we may meet in small groups as long as masks are worn and you have space for social distancing. Your District Deputy is available to assist you in any way necessary. Each District has two Deputies. The District Deputy and the Special Deputy. Their duties will be the same as always, but each district has its

particular needs and the responsibilities of each deputy will be adjusted accordingly. A list of deputies is included in this mailing.

### RITUALS, PRINTED MATERIAL & COMPUTER ACCESS

The amount that we pay for rituals has increased. The rituals will now be \$20.00 per book and we encourage pickup from the Grand secretary if possible. If the rituals have to be shipped, \$2.50 will be added to the cost of each ritual and the minimum number of rituals that will be shipped is ten. The degree pamphlets remain at \$7.00 per set. Contact the Grand Secretary for additional information.

The Grand Chapter will pay the licensing fees for all chapters and deputies this year. We encourage each chapter to have a member become knowledgeable with the Glass System. We also ask all deputies to get access to the system as well. Please contact Deputy Grand High Priest, Jerome Brooks for additional information.

It is not enough that we have to deal with the health problems caused by this virus: we must also continue to live with systematic racism by law enforcement and government leaders. Protesting is our right and an appropriate way to express our concerns and demands. However, under the leadership of people like the late Rev. Martin Luther King, we know that peaceful demonstrations are the most effective means available. Please share with your communities to stay away from those who promote violence and destruction. This is not the way an honorable black man would behave and it is definitely not proper Masonic behavior. Let us all pray for our people and our country.

Companions, this concludes the information for this communication. I pray that all of you and your families are safe and well. If there is the desire to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so. I am here to offer my services to you. I also ask you to please look after your fellow Companions. Remember that a Companion is closer than a brother. Let us reinforce that concept. All contact numbers are listed in our letterhead.

Again, May God continue to bless us all.

Fraternally yours,

*Larry A. Johnson*

Larry A. Johnson

M.E. Grand High Priest

*Ricardo J. Mungo*

Ricardo J. Mungo

R.E. Grand Secretary

