



Wyoming Supplement

Jack C. Cook, Grand Commander

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Greeting Companions,

I would like to thank Right Eminent Grand Commander Jack C. Cook for giving me this opportunity to place an article in the Wyoming section of the Knights Templar magazine.

I hope your Councils are able to meet; I know it is hard with the COVID-19 restrictions. Wyoming Masons have a lot going on this time of year with the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. Winter Reunion, York Rite Festivals and various other masonic activities on the horizon.

I have been impressed with the dedication of the Companions I have been with during my official visits of our Councils. I have visited 3 Councils and cancelled a few of my future visits, as the COVID-19 has increased in a few areas I had scheduled. This was done because of our older Companions as well as me being high risk. During the meeting of the first Council I visited, the Recorder read two petitions for membership. Both were new and “younger” Masons, ideal candidates for the York Rite Bodies.

My push this year along with the MEGHP and REGC is education. If you remember when I was the MEGHP, I passed out the Grand Chapter Education Course which I have found is being used by several Chapters. I would hope all of you use it. This year I am giving each Council a copy of the *Cryptic Masonry Education Course* and *Instructors Guide*. I would suggest each Illustrious Master assign a Companion as their education “chairman” and present a subject at each meeting for discussion. If you ask around especially the younger Companions you will find they want to learn

about Masonry, more than what they went through when initiated into the York Rite. A lot of the older members also want education when they go to a meeting. Why don't older Companions attend? Because all we normally do is open the meeting, read the minutes, pay bills, close, have coffee and go home. If you cannot meet in person, you have other avenues, such as zoom, face to face on iPads, even use of emails and texts. So, let's give them education about Royal and Select Masters.

I would like to say that Zoom meetings are a new experience. I have attended virtual meetings for General Grand Council Triennial as well as the General Grand Chapter Triennial. This is an experience when you realize you are meeting with 100's of Companions all over the world. Zoom meetings are a great tool when you are spread all over our great State.

I would like to encourage all Companions to check on our elderly Companions, see how they are doing and if there is anything you might be able to do for them. I have found that most are just excited to hear from a member of a Lodge or a York Rite member. Some want to know what is happening if there are meetings. Also check to see if there is anything an elderly Brother and Companion may need. I even send emails to Masonic friends in other states to see how they are doing. You do not realize how much travelling you do until you cannot travel to Masonic meetings and interact with your friends and Brothers. I hope all Companions are having an exceptionally good start in this new year. Let us focus on education and helping our Blue Lodges get new members. When our Lodges get new members, we get new members.

It has been an honor to serve you this year.

Stay positive – stay healthy – stay safe,

James L. Sturdevant
Most Illustrious Grand Master