Information to be included in York Rite Opportunities must be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month to the Assistant Grand Secretary/Recorder, James S. McNeely, 23 Ariel Way, Avon, CT 06001 or jsmcneely@msn.com. NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.

Upcoming Events:

9/11-12  Northeast York Rite Conference  Virtual
9/23-30  General Grand Chapter & General Grand Council Triennial  (Cancelled in-person)
9/26  General Grand Council Triennial Assembly  Virtual

FROM THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

Companions,

Companions
I’m sure you have heard the following words many times during the last few months: Unprecedented, Uncertainty and Uncharted Waters. That being said, The Grand Chapter is aware that many Chapters can’t wait to get back into the quarries. Some have petitions you need to act on and candidates that are ready to move up in Degrees. We are here to help and advise you so you can get back to work. Following the State and Grand Lodge rules and regulations you will be able to open your Chapter either “in person” or through a” Legal Virtual Zoom” format. The “in person” will follow the guidelines with self-certifying/certifying and be able to proceed with work. “Legal Zoom Meetings” is another alternative and most likely the way to proceed. I say this since many Chapters already have issues getting nine to open and with Covid-19, many Chapters having older members, may simply might not want to attend a meeting. The Legal Zoom meetings will allow you to open and close extremely simple and conduct business along with balloting on a petition. The balloting would require a “paid account” and PMEGHP James McNeely has graciously offered Chapters to use his paid account and he will be the host. For those of you who have been involved in Zoom meetings the attendance has been very good with many Companions from all over the country enjoying the meeting from the safety of their home. There will be no ‘Virtual Degrees’ all degrees will be in person at Chapter following the State and Grand Lodge rules and regulations with social distancing, masks etc. The Royal Arch Degree will not be portrayed at this time until further notice. The plan may be either at the end of the year or early next year (we don’t have a crystal ball so this is a plan at this time) to possibly have a Royal Arch Degree festival to play ‘catch up’ for the candidates to be able to move on to Council. The Royal Arch Degree is an involved and wonderful degree. We
don’t want to spoil the experience having the candidate “imagine” what’s happening. We want them to “experience” like the rest of us what is happening. More information will be sent and you are always welcome to contact me or the Grand Secretary William Miller for any additional questions you may have.
I would like to conclude with my message: Educate and Welcome All.
I am requiring all Chapters to whether they are meeting in person or via Zoom to have a few minutes of Chapter education. I am also requiring all High Priests to Welcome everyone in attendance.

Fraternally,
Jeff Flynn, MEGHP

FROM THE MOST PUISANT GRAND MASTER

Greetings Companions,

I hope that you, your families and brothers are doing well in these trying times. It feels a little more surreal than usual, having been elected at a virtual Zoom meeting a week ago to be your Most Puissant Grand Master. I have already attended my first out of state meeting, virtually, at the Grand Council of Vermont. Hopefully, we can all be meeting in person soon for the fall.

As we go through these interesting times, I would ask that the Councils please include your Grand officers on your mailing lists as well as on any links for virtual meetings. We need to stay strong and in contact so that we can continue our labor in the SV and continue to bring our degrees to our brethren. This year, I plan on continuing to build upon the message I put forth as Grand High Priest that we need to make sure that all our Blue Lodge brethren know that they are welcome in the Chapter and Council, and that through our degrees they will receive the true word and grip of a Master Mason and receive the complete Hiramic Legend. As our numbers continue to fall, we need to remember that there are still 1000s of our brothers who have not yet received further light in the York Rite.

I urge all Councils to look at providing education to your members, and even if you are not doing degrees and/or are meeting on the same night as your Chapter to still make time for some study. Following on from my previous recommendation of the Capitular Development Course for Chapter, I recommend the Cryptic Masonry Education Course (both are easily available from Amazon at a reasonable price). There is no reason for those companions having combined meetings not to have a combined education night.

As we come out of the pandemic, we need to provide incentives for our companions to return to the SV and education can be one of those.
Our inspection schedule will be flexible and will be adjusted as necessary pending any future meeting restrictions and Grand Lodge guidelines. Now, not to sound like the school teacher I once was, but you all now have plenty of time to study up on your ritual (☺), and should have no problem, right? More seriously, please focus on the dramatic portions of the ritual, and if lectures need to be read, then just make sure they are well read. We are the guardians of the SV and we are the glue that holds the other YR degrees together with the knowledge of how those treasures came to be secreted in the SV, to be found during the clearing of the rubble for the second Temple.

In closing, I wish you and yours continued good health, and I look forward to visiting you all in person over this coming year. Remember, that you are privileged to wear an apron bordered in purple, being a due mix of blue and scarlet, showing that the Council when united with the Lodge and Chapter form and complete that circle of perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry.

From the Crypt to the Light!

Fraternally,
Martin Ede, MPGM

FROM THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

Sir Knights,

Here we are now into August and at this point I hope that you are all enjoying your summer. I know that we have been spending as much time outdoors as possible including at the swimming pool. Currently, the best guidance that I have is for all the Sir Knights to enjoy this time with their families, good book, or whatever other
fun activity you have put off for far too long.

As we look toward September and the fall, I encourage every Commandery to continue to plan but until further notice to make sure to plan for it to be done virtual, per General Order #12 from the Grand Encampment. Along those lines the Northeast Department Conference and the Leadership program that was scheduled for September 11 & 12 will now be held via Zoom as will all of the Department Conferences and Leadership seminars through December. Lastly, I remind each of you that until further notice there is to be no in-person activities but we will continue to adjust as the situation changes.

Until I see you down the road or on Zoom…

Faith Family Fellowship

James McNeely  KTCH, KCT
Grand Commander

Northeast Department Conference

The Commandery sessions will be held virtually on Saturday, September 12th. The emerging leaders classes will be held virtually on Friday and Saturday with registrations being handled by Lane Pierce.

The Chapter and Council sessions will be held on Friday, September 11th by way of a Zoom Meeting. The conference will begin at 8:30 and will start with Chapter presentations. After lunch will be the Council presentations with the conference planned to conclude by 3:00. We have invited R.E. Steven Tiner, General Grand King and R. P. Monty Glover, Deputy General Grand Master to lay out their plans for the next triennial. We are also planning updates on RARA and CMMRF. The remainder of the session will be for the various jurisdictions to share how they have handled the pandemic and plans and ideas for the future.

We ask that you share this information to interested Companions within your jurisdiction. All participants are asked to send an email to mirwin@meitrading.com and give your name jurisdiction and title in the email. I ask that all registrations be submitted by September 9th. You will then receive an email with the information related to the Zoom sessions.

Internet/Email Scam

Companions and Sir Knights,

It has come to my attention that I am being impersonated on emails that are phishing for replies etc. If an email comes from my name, the only email addresses I use are as follows: mede@snet.net and martin.ede32@gmail.com, if there is a different email to these attached to my name it is not from me and is fake. Remember if it smells like a phish, it probably is. Email me at the listed addresses or call or text me at 203-671-9820 if you are unsure. I will never send out links for you to click on, I won't ever ask for gift cards, phone cards, or ever be stuck in foreign countries needing money etc.

Fraternally,
Martin

This same scam has been attempted by using the names of several of our various Grand Officers including Flynn, Kleinkauf, Chello, O’Neill, McNeely, and Passera. Please remain vigilant to these scams and if concerned please contact the Companion who is named in the email.
From the Grand Secretary/Recorder

New revised ritual books are now available from the Grand Secretary. Chapter books are $7 each, and we are pleased that the Council books are now only $4 each. They contain the ritual changes that were adopted in both bodies in 2018. Previous editions of the rituals are still usable, since the changes are very minor.

From the Editor

Every month I will include not only the items that were submitted by the Heads of the Three Bodies but also Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies. If other York Rite bodies submit information, I will also include that as well. Lastly, if non-York Rite bodies submit relevant items and there is space, I will gladly publish those items as well.

If there is any Companion that would like to have Opportunities directly emailed to themselves on a monthly basis please send me an email.

YORK RITE WEB-SITES
Grand Chapter RAM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcram
Grand Council R&SM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcrsm
Grand Commandery KT of CT: http://www.gcktct.org/
Common to all three YR bodies: www.yorkritect.org

Directories, Opportunities, Proceedings, Addresses, Contact Information and downloads for petition and scholarship applications on these sites.