



District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim

June 2020

Dear Companions, I hope this finds you and your family well and adjusting to the strange and challenging times we have been living through in the last four months. Covid-19 Coronavirus has impacted on all our lives in terms of health, employment, freedom of movement and choices we would otherwise have in an open and free society.

Unfortunately, there have been a few deaths of Companions from Covid-19. I express my sympathy, and that of District Grand Chapter, to all Companions and families who have been bereaved. They will be remembered at thanksgiving services in their respective churches in the future and at a special service as part of our next District Grand Chapter convocation. In the meantime, the thoughts and prayers of your District Officers are with those companions and families who have suffered loss. I would take this opportunity to ask chapter Registrars to keep your District Registrar apprised of any serious illness or demise afflicting any Companions or their families.

I want to congratulate the many Companions who have been involved in raising funds and donating both funds and P.P.E. to our local N.H.S. and Nursing Homes. Many Companions have also offered support to their local communities, Senior Companions and Widows. This is Freemasonry at work. Keep up the good work.

It would be remiss of me if I did not also acknowledge the work undertaken in dangerous circumstances by those Companions and their families who are supporting society as essential workers, Doctors in our N.H.S. , health teams in the public and private sector, Police Officers transport operatives delivering food or essential services through to the smiley face behind the mask serving in your local food store. Thank you all.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter have agreed that all Companions elected or appointed to office to serve for the year 2020 will continue in office until the end of 2021. This will eliminate the requirement for the election of Officers for 2021. While this applies to subordinate Chapters and District Grand Chapter there are

(078 4099 3087) DGRAC Office, Freemasons' Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast BT1 4FF
Email: info@dgracantrim.org • www.dgracantrim.org

District Grand King
M. E. Comp. Jon. McA. Pollock

District Deputy Grand King
R. E. Comp. Thomas J. McCurley

District Assistant Grand King
R. E. Comp. W. James Lynch



District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim

always exceptional circumstances, and these will be dealt with on an individual basis. Registrars will receive details of how to submit the Annual Return in due course.

The work of District Chapter has continued. I, along with Senior Officers, have embraced new technology and have held our meetings by Zoom.

The District Grand Treasurer has now issued Annual Invoices and payment should be made by 30 September 2020. The various overheads in administrating District Chapter continue, so consequently the decision to issue invoices. If District Grand Chapter obtains from Supreme Grand Chapter any advice or direction in respect of future dues and Chapter finances, we will implement those recommendations.

The question, of course, everyone is asking is “When can we meet again as a Chapter”. I wish I had the answer. While several lockdown measures have been eased there is no information to help us. The Government and N.I. Executive will obviously take the medical and scientific advice and make an announcement in respect of public meetings. This will be considered by Supreme Grand Chapter who will look at the prevailing circumstances, no doubt at our membership age profile and the places where we meet and when we receive their decision I will immediately pass it on to you. We must always protect the health, safety and welfare of our Companions and families and this we intend to do

As we continue with the new dispensation Covid has produced and as we live our daily lives and perhaps meet new people in very different circumstances as for instance as we perform charity work in the community we may well identify prospective Royal Arch Masons or candidates for the order. That is for the future. For the present enjoy the summer but most importantly STAY SAFE.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

J Mac Pollock

District Grand King.

(078 4099 3087) DGRAC Office, Freemasons' Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast BT1 4FF
Email: info@dgracantrim.org • www.dgracantrim.org

District Grand King
M. E. Comp. Jon. McA. Pollock

District Deputy Grand King
R. E. Comp. Thomas J. McCurley

District Assistant Grand King
R. E. Comp. W. James Lynch