



# Grand Chapter

## Royal Arch Masons of Wisconsin

John M. Pratt, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Companions,

As is well documented and so often discussed, membership in Royal Arch Masonry continues to decline. There are several reasons for our dwindling ranks.

First, is that Freemasonry as a whole has continued to be on the decline for many, many years. It's simple math: the larger the Fraternity, the larger Capitular Masonry. The Northern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite has put together excellent materials which all Masonic Bodies may use to recruit new Masons. We need to utilize this resource, not for the purpose to recruit solely and ultimately for our Order; but to grow the ranks of Freemasonry, without favor to any of its Bodies. Only in this way will all Masonic Organizations grow and prosper.

Second is a failure to create new Companions faster than we are losing them to death and apathy. Again, the math isn't difficult. We must be active in our Symbolic Lodges. All Royal Arch Masons need to be well versed in who we are, what we do, our Charities and the Continuing Light we provide. Being so armed, each Companion could easily be able to give a 5 - 10 minute presentation, off the top of his head, at any time.

Third, and most importantly, we have failed to provide value for our members and give them a positive environment to grow and prosper in Royal Arch Masonry, as well as all of Masonry. In the April, 2018 edition of Knight Templar magazine, Sir Knight Robert W. Bruneaut accurately summarized this issue.

*Today there is no philosophical discussion and there are no lessons brought forth on the alleged values promoted by the fraternity. Today the fraternity is consumed with its ritualistic protocol and mutual back patting among those who are in agreement with the leaders. "You will get more out of it than you put in." That's a common statement heard at virtually every initiation I have ever attended, and it is generally untrue, since most of time you will get nothing out of it. Consequently, if you put anything at all into it, it is more than you will ever get out of it. You will rarely have a mentor, and the lessons mentioned during your initiation are rarely expounded upon or expanded, so that if you do not read, your initiation will be your sole introduction to the values and virtues inculcated by the fraternity.*

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin has begun an excellent program to address this problem. It is time we do the same. This year we are bringing education and discussion our Lodges and Chapters. Each Grand Chapter Officer has materials to shine our Continuing Light on our Brethren. Please help by arranging a presentation with your Lodge Officers. And please, attend your Chapter's Convocations and learn that Royal Arch Masonry is more than four degrees and business meetings.

Fraternally Yours with Brotherly Love and Affection,

Most Excellent Companion Brian J. Hudry, Grand Secretary  
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