

## *A Message from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest*

Astronomy is one of the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences we are encouraged to study. The total solar eclipse, which was visible for a seventy-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina on August 21, only lasted for a little over 2 minutes, but it was an awesome experience to witness. Having witnessed partial eclipses numerous times before, the total eclipse was a unique occasion and observing it was worth the time and effort. It also reminded me that many Companions experience a partial eclipse of the Capitular degrees instead of the total eclipse they should receive as they become Royal Arch Masons. Good ritual is important and should be conferred in a professional manner to assure a total eclipse experience.

Grand Chapter continues to be encouraged by the enthusiasm of the membership, the increased interest in the ritual, and regalia updating in many Chapters. The Schools of Instruction are active and providing important leadership for ritual work. The results have increased the awareness of Grand Chapter and reinforces the importance of Royal Arch Masonry within the Masonic Fraternally.

Chapters should be aware that Annual Reports, due in January, need to be submitted on time. Grand Chapter cannot accept non-performance in this Constitutional duty. Many Chapters have been delinquent in this requirement for assorted reasons. This information is necessary to provide reports for Grand Officers to analyze the conditions of Royal Arch Masonry, make recommendations, and implement actions for improvement.

Membership continues to be a priority and we continue to develop promotion material for the Chapters to use. Hopefully, we will be on-line with the Grand Lodge membership system soon.. This conversion has taken much longer than anticipated and continues to be a priority for the Grand Chapter office.

All Chapters should have a five-year plan written and updated annually. Chapters must realize that if they are going to survive, then they must address the usual problems of Presiding Officers, Membership Decline, Poor Attendance, Secretaries, Ritualist, Regalia, and Appropriate Dues Assessments.

The District Deputies have provided Leadership, Support and Encouragement to the Subordinate Chapters and are appreciated and supported by the Grand Chapter Officers. We have evaluated the time and effort required by the District Deputies to do their Constitution duties and have determined that to be the most effective, a Deputy should not have more than six Chapters. Therefore, we have created a new District (No. 6) which will be comprised of Chapters from Districts 5 and 7.

I look forward to greeting each of you at the Annual Communication in Philadelphia on December 7 and wish everyone a Merry Holiday Season.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

*George F. Morrow*

George F. Morrow, MEGHP

# The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdictions Thereunto Belonging

*The Oldest Grand Chapter in the United States  
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**2017**

*Most Excellent Grand High Priest*

**GEORGE F. MORROW**

*Most Excellent Grand King*

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*Most Excellent Grand Treasurer*

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*Most Excellent Grand Secretary*

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