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Dear Companions,

As I write this letter to you, the temperature in my part of Kansas has reached 100 degrees. This is the time of year when many Masonic organizations go dark, and understandably so. Yet, as I was getting dressed to attend a Lodge meeting tonight and admittedly lamenting the thought of wearing a dark suit in this heat my mind turned to the Brothers and Companions who came before us.

Those men battled the elements, both hot and cold. They walked by foot, rode on horseback, and traveled under far more difficult conditions than we face today, all for the sake of meeting together in fellowship and preserving the lessons of our beloved fraternity. They endured, they labored, and they passed down to us a remarkable inheritance.

For that, I am deeply thankful. I am also grateful for the opportunity to do my part in passing this fraternity on to the next generation.

In July, I will be making official visits to the Salina and Wichita Chapters. During these visits, my goal is to listen, communicate, and work with our Companions as we continue building and strengthening our Grand Chapter. Our success depends not only on the efforts of Grand Officers, but on the dedication, ideas, and involvement of Companions throughout this jurisdiction.

If you are not familiar with our five-year plan for the Kansas York Rite, I encourage you to visit the Grand York Rite website and take time to read it. It lays out a vision for our future and provides a roadmap for the work we must do together.

Companions, even in the heat of summer, the work of Royal Arch Masonry continues. May we honor those who came before us by remaining faithful to the Craft, committed to one another, and dedicated to building a strong future for those who will follow us.

Fraternally,

Gary B. Strout

Gary B. Strout, Ed.S.
Most Excellent Grand High Priest, 2026-2027
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas