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Dear Companions,

At our recent Grand Chapter Festival, we had the honor of exalting five Brothers to the degree of Royal Arch Mason. I want to congratulate each of them on this important achievement, and several of them attended the Great Plains Rendezvous in June.

The Sunday following our Festival, we held a leadership Zoom meeting where we identified several areas for continued growth. One of those areas was ritual. Our goal is to create a statewide trestle board with at least two backups for each part, so that if someone is absent, another Companion is prepared to step in and fill the part.

As a member of the "Traveling Veils" I pledge myself to learning the part of the Overseers so I can serve as a backup for that role. Excellent Companion Justin Crippen and Most Excellent Companion H. Wayne Rector will assist me in creating this document. If one of us approaches you about taking on a part, I ask that you prayerfully and earnestly consider accepting. The goal is not immediate perfection, but steady growth and confidence in our ritual work over time.

In June, I made several official visits to the Lawrence Chapter, the Wichita Chapter, and the Salina Chapter. I look forward to seeing the Companions during my travels the rest of the year.

Fraternally and zealously yours,

Gary B. Strout

Gary B. Strout, Ed.S.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, 2026-2027

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