

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida

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EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 1

In the interest of protecting the lives of our Masonic Membership from the threat of the Coronavirus the Convention Committee is canceling the York Rite Convention scheduled for May 16-20 at Marriott Hotel in Lake Mary.

The average age of our members is well over the 65 age guidelines issued by the Surgeon General are most vulnerable and we surely have more than our share of underlying conditions. None of us can put a value on the loss of even one of our Brothers who ventures out when it is not safe to do so. The first death in the US was February 29 and today is over 5,000.

The disease seems to spread easily from person to person especially in confined spaces. Any vaccine will not be available for 12 to 18 months. I am sure that our situation will get better before a vaccine is found but, you cannot be an optimist when others around us are advising you to be cautious. Wimbledon scheduled to end July 12 has cancelled for the first time since 1945. The summer Olympics scheduled to end August 8 has been rescheduled for July 23, 2021 and the Boston Marathon has been tentatively rescheduled from April 18 September 4.

Therefore, I hereby direct that the Grand York Rite of Florida cancel its Convention and that the Grand Secretary instruct the Grand Treasurer that he is authorized to write the necessary checks to return the funds that have been collected for the registration of the Convention. Also, the funds received for ads in the Souvenir Program to the appropriate Bodies.

This action is undertaken with the full knowledge of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest James A Green and the Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald L Parks as members of the Convention Committee.

John D Pickford, MIGM
Convention Chairman
April 1, 2020