



GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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Grand Master's Update

Here are some answers on questions that have been asked of me in the last week.

- All usual and customary bills for utilities, taxes, and services acted upon by the Lodge can be paid if the Lodge has an approved budget, if not, they may be approved with consent of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer during the time EDICT 1-2020 is in effect. Phone, video conference, email are all acceptable modes of communication and should be recorded by the Secretary to be put into the permanent records of the Lodge
- Each Secretary or recorder will place in the minutes a statement that meetings were suspended per Grand Master. I highly recommend the use of electronic mediums to continue coaching, mentoring, and essential/critical meetings (i.e. Phone, Zoom, Facetime, etc.).

For many of us this Pandemic is unlike anything that we have ever experienced in our lifetime. It is important that we support all efforts to restrict the spread of Covid-19 and lessen the demands on our healthcare system. Freemasonry has received a lot of attention (both good and bad) in recent years. I think it is safe to say during this time of great social distress that Freemasonry has the opportunity to be an example of strength in a time of uncertainty.

I suggest we use our time now to promote and care for each other. Call your Lodge Brethren and widows to lend a hand. Even if we are not able to visit with each other face to face, we can drop off any needed groceries or prescriptions where needed. The time is now more than ever to live our tenets of Brother Love, Relief and Truth.

Here are some modified suggestions taken from the General Grand Recorder of Cryptic Masons International.

- Reach out to a Brother and see how he and if married how his family is doing during this time. Inquire if they need any assistance and offer to assist if necessary. This is a great thing to do for our older Brethren and Brethren who are living alone.
- Write an article for the newsletter or publication and send it in. Articles for the newsletter can be sent to Grand Secretary or Grand Clerk
- Host a virtual Masonic Fellowship or Education Time using technology such as Zoom or join.me. I know one lodge is holding a Zoom get together.
- Engage with Brothers on Social Media. A couple Facebook groups you might enjoy: Freemasons for Dummies, and a host of Local Lodge Pages. Also, daily on Facebook several Brothers are toasting to something each night at 9:00.
- Order a new Masonic Book or E-Book, read it and share something you learned with another Brother. There are many great Masonic books available that you could make some time to read.
- There are also correspondence courses that you can complete. The York Rite Sovereign College offers the Companion Adept of the Temple Program which focuses on the York Rite Degrees, enrollment instructions are available here: <http://www.yrscna.org/forms/YorkRiteenrollmentform.pdf> The Scottish Rite also offers the Master Craftsman Program which can be enrolled in at <https://scottishritestore.org>

- Work on a Masonic Education Talk to present at a future meeting of a Body you are a member of.
- Learn a new Ritual part to perform at an upcoming Degree.
- Contact your District Deputy Grand Master and start working on the Pete Cargill Ritualist Award.
- Find a Masonic Blog and read it. Freemasons for Dummies and The Traveling Templar are good places to start.
- There are also Masonic podcasts you can listen to such as the Masonic Roundtable.
- Read the articles you haven't read from the Masonic Services Association's Short Talk Bulletins.
- Find Masonic papers online and read through them. Pietre-Stones is a great web site filled with Masonic information.
- Explore Google Books to find free Masonic E-Books you can read. One Cryptic book available for free is A Manual of the Council by Albert Mackey.

If the restrictions are modified and the health risks minimized to acceptable levels within the coming months, so that the members and guests of this Grand Lodge may safely and appropriately meet together, due and timely notice will be given at some future time.

Fraternally,



M.W. Steven L. Hall
Grand Master
Grand Lodge A.F. & AM

