



Grand Lodge

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

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Office of the
GRAND MASTER

March 15, 2020

Brethren All:

The Coronavirus pandemic and the suspending of Masonic activities has caused some emotions to run high. Please understand that our purpose is to protect our Members, their families and the surrounding communities. The Indiana Scottish Rite, Shrine, local York Rite and OES have all issued their statements which basically coincide with the suspension of all Masonic activities, as issued on Friday March 13, 2020. The Grand York Rite Sessions are still being evaluated and information will be made available from each. I further add that your Lodge buildings be entered only by essential personnel such as maintenance workers, contractors and any officers of the Lodge or other bodies who need to tend to business related items.

Currently all reports indicate that people gathering in groups, especially those over the age of 60, are most vulnerable to the virus. *I am sure you understand this report speaks directly to Masonic gatherings.* All forms of being around other people cannot be avoided but using social distancing is somewhat easy when shopping or tending to other business. It has been said that observing these five basic steps can help prevent the spread of the virus: *wash your hands often, cough into your elbow, don't touch your face, stay more than three feet from other people and stay at home if you are sick.*

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation, daily, and report to you weekly or as circumstances change. I have asked the Grand Secretary to close Freemasons' Hall and the Library Museum to the public. Only those office staff, essential personnel and Lodge officers will be allowed to enter the building. We are continuing to prepare for Annual Communication and are working on a contingency plan if necessary. The Grand Lodge officers have suspended their visitations and travels along with Lodge of Instructions being suspended until further notice. The Worshipful Master and Lodge Officers should continue to tend to the business side of their Lodge such as paying the bills and filing of reports as necessary. Officers should not meet face to face as a group if at all possible and use other means to communicate and do business.

Something to think about:

A speed limit sign on the highway is set for the safety of those using the highway. Some tend to not pay attention to the sign and travel at a speed that may be too high or too low with the understanding that there could be a price to pay for not observing the posted speed limit. What price are we/you willing to pay to have a meeting? So, using good common sense is the safest way to travel.

The following was said by a School Superintendent: *"In the end, it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be QUITE apparent if we under reacted or did too little"*. As Freemasons we are obligated to be part of the community that does its part and more.

Stay Healthy and God Bless!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Kenneth Roy, Jr.
Grand Master