



Grand Master

The
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma

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Decision No. 3

Lodge Attendance, Installations, Pandemic precautions

Dear Brethren:

This decision is required to be read at the first Stated Communication of your lodge after receipt.

It is obvious that the COVID19 virus is not going away on its own. Oklahoma is experiencing unprecedented daily numbers of those who have tested positive; and the virus is advancing in every county of our State. It will continue to compromise normal lodge activities until it is brought under control. Fortunately, vaccines are rapidly approaching the end of their testing phases, and it is projected large numbers of the population will have opportunities to participate in a vaccination program by April, 2021. In the interim, we must have the highest respect for the virus's debilitating nature, and continue to be cautious in all our fraternal contacts.

At the same time, we know much more about the virus now than we did when it first hit. We know that certain safety precautions can provide us considerable protection. And we know that every member of our fraternity has free will to decide for himself the degree of safety he requires. Attendance in Masonic activities is not mandatory. As Grand Master, I expect the lodge leadership and attending Brethren of every lodge to exercise good judgment and common sense as it pertains to the health and wellbeing of their lodge brothers.

Yet, we cannot continue to leave our lodges dark for another year. Every month that a lodge does not meet has an impact on its survivability.

Therefore, Pursuant to Section 202A.3, Uniform Code, it is my decision that the following actions in regard to lodge practices be adhered to:

1. Lodges will adhere to the Constitution and Code in conducting their election and installation of lodge officers in December. All elections and installations will be done in lodge meetings. There will be no digital installations. All Lodge officer installations held in December, 2020, will be closed to the public. Installing teams may travel to assist lodges with installations. Otherwise, Past Masters of each lodge will conduct the installation of its lodge officers.

2. Lodges are to comply with the Constitution and Code and their Lodge by-laws by holding their Stated Communications every month during the 2021 Lodge year. The only exception will be if federal, state, and municipal regulations prevent such assemblies of private groups.
3. Social distancing with a minimum of 6' of physical separation between brothers will remain in effect in all lodge gatherings. Social distancing is defined as a point within a circle, with a 6' radius.
4. No more than 25 members may be present at any lodge function unless the seating capacity of the lodge room is such that a 6' separation will allow higher attendance. In such cases, the lodge will be required to request a dispensation from the Grand Master stating in writing the dimensions of the lodge room, the total number of fixed seats that are available in addition to the officer stations, and the requested limit in lodge attendance, with social distancing.
5. Sanitizers must be readily available for members to use in the dining areas, parlors, and in the Lodge Room where Stated Communications are held and Degree work is performed. Sanitizers will be placed on the altar to be used in balloting and in performing duties about the altar during degrees.
6. Masks must be worn in any situation where social distancing cannot be enforced.
7. For Lodges that have dining rooms large enough to accommodate meals and refreshments with social distancing, such meals and refreshments are permitted. This applies only to Stated Communications, degree work, and committee meetings where only Masons are present. No more than 2 people can sit at each 8' table; and when the tables are arranged in rows, there must be 6' of separation between the rows.
8. District meetings and public fundraisers held in a lodge building will continue to be prohibited until the Grand Master notifies lodges that these restrictions may be lifted. Fund raisers and feeds conducted away from the lodge premises where larger crowds can be accommodated with proper social distancing are permitted.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert G. Davis,
Grand Master

Issued this 18th day of November, 2020