

**MICHAEL J. MCGUYER**  
GRAND MASTER 2020-2021  
519 LEROY STREET  
MOLALLA, OR 97038



PHONE: 503-789-3558  
MMCGUYER@MASONIC-OREGON.BIZ

FROM THE GRAND EAST

June 9, 2020

To: Oregon Worshipful Masters and Secretaries

**RE: Stated meetings during COVID-19 requirements**

Fraternal Greetings,

I am writing to address the issue of meetings and degree work under our state Governor's current restrictions and guidelines. Please see the following website: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19> for the specific recommendations and instructions we are to follow. Depending on which phase your county is in, will direct your activities and attendance levels.

We must remember that the By-Laws of your Lodge are still in effect. These By-Laws indicate when, where and at what time your Stated meetings occur. You must have a quorum to hold the meeting. Should a quorum not be present, there is no meeting on record that month. Please see Code Sec. 207, Quorum in a Lodge.

If a Stated meeting is held, you shall follow the rules for social distancing and adhere to the attendance level set by the current phase your county is in. I strongly recommend that when entering the Masonic building, everyone be checked with a non-contact thermometer for a temperature. Anyone with an abnormal temperature, or any other symptoms of COVID-19, should not attend Lodge activities. Liquid soap *must* be made available in all restrooms and hand sanitizer also provided. Masks, or face shields, must also be used and gloves available.

I recommend no food or drinks be served during Lodge activities for the time being. However, if food is available, Lodge members should follow CDC and local health department food handling guidelines. There should be no buffet or self-service.

While degree work is allowed, I strongly recommend that it be postponed for now. It is very difficult to practice social distancing and perform a proper degree. There is nothing we do in Freemasonry that is so important it is worth jeopardizing the health, safety, and welfare of our members, especially your older members. Unless necessary, immune-compromised members should remain at home until a vaccine is available, or the pandemic has passed. It is our responsibility to keep in frequent communication with them to make sure they do not feel forgotten. Avoid large gatherings if possible, and limit travel and attendance to your own Lodge meetings as practical. Under these circumstances, going dark for the summer would be a very prudent decision.

If you have an agreement with an Appendant or Concordant body allowing them to meet in your Lodge building, you should continue to honor it and they must adhere to the same rules stated above.

I urge everyone to work together in harmony and to have patience. Soon this pandemic will be a bad memory and things will begin to return to normal.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

MWB Michael J. McGuyer, Grand Master  
The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon