



FROM THE GRAND EAST

October 15, 2020

Brethren, due to the large number of inquiries from Lodges regarding Stated Meetings, elections, and installations I am prompted to write the following guidance.

There are Lodges in the Jurisdiction that haven't had a Stated Communication in several months, maybe since March. This in and of itself is not a serious problem if bills are being paid and other necessary items are taken care of. How many members need to be present to hold the Stated Meeting? Sec. 207 in the Code book states: *A quorum in a Lodge for the transaction of any business except voting on the formation of a new Lodge, or the conducting of funerals, shall consist of five or more Master Masons, members of the Lodge, one of whom shall be the Master or a Warden, and a Tyler.* If due to COVID concerns, the Master cannot attend, it would fall to the Senior Warden to preside and next to the Junior Warden.

Lodges must try to meet in November so that elections may be held. Sec. 204 states *Election of Officers 1.(a) Each Constituent Lodge shall choose the following officers annually, by written ballot, at the first Stated Communication in November: A Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary, also Trustees if provided for in its By-Laws. All other officers shall be appointed by the Master Elect.* Prospective officers may stand for election without being present. This should be done in writing submitted to the Master of the Lodge. Voting over mail or media is not authorized. What happens if a Lodge fails to hold elections in November? Sec. 205. *Failure to Elect at Prescribed Time states: In case a Lodge shall fail to elect its officers as prescribed in Section 204, it shall forthwith apply to the Grand Master for a Dispensation to hold an election as soon as may be practicable. Due notice of such election shall be given to all members.*

Installation required when re-elected or re-appointed Sec. 209 states: *Installation Officers of a Constituent Lodge must be installed as often as elected or appointed. Even if all elected members decide to remain in the same office for another term an election by written ballot still must be held and a record made in the minutes of the Lodge. Next the elected officers must be installed. Installation of Elective Officers, Sec. 209. Installation: The elective officers of each Lodge shall be installed on or before the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (December 27) of each year.* Installation may be held on the same day/night as the election. Installation procedures will of necessity be different this year. Instead of the Marshal physically touching and conducting, you may follow behind him. The officer can put his own jewel on. When in close proximity to others (less than 6 feet) you will have a mask on. Any other events associated with installation, such as food service and social gathering, should be prohibited.

Stated Meetings are not authorized over media. Proficiencies and Degree work have yet to be authorized. As always, put the safety of your members first. Business and social activities are further down the priority list. The purpose of this document is to educate and assist Lodges to comply with the Code and reduce the level of stress that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on our Fraternity.

We know it is difficult to engage EAs and FCs during this time of necessary restrictions. The Grand Lodge will welcome these unofficial members by authorizing every EA and FC to receive the Oregon Masonic News.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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