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FROM THE GRAND EAST

November 18, 2020

RE: Stated Meetings during COVID-19 requirements

My Brethren,

Due to the the many inquiries and ever-changing position of the State of Oregon regarding COVID-19, I am prompted to write a new guidance policy.

Today we enter a two-week period called a “Two-Week Pause.” The restrictions in this directive are aimed at restaurants, social gatherings and companies that do business with the public. These restrictions do not specifically apply to Fraternal Organizations. Several conversations with the Oregon Health Authority confirmed this opinion. Taking all of this into consideration, my position is to allow Stated Meetings with 25 or less in attendance and I ask that you keep meetings as short as possible to minimize risk. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed. No food is allowed during these Stated Meetings.

As before, in-person Degrees are not allowed. This pertains to all Blue Lodges and all Appendant and Concordant bodies in Oregon.

This conservative position should be valid through any upcoming freezes or pauses that do not specifically mention gatherings (different than social gatherings) or Fraternal Organizations.

Be sure to monitor the Grand Lodge Website and Grandview for up-to-date changes or modifications as this continues to be a very fluid process. Please continue to meet under these guidelines and complete the important work that is required to keep your Lodge functioning.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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