



GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WASHINGTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL LODGES

Brethren:

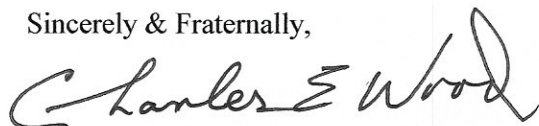
In light of the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus and based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Washington State Department of Health, it is with great sadness that I am ordering the postponement or cancellation of all in-person Masonic meetings, events and activities throughout the State of Washington through Friday, May 1, 2020. This applies to all Masonic Lodges and Masons throughout the Jurisdiction of Washington and encompasses all Masonic Bodies and groups in which a Mason must be in attendance. Your Grand Lodge elected team continues to constantly monitor the situation and, if the situation changes, I will issue further directives.

I furthermore issue the following directive to the Lodges to support continued operations of Lodges throughout this period while in-person meetings are restricted:

- All usual and customary bills for utilities, taxes, fees and services that are normally acted upon by the Lodge can be approved with the consent of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer during this time when Lodges are unable to meet. All decisions to pay these usual and customary bills shall be recorded by the Secretary and the Lodge must ratify these payments at the next Stated Communication. The Lodge officers can use telephone, email, video conferencing or other acceptable forms of communication other than in-person meetings to approve payments. Temple Corporations are encouraged to do the same. Furthermore, during this time of need, expenditures by the Lodge for charitable assistance to Brethren are considered essential bills whose payment cannot be deferred.
- You are encouraged to use Zoom or other video conferencing or communication tools to stay in contact with the Brethren of your Lodge. Lodges may, and I encourage you to, conduct all manner of meetings and events virtually (not ritual or tiled Communications). This is a time for increased communication with the members of your Lodge.
- Masonic Funerals may be performed at the request of the family of a Mason. However, you need to follow all the guidelines outlined by the Federal, State and local health authorities and Brothers who are considered at high risk should not participate.

My Brothers, during this time, remember that our cell phones still work, every human being has a claim upon your kind offices and Brotherly love and affection will prevail. Do good unto all. Masonry exists in our hearts, not inside the walls of our Lodges. Masonry never stops. Reach out to vulnerable Brethren and families you know and find out if they need assistance. Freemasonry has lasted for 300 years. We have made it through hard times before and we will make it through this crisis now, "One Masonic Family, Living United".

Sincerely & Fraternaly,



Charles E. Wood
Grand Master
Free & Accepted Masons of Washington



cc: Scottish Rite Orient of Washington
Shrine Centers
York Rite Bodies
Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star
Grand Chapter Amaranth
DeMolay
Rainbow for Girls
Job's Daughters International
Grotto