



GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

M.:W.:WILLIAM M. SARDONE  
*Grand Master*

*Grand Lodge, N.Y.*  
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**July 1, 2020**

**TO: ALL OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LINE, ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS, DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS, GRAND SWORD BEARERS, GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES, GRAND STEWARDS, GRAND CHAPLAINS, TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL & HOME, DIRECTORS OF THE MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, TRUSTEES OF THE CHANCELLOR ROBERT R LIVINGSTON MASONIC LIBRARY OF GRAND LODGE, ELECTED DIRECTORS OF THE GRAND POST OF THE MASONIC WAR VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF APPEALS, GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES, ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS, AND TO ALL WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, WARDENS, TREASURERS, SECRETARIES AND BRETHREN OF EVERY LODGE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THIS GRAND LODGE**

**EDICT**

In my capacity as Grand Master, and in accordance with Section 113, subsection 2, which grants the Grand Master broad powers when the Grand Lodge is not in session, I issued a PROCLAMATION on April 2, 2020, which in part, postponed the Annual Communication this year, and all Masonic activities and events, in accordance with the timelines of the National Emergency declared by the Federal, State and Local governments, and in the interest of the Grand Lodge of New York and dependent Lodges, and the safety of its members.

The provisions of those declarations are now in the process of being downgraded, thus allowing for limited re-opening and recommencement of general activities of the population. There is a continuing concern for the health and well-being of the members of our Grand Lodge. But it is essential that we move forward, even though some Lodge by-laws may require that they be dark for summer months.

Accordingly, as of this date, I hereby proclaim the following actions to take effect with this **EDICT**.

1. **WHEREAS** the Grand Lodge of New York has not been able to open and conduct regular business at an Annual Communication; and
2. **WHEREAS** individual Lodges have similarly not been able to conduct Annual Communications as required by Constitutions, including the adoption of budgets, elections and installations of officers; and
3. **WHEREAS** individual Lodges must be able to operate to achieve both business and Masonic objectives; and
4. **WHEREAS** the successful implementation of safety and health measures to reduce the dangers of the COVID-19 virus requires new and unique protocols; and
5. **WHEREAS** there is no existing provision or precedent in Constitutions to accommodate these unique situations; and
6. **WHEREAS** it is the ardent desire as well as the objective of our Craft to make Masons,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM M. SARDONE, GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Lodges are authorized to resume regular activity as of July 11, 2020. General guidance will be distributed separately which will establish rules and guidelines to ensure that all proper and prudent safety and health measures are followed.
2. Each Lodge is required to SUMMON its membership in a timely manner for its annual communication. This may be a STATED communication, or a SPECIAL communication should Lodge by-laws not provide for meetings prior to September. This Annual Communication must be conducted prior to September 30, 2020, and must include budget adoption, election, and installation of officers. The Secretary will immediately report the results of the election to the Grand Secretary in accordance with Constitutions section 313.7. Initial Balloting on Candidates for initiation and advancement may be made at a Special Communication held before September 30, 2020. Lodges of Research are exempt from this requirement but must conduct elections and installations at the next STATED communication. There will be no public installations. All attendees must always wear masks. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. Meetings may not be held if any attendee is not with a mask properly worn. There will be no physical contact, no hand shaking, no hugging and no embracing.
3. Investitures of Masters with the Secrets of the Chair will be done only in the Lodge. District Investitures are prohibited.
4. During the Masonic Ritual for opening and closing the Lodge, the use of hand grips and close proximity is not permitted. Further guidelines will be provided separately.
5. With two exceptions, no visitors will be permitted. Brethren may attend only their "Mother Lodge." One exception is for a Brother who may be an officer of another Lodge (e.g., Secretary, Tiler). A second exception is for a Brother who because of traveling distance customarily visits a more proximate Lodge. A Brother with a unique situation must contact his District Deputy Grand Master who may consult with the Grand Master
6. Masonic Obsequies (funerals, memorial services) are permitted based upon the parameters and restrictions of the phase assigned to the location for funeral homes.
7. Should exigencies require, the Grand Master will adjust this EDICT in the interests of the health and safety of members and the public, in every case consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

**IN CONCLUSION, I THEREFORE FURTHERMORE ORDER AND DIRECT THAT THIS EDICT** be distributed to the members of each Lodge throughout the State of New York, and entered in full upon the Permanent Lodge Records thereof, and to be read in every Lodge at its first Communication, Stated or Special, and to be spread in full upon the minutes.

Witness my hand and private seal the day and year first above written.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William M. Sardone".

William M. Sardone  
**Grand Master**

By the Grand Master,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Schulz".

Richard T. Schulz  
*Grand Secretary*

