

From the desk of the
Grand Master



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My Brothers,

Thank you for your concerns regarding Covid-19 and me. Check NYMASONS.ORG in the Grand Masters Message that will explain how things are going.

In the meantime, I have learned more about Covid in the past two weeks than all the PowerPoints I have seen. There was a hopeful thought that we would have seen relief in in January, but that is not the case.

As such I refer you back to my message on November 29, 2020 bringing the max attendees at meetings to 10. We will continue that number which translates to all concordant bodies as well. I realize parts of the state have different colors, but it does not take much to pass this virus to another person. Most have been virtual anyway. The number 10 is Jurisdiction wide.

The November 29, 2020 message also opened lodges to handle some work via virtually (zoom, etc). I am extending that for the month of February with the same parameters.

(1) A Summoned Communication with connection information is sent to all members in good standing of the Lodge within a reasonable number of days to permit their participation.

(2) The Lodge Officer acting as the Gatekeeper (Tiler) shall establish a waiting room in order to certify attendees as being members in good standing of the Lodge.

(3) Once all of the members in good standing are approved to enter the "Virtual" Lodge Room, the Worshipful Master, or in his absence the Senior Warden acting as Master, or in his absence the Junior Warden acting as Master will declare the Lodge duly open and in order for business.

IMPORTANT: NO Masonic Ritual is to be used for the opening and closing of the "Virtual" Lodge.

(4) The Worshipful Master or "acting" Master as noted in item (3) above will go through the traditional Lodge business of the Invocation Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, followed by asking for reports of sickness and distress, glad tidings, Lodge business and voting where appropriate, etc. Lastly the "Virtual" Lodge will close with the Benediction Prayer.

(5) IMPORTANT: There will be absolutely NO balloting on Petitions for Initiation and Advancement and NO balloting on Petitions for Affiliations.

When we heard the vaccine was on the way, we moved all our timelines up. But the distribution system has delayed everything.

We will adjust and we will continue to show all that Masonry Never Stops.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

