



GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WASHINGTON

Charles E. Wood
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL LODGES

Brethren:

In anticipation that the Governor will extend the stay at home order, I am extending the postponement or cancellation of all in-person Masonic meetings, events and activities throughout the State of Washington through Monday, May 18, 2020. This applies to all Masonic Lodges and Masons throughout the Jurisdiction of Washington.

I furthermore issue the following directives to the Lodges to support continued operations:

- 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 (no cypher ritual or tiled communications are allowed). 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.

The Grand Lodge office will remain closed. However, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Lodge staff continue to work from home. If you need assistance, please contact them via email.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

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