

ETHAN A. SEABERG

Grand Master 2020-2021

THE GRAND LODGE
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MINNESOTA

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April 30, 2020

Brethren,

In our on-going desire to protect the safety and health of our members, as well as to be a partner in global efforts to slow the community transmission of COVID-19, the following directives are to take immediate effect in this Jurisdiction:

(1) The current suspension of all Lodge activities is to extend through Sunday, May 31st, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, Stated Communications, Special Communications, and special ceremonies of Minnesota Lodges.

(2) In order to allow for the continuation of normal business, all usual and customary expenses of a Lodge may be paid with approval of the elected officers during this period. Phone and email are acceptable means of communication with one another, and decisions shall be recorded by the Secretary.

(3) Over time, non-budgeted expenses and unforeseen issues will doubtless arise. As they do, Lodges are directed to contact the Grand Secretary's office to submit requests for dispensation.

(4) As a reminder, tyled meetings are not to be conducted electronically in this Jurisdiction. However, Lodges are absolutely encouraged to use all available resources, including virtual gatherings, to remain engaged and connected and fraternal.

As I have said previously, in this fluid time know that these directives may change on short notice. Keep watch for updates and revised guidance, and reach out to your District Representatives with questions or concerns.

It is likely that the Governor of Minnesota will soon announce modifications to the current stay-at-home and other orders. However, the unique nature of our Fraternity, its Ritual and a membership made up of so many in high risk groups, demands we thoughtfully consider how best to reopen our Lodges. With member safety in mind, please spend these next weeks doing just that, and contact the Grand Lodge office as inevitable questions arise.

Just yesterday I received a call, a welfare check, from a dear Brother working through his call list. I cannot overstate how well received that call was. Please continue to check on each other, engage as you're able in community and charity, and use this time to be just exactly what you are . . . Masons.

Fraternal regards,

Ethan A. Seaberg
Grand Master