



Office of the  
GRAND MASTER

# Grand Lodge

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

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May 13, 2020

## Official Directive Annual Communication and Lodge Meetings

Greetings Brother,

I hope and pray you are staying healthy and all is well during this unprecedented time in our country's history. As we move toward June 1<sup>st</sup>, we will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and the directions issued by Governor Holcomb and the CDC. Our purpose is to make sure we are making educated decisions while doing our utmost to maintain the health and safety of our Members, their families, and the community.

With the current information, I have decided that the Annual Communication previously scheduled for June 16, 2020, will be postponed until July 14, 2020. This decision did not come lightly, and it is expected to provide an even safer environment for our Members attending the Annual Communication. The Grand Lodge Officers unanimously supported the decision and I thank them for their support.

As we move toward June 1, 2020 and the reopening of our Lodges and Lodge buildings for meetings and other activities, I want to make sure we all understand what needs to be considered and followed going forward. Please reference the links below for additional important information:

1. Lodge buildings may reopen for business and meetings as of June 1, 2020.
2. Lodges may resume business and meetings as of June 1, 2020.
3. The Worshipful Master is responsible for maintaining a safe place to meet.
4. The Worshipful Master is responsible for adhering to Governor Holcomb's Executive orders and the guidelines of the CDC. This includes use of face masks and social distancing.
5. No degree work is to be conducted until further notice.
6. Degree work and ritual may be practiced provided face masks and social distancing guidelines are observed.
7. Food preparation and service must be done with great care and safety.

Below are some links to the information necessary to provide safe meetings and gatherings for Masonic events.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-up-delivery-services-during-covid-19>

Preparing for the return to our Lodge meetings will bring many business items to catch up on. Use these next two weeks to make proper preparation so your stated meeting goes as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. Prepare an agenda that addresses the most important items and postpone less pressing items until the next meeting. There is no reason that a few of you cannot gather and get things ready for your meeting on or after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remembering to be safe, practice social distancing and wear a face mask.

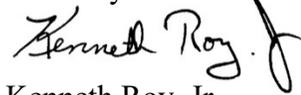
Several have asked about sanitizing and cleaning of the Lodge. The above guidelines (links) should answer those questions. It appears that good old soap, water, and elbow grease are effective against the virus. Use your best judgement since most likely the building has been, for the most part, empty, so the virus, if ever present, would no longer be a factor. You must be very vigilant after having meetings or gatherings that proper cleaning takes place. Especially if someone attending was found to be carrying the virus or came down with the virus after attending.

The question has been asked regarding setting Lodge dues at the June stated meeting. You should plan on reviewing and setting your Lodge dues at the June stated meeting as you have in the past. This option is generally stated in your Lodge by-laws. I will inform you that the Grand Lodge budget for 2020-2021, to be presented at the Annual Communication for approval, will *NOT* have an increase. It is the same as the 2019-2020 budget. The Grand Secretary has indicated he will inform you when you can update your Lodge dues in your Lodge Portal.

Finally, it is imperative that we as Freemasons continue to support our Members, their families, and our community. Supporting our community solidifies who we are in our community. Going forward I ask that you use your resources to rebuild and prop up the local businesses in your community. Maybe someone in your Lodge can offer business guidance to help local business come back to life. Perhaps, instead of cooking your own food, you contact and use a local restaurant and show them your loyalty and willingness to be part of the support network of the community. So many ways to do the right thing, be a leader in the community, and continue to teach and practice the Art of Freemasonry.

May God Bless each of you and the United States of America!

Sincerely and fraternally,



Kenneth Roy, Jr.  
Grand Master  
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