

The Grand Lodge of Texas

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Message from the Grand Master

Monday, September 21, 2020

GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION

Today I spoke with Gardner Pate, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Greg Abbott, concerning Executive Orders GA 30 and GA 31 issued today as well as the mandates presently in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Mr. Pate, and of importance to Texas Masonic Lodges, meetings of groups of 75% of the capacity of a building can be held indoors if masks are worn within 6 feet each another. A discussion was had which generally described the above requirements in context with the conferral of Masonic degrees. It was the decision of Mr. Pate, based upon the limited information provided to him, that conferral of Masonic degrees could now resume and would not violate any of the current mandates.

Based upon the above, it is my PROCLAMATION that Texas Lodges may immediately commence the conferral of Masonic degrees and proficiency examinations, with the following caveat or warning. Lodges are instructed to be extremely careful of the age, health and physical condition of candidates before conferrals. The candidate should be advised generally that certain appropriate touching will take place during the conferral and the decision to submit to the degree ceremonies should be that candidate's sole decision. Everyone must wear masks and hand sanitizers must be readily available throughout the Lodge and Lodgeroom where there is physical contact, particularly handshakes. In addition to the Governor's mandates, all County and City requirements must also be followed. It is the decision of each individual Lodge when they resume degree work.

All prior Grand Master's Proclamations, Edicts or Messages are amended, superseded or clarified as follows:

1. Supersedes my Proclamation dated March 21, 2020 regarding cancelling all stated and called meetings;
2. Supersedes my Proclamation dated April 29, 2020 regarding reopening of Lodges;
3. Keeps in effect my Message dated June 16, 2020 regarding serving of meals and compliance with State and local guidelines for restaurants.
4. Clarifies my Proclamation dated July 3, 2020 regarding the wearing of masks;
5. Amends my Message dated July 10, 2020 regarding meetings;
6. Supersedes my Proclamation dated August 25, 2020 regarding study groups

Texas Lodges are authorized to hold both stated and called meetings if the above State, County, City and Masonic protocols are strictly followed, including the wearing of masks, social distancing and occupancy limitations.



Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master, 2020

