



RONALD D. STITES
GRAND MASTER

*Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted
Masons of Nebraska*

301 N. Cotner Blvd. • Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-2315
(402) 475-4640 • Fax (402) 475-4736 • www.gln.org

March 16, 2020

To: All members of all subordinate Masonic Lodges in Nebraska,

****GRAND MASTER'S EDICT****

In keeping with the State of Emergency that has been declared both federally and in the State of Nebraska and acting under my authority as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska, I do hereby order all lodge activities, including but not limited to all Regular and Special Communications of subordinate lodges, ritual practice, fund raising, and social events be cancelled until May 1, 2020.

This edict will be reviewed regularly. If the state of emergency is lifted or recommendations of State or Federal change, this edict will be revisited and updated as required.

I am confident this situation in time will resolve itself and I would ask that you keep in touch with those that are elderly and/or have health issues that place them at higher risk for exposure. Reach out to them and let them know that you are there for them. I would further request that you continue to pray for those afflicted, their families and caregivers, those treating the afflicted, and the local, state, and federal leaders.

As circumstances dictate, you will receive notice to you as soon as any changes in these policies are required. Please also see information below regarding Limitations of Visits to the Grand Lodge Office.

Fraternally yours,
Ronald D. Stites
Grand Master





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March 18, 2020

Supplemental Direction for the March 16, 2020 Grand Master's Edict

Since the Grand Master's Edict was disseminated, I have received questions concerning lodge operations. While the Edict did not provide specific guidance concerning lodge operations, the following supplemental information should address most of those aspects.

- Monthly Reports: Continue to submit by the 10th of month.
- Suspensions and reports of suspensions: Remain due June 10th at the latest. The membership retention committee should continue to contact those who have not remitted their dues.
- Payment of Grand Lodge per capita and assessments: Remain due NLT April 10th.
- Payment of bills: If a lodge has a budget there is no need for approval of recurring bills. If a lodge does not have a budget or there are non-recurring bills then coordination and agreement between the Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary to pay the bills is authorized. Bills paid will be recorded on the minutes of the next regular communication.
- Building use by other non-Masonic organizations: Remind the users of the 10 person limitation ordered by Governor Ricketts. If the organization still wants to meet, the Master and/or the temple board (if there is one) will make the decision for the use of the building.
- Masonic Band Camp: At this time, the Masonic Band Committee and the Shrine Bowl organization are moving forward as if the Camp and Game are going to be held. The decision to cancel will be made after it has been determined if schools will extend their school schedules, or if the outbreak is expected to last longer than previously thought.

With that in mind, please continue to send your Band Scholarships to sponsor students to attend camp. If the camp has to be cancelled, scholarships will either be refunded or held over for next year. Thank you for your support.

Further, it is recommended that a periodic check of the building and grounds be accomplished.

These are interesting times where the information and local, state, and federal directives are changing at times hourly. There is no way that every contingency can be addressed in an edict. To that end I would encourage a common sense approach to your lodge's specific question/issue.



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The following email was sent to all members with an email address in their membership record on March 24, 2020.

Brotherly Love and Relief - A Call to Action

Fraternal greetings brethren,

The events surrounding us and changing our daily activities is an opportunity for Masons to put into motion the tenets of brotherly love and relief.

In this time of a national and world emergency it is appropriate that, if possible, we as Masons and good citizens reach out to our families, friends, fellow Masons, and communities. Reach out and let them know they are being thought about and ask them if there is anything you can do for them such as run errands, pick up groceries, or whatever.

To each lodge I would ask the Masters and Secretaries collaborate and develop a list of brothers and their contact information that are 60-plus years of age and live in the area of the lodge. Then divide the list and pass a list of names and contact information to the lodge officers and have the lodge officers contact by phone their assigned brethren to let them know they are being thought of, see if there is anything they need assistance with (again errands, groceries, etc.), and reassure them that better days are ahead.

When in lodge assembled we practice brotherly love and relief and now is the perfect opportunity to practice what we talk. Reach out to the brethren, reach out to your family, reach out to your friends, reach out to those in your community and be the example of doing "that which it is right to do."

Thank you brothers for your devotion to the Craft and concern of our communities. Continue to follow the directions of the leaders and organizations laboring to bring a solution to this pandemic crisis and stay as safe as possible.

Finally, continue to pray for the afflicted, their caregivers, first responders, leaders at all levels, and for each other.

Most sincerely and fraternally,

Ronald D. Stites

Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Nebraska



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Limitations of Visits to the Grand Lodge and Eastern Star

During this time of recommended social distancing, the Grand Lodge Office will be closed for all visitors for both the Grand Lodge and Eastern Star until May 15, or further notice. Drop off boxes for both organizations will be available in the entryway during business hours.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to anyone. However, due to the diversity of ages and home locations of the visitors we see on a daily basis, as a protection to our visitors and the staff of both organizations, we are taking this action to be proactive rather than reactive in this time of uncertainty. We will continue to monitor the state of affairs and recommendations by medical and governmental officials.

We ask that all communication that can be done via phone, email and regular mail be accomplished in those manners during this time. If you need to make a drop off, please call first to let us know so that we can expect you. Feel free to contact us by phone if you have questions.

Be well and take care of yourselves,

Michelle Fulmer

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Jan Thoman

Grand Secretary
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