



The  
Grand Lodge  
of  
Ancient Free and  
Accepted Masons  
of  
Maryland  
U.S.A.



Richard P. Naegele  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

EDICT

March 16, 2020

To all Subordinate Lodges, Collateral, Coordinate  
and Affiliated Masonic Organization within the State of Maryland

I would like to begin by thanking the Worshipful Masters and other Masonic Bodies that followed my directive concerning COVID-19. The actions you have taken will help deter the spread of this pandemic. Unfortunately, not all take this as a serious concern.

The welfare of our members is paramount in any decision I make. With an organization whose average age is of over 67, the risk of infection greatly increases.

As such I am issuing the following **EDICT**:

Effective midnight tonight, all Masonic and Masonic related activities within the jurisdiction of Maryland shall cease until May 1, 2020. This includes all face to face meetings, rehearsals, social functions, etc. All normal bills incurred by a lodge (i.e. rent, gas and electric, water, etc. may be paid, if authorized by the Worshipful Master.)

Lodges are encouraged to use alternate methods to meet using current technology to discuss items of importance. These however may not be used for business that must be transacted in a tiled lodge (i.e. degree work). It is only meant to allow for communication between the members with no formal actions to be taken.

Also, the Grand Lodge offices will be closed to visitors. Staff can be reached by phone or email. This will be reevaluated during the next two months and any further actions will be determined by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

I realize the impact this decision will have on our fraternity. I am only looking out for the well-being of our members and their families. We will come through this period a stronger and more vibrant fraternity.

Fraternally,

Richard P. Naegele  
Grand Master