



The Grand Council of the
Allied Masonic Degrees
of the United States of America

GLEN A. COOK, K.G.C.
MOST VEN. SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER

9 July 2020

Brethren all:

This guidance will update that provided in March, and provide additional information regarding meetings, business, elections and installations.

If your respective Grand Lodges have issued instructions regarding Masonic meetings, the Allied Masonic Degrees Councils in each jurisdiction will, *at a minimum*, follow the instructions of the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction.

If the civil government in your locale has issued instructions regarding the matter, the Allied Masonic Degrees Councils in those locations will, *at a minimum*, follow the direction of the civil government.

In person meetings:

Should a Council decide to proceed with in person meetings where allowed, the following recommendations are made, *if* the appropriate grand lodge and civil government have not enacted greater limitations:

It is strongly advised that those over the age of 64, and those with hypertension, heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes do not attend Council meetings through December 31, 2020. This advice may again change as circumstances change.

It is also strongly advised that meetings of over 30 members not take place through December 31, 2020. This advice may also change as circumstances change.

If you are or a family member is exhibiting signs of the virus, please do not attend our meetings at this time.

Masks should be worn;

All individuals must disinfect their hands upon arriving in the building;

The same individual(s) should both put the paraphernalia in place before the Council meeting and put it away afterwards, disinfecting their hands after each activity;

There should be no handshaking;

No gloves should be used;

Physical distancing must still be maintained;

Candidates should not touch the Volume of Sacred Law unless it is their own which they brought with them;

All individuals should disinfect their hands when leaving the meeting.

Meetings by electronic means:

Councils are encouraged to hold business meetings, present papers, hold elections, and may hold installation meetings through electronic means, with the Sovereign Master elect saluting his own Volume of the Sacred Law. No other ritual may be performed in an electronic environment nor signs or passwords given. To be clear, no degrees may be exemplified or conferred and no ceremonies of reception performed by electronic means.

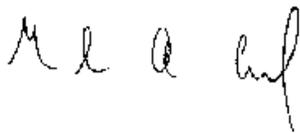
Councils may wish to consider hybrid meetings in jurisdictions allowing in person meetings; that is, tiling the meeting, calling off, inviting those who cannot attend to do so electronically, conducting business, and then dismissing electronic participants for the purpose of closing.

Elections and installations:

The question has been raised as to whether officers may remain in place without re-election. I invite your attention to Article XVI, Section 1, which provides that "Every Council *shall annually*...elect its Sovereign Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary." (emphasis added). Who the Council wishes to elect is left to the sound discretion of the Council.

Again, this advice may change as we move forward.

Yours Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. E. A. C.", positioned below the text "Yours Fraternally,".