



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

MOHAMAD A. YATIM, K.G.C.
MOST VEN. SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER

February 15, 2021

Brethren all:

This guidance will update the one provided last year regarding meetings, business, elections, and installations.

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.

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.

In person meetings:

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

- If you are or a family member is exhibiting signs of the virus, you should not attend our meetings at this time. If you or a family member have tested positive for COVID-19, please do not attend our meetings for a period of 30 days from the date of the test.
- Brothers over the age of 64, and those with hypertension, heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes do not attend Council meetings through July 31, 2021.
- Masks be worn;
- All individuals 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 would be no handshaking;
- No gloves be used;
- Physical distancing 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 installations 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,

Mohamad Gatim