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GRAND MASTER 2020-2021  
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FROM THE GRAND EAST

August 28, 2020

**RE: Stated Meetings during COVID-19 requirements**

Fraternal Greetings,

My purpose in issuing this statement is to try and clarify some of the confusion about meetings, occupancy, and degrees. Using the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines issued July 24, 2020, I have determined the following: All Masonic and Appendant and Concordant Bodies in Oregon, when holding their Stated Meetings, are a gathering and **not** an indoor social get-together. Therefore the attendance at Stated Meetings have a maximum capacity of 50 people. In addition, if meetings are held, they must follow the [Executive Order 20-27](#) for gathering restrictions and the OHA guidance (i.e., maintaining the required physical distancing, etc.). Indoor Gatherings may not exceed 50 people in Phase 1 or Phase 2 so long as they maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between individuals who are not from the same household and masks as required or necessary.

OHA recommends that fraternal Lodge organizations consider the following when deciding whether to reopen and the extent to which they operate: Many fraternal Lodge organizations have members who are in vulnerable populations (which includes those over the age of 65 or who have a serious chronic disease). Even with best efforts to comply with all OHA guidance, a visit to a fraternal Lodge organization does carry risk.

**“Gathering”** means a group of individuals meeting for a common purpose including faith-based, civic, cultural, and other purposes, indoors or outdoors. A gathering does not include an indoor social get-together, or food service. Maximum Capacity Limit: For phase 1 counties the maximum capacity for gatherings is: 50 people indoors / 50 people outdoors. For phase 2 counties the maximum capacity for gatherings is: 50 people indoors / 100 people outdoors.

**“Indoor social get-together”** means a group of individuals meeting for a common, social, or recreational purpose indoors. Indoor social get-togethers include, but are not limited to, indoor dinner parties, birthday parties, graduation parties, celebrations of any kind, potlucks, book clubs, game nights, and other similar indoor gatherings. Indoor social get-togethers do not include gatherings.

Statewide, no matter what phase a county is in, the maximum capacity for an indoor social get-together is: 10 people indoors.

The Edict issued on June 30th is still in effect and no degree work is allowed until the Edict is rescinded.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael J. McGuyer'.

MWB Michael J. McGuyer, Grand Master  
The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Oregon