

# The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina



**Ronald C. Mitchum  
Grand Master**

## **EDICT NO. ONE**

As we head into the month of May, I feel that it is time that we start returning to our Lodges in full form, but still have in-place safety measures to keep our members safe from Covid - 19.

First, every Lodge must assemble for work at least once in each month, except by dispensation from the Grand Master (Article 103).

Lodges will no longer have to complete the Lodge Member COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire or check and record the body temperature. The Worshipful Master will be responsible to assure that all State and Local Ordinances are observed.

I understand that some of our smaller Lodges may not have seven Brothers in attendance to open for a Regular Communication. Seven members is the preferred number to open a Lodge, but there are times, especially Masonic Funerals when seven Brothers are not in attendance. If seven Brothers including visitors are not in attendance, the Lodge may be opened with the minimum number recited in our Ritual, seven for the Entered Apprentice, five for the Fellow Craft and three for the Master Mason.

Social distancing means using common sense when sitting in the Lodge Room. Sit a comfortable distance from the person near you.

Visitation will be allowed at the discretion of the Lodge's Master.

Before entering the Lodge Hall, everyone must sign the Lodge Register. Hand sanitizer must be in the immediate vicinity for those wishing to sanitize their hands after registering. Everyone must wear a face mask during the meeting except when talking and then replace them after they finish talking.

Lodges may confer degrees on candidates beginning May 2, 2021 under the following conditions:

- 1 - Those conducting a candidate must wear a face mask and gloves.
- 2 - Candidates must wear a face mask and gloves.

Fund raisers:

- 1 – Raffles will be permitted as long as they are approved by the Grand Master. Guns with the exception of assault weapons, can be raffled off.
- 2 – Barbecues, bogs, hashes, stews, etc. are permitted – Those preparing the dishes must wear face masks and gloves. Plates or containers must be served. There will be no buffets.

Virtual platforms may be used for video communication to be used for general communication, educational purposes, and other such member notification, in support of and to improve the membership engagement. No Ritual , esoteric work or business will be allowed through any virtual platform.

All Appendant/Affiliated Masonic Bodies shall follow the Official Guidelines for their Organization as provided by the recognized leadership of said Appendant/Affiliated Masonic Organization

My Brothers, I want you to feel comfortable going back to your Lodge. With just a few precautions, I believe we can confer degrees safely for the candidate and the conductor.

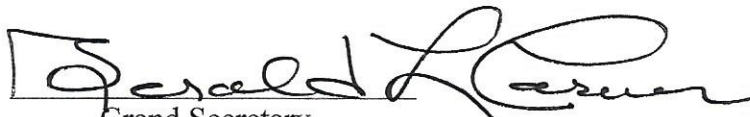
I look forward to being with you over the next few month. Please let me know what is happening in your Lodge and District.



Given at the Grand East of Charleston, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Light 6021.

  
Grand Master

ATTESTED:

  
Grand Secretary