

# MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



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## Will survive in the absence?

So now that everything Masonic is canceled until further notice everywhere, what are we going to do to make sure Masonry in Montana does not die out in our absence?

We have had to cancel everything from Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine and every other appendant body of Masonry. I understand that it is the recommended thing to do, given a large percentage of our membership is composed of those who would be considered in the “high risk” category. The health and safety of our Masonic family is always first and foremost in all that we do, I only pray that we don’t forget how we do it.

We all know how difficult it is to get members back into the meeting room following our short summers of darkness, how hard is it going to be to get back in the groove following 4 or 6 months of nothing Masonic being allowed anywhere? No stated meetings, no special meetings, no visitations, no grand gatherings! I would assume that our Grand Officers of the various bodies, would still be in communication via video, phone and email in order to maintain the backbone of our organizations, what are we (the membership) going to do? Or better yet, what can we (the membership) do to keep our Masonic way of life alive in Montana?

I do not have the answers to these questions, I can throw out a few ideas, maybe some suggestions but certainly no answers. I am placing all my faith for the continuation of Freemasonry in Montana squarely in the hands of the Brothers we elected to lead us in each of our appendant bodies.

I have all the confidence that our elected leaders will take in all the available facts and make the best decisions for all of Masonry in Montana based on those facts relevant to Montana and not popular beliefs or what New York or California is doing. We (Montana) have always been among the lucky few when it comes to our elected leadership looking out for us (the membership) and doing what is best for us all. If it turns out that the best decision is to keep things dark for a bit longer, then so mote it be, there will certainly be a good reason, and deep thought put into that decision and you can bet that there will be a plan put in place to keep Montana Masons active and informed and feeling the brotherly love and friendship that Montana Masons are known for.

Some suggestions I mentioned in last month's article were about having group/conference phone calls with the membership. Video calls are also a possibility if the members all have the capabilities which most do nowadays. A few members getting together at lodge to do clean up or even the top elected 3 or 4 brothers getting together to do some ritual practice or conduct whatever business has been building up in our absence, That is keeping the group numbers within limits and would be easy to sanitize the area following the get together. Simple phone calls to our membership will also go a long way in keeping the Masonic spirit alive within us and alleviate the stress on those of us suffering from Masonic withdrawal. Stay safe and healthy my Brothers, we will see each other again soon.

Respectfully submitted: Dan Koch Jr. PM, MWPGC