

WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENT

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Parker W. Dow
Grand Commander

From the Grand Commander;

I had an article all ready and rearing to be presented for this May article. Currently it is 23 March and we have been in home isolation because of this corona virus for a week and no end in sight.

MWGM R Strader issued an order that no Masonic meetings will be held, period. We, as good masons, observed his order. I did not put out anything because the Grand Master had spoken. Gov Evers issued an order that no groups 50+ were to gather and within 12 hours reduced it to 10+. Neither one has an end date. Well that puts any grand gatherings out of commission until it is lifted.

City Hall is open, doors are locked. Banks are open, doors are locked. Utility Company is open, doors are locked. Hardware store can have only so many customers in it at the same time. We must be patient until things have an air of normalcy about them. It will take time.

Scheduled meetings are being canceled in excess of 6 weeks before the selected date. This is out of caution of the virus and respect for the members health and safety. I will be gathering as much information as I can to make a decision on if we hold or postpone our 13 June Grand Conclave.

Should the event be postponed then we must believe that the rescheduled event will not have everything originally scheduled, that it would be much shorter due to the time available. Grand Commandery should have its budget in place at the same time every year. It is being contemplated to have the budget, resolutions, committee reports and the like be accepted or rejected via electronic transmission. Getting the "paperwork" out of the way would give us a much shorter time to gather for our annual Grand Conclave. You don't have a computer? Well, we are attempting to answer that situation also but be aware it may only be via the electronic internet.

Ask your Grand Officers about the GE Leadership Seminar presented at Departmental Conclaves. Our Department Conclave is the 4th Saturday in October and Uniforms are not to be worn at this event. The Seminar is free. You pay for your transportation, room and food.

When we are allowed - Make sure you go out and do something. Present the flag here or there. Practice Drill, especially with your swords, and let brethren see you do it. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Support your Lodge, Chapter and Council at their stated meetings and degree work.

You don't know any part? Golly, filling the sideline chair has no spoken part in the degree or order and it is a *highly overlooked position*. Go there, be there and thus you can make a favorable impression on a different individual each and every time.

Courteously
Parker W. Dow, KTCH, REGC

From the Grand Junior Warden

Sir Knights as I write this article we are in the midst of a Global Pandemic. There is a Superbug called the Coronavirus which can spread easily; last within the Air for 3 hours, on Cardboard for 24 hours, and Surfaces for up to three days. People can be carriers for 14 days with no symptoms; but then a fever, body aches, dry cough, and respiratory issues could begin.

This can be serious for anyone and medical attention must be sought. As we see around the globe the life of this virus could be weeks, days, and months. Our Grand Master of Masons in the State of Wisconsin for the safety of our Brothers and our Families has suspended all Events and Meetings at the Lodge, District, and Grand Lodge Levels until further notice.

All of the Appendant Organizations have followed suit. However, this does not mean that Masonry just stops there. We implore all Organizations to utilize calling trees to reach out to Members, Widows, as well as others we come in contact to make sure everyone is well and no one feels alone. We need to utilize our extensive network to aid each other during these troubling times.

Masons are resilient, we work together, find new ways, and will become stronger moving forward. Let us use technology to communicate within our Organizations through FreeConferenceCall.com, GotoMeeting.com, Zoom.com, and others. Also use FaceTime, Hangouts, Skype, WhatsApp for direct individual contact to bring light though possible darkness and isolation.

We at this time do not know when we will be able to resume labors within our buildings. Yet we know all Masons are doing our part to help others as it is in our nature and DNA. This does provide all of us an opportunity to do great things. I ask you not dwell in this present state, but work together for a better future. What will you do in this face of adversity?

Lastly as I close we are thankful to all of our Nurses, Doctors, First Responders, Farmers, Truck Drivers, Manufacturers, Warehouse Workers, Volunteers, and many other Critical Personnel who constantly answer the call to the people in times of trouble and need. May god bless you all, keep everyone safe, and together we come out of this stronger!

Courteously Yours,
SK. Shawn P. Noble,
Grand Junior Warden