



Grand Master's Message 03/27/2020



The Grand Lodge
of
TEXAS

As Texas Masons continue to live through the challenges of the existing global COVID-19 with governmental “shelter-in-place” orders and no stated or called meetings of their Lodges, I encourage all Masons to communicate, as permitted, with other Masons. This can be done by telephone, or the on-line platforms. I also encourage all Texas Lodge officers to regularly meet in the above manner to review and authorize the payment of necessary Lodge expenses that cannot be deferred until traditional meetings are again permitted.

It is also possible that Lodge members may request financial assistance from the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund covered in Art. 123 of our statutes. The Lodge of the applying Mason should prepare and submit the appropriate application to the Grand Secretary's office with information provided by the member. The application form can be obtained by the lodge secretary through the Secretary portal. If applications for assistance are received, the five principal Lodge officers are to meet in the above manner and get approval of the DDGM who will forward the application to the Grand Secretary's Office.

Many questions have been asked as to whether and/or how the election and installation of Lodge officers will take place. Your Grand Lodge Trustees are well aware of the need to hold elections and install officers as our Laws require. Be assured that the Grand Lodge Trustees have contingency plans to provide for elections and installations if the meetings restrictions imposed by this crisis do not lift before June. However, it is premature to implement those plans this time. We are praying that the threat will be abated by June so that Lodges may hold their elections and installations in a timely fashion. If so, there should be no problem in carrying on this business in the normal and usual manner. However, if the pandemic has not evolved such that traditional meetings can resume, the Grand Lodge Trustees will advise you on the alternative methods we will use in our elections and installations.

Please be assured that I am in almost daily communications with the officers of your Grand Lodge, the Masonic Jurisprudence and Civil Law Committees, and our other resources. I also realize several Texas Lodges meet quarterly and that the restrictions of the pandemic may disrupt their elections. When the Grand Lodge Trustees determine when elections can be held, an appropriate Order or Dispensation authorizing the elections and installations will be issued to all Texas Lodges.

Paul D. Underwood, Grand Master 2020