



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Indiana

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From the Office of:

David R. Ulrich

THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

To the Illustrious Master, Officers, and Companions of the State of Indiana

Companions All:

The Coronavirus pandemic and the suspending of Council of Cryptic Masons activities:

Much has happened over the past few days; conditions will be in flux and movement for many more days and weeks to come as the science behind all of this evolves. I have read over numerous times the direction from the Grand Lodge and Most WB Kenneth Roy from last week, Friday March 13th, and again the second such direction given just this very day March 15th, 2020.

March 13th: The Grand Lodge of Indiana had been closely monitoring the quickly changing developments related to the pandemic outbreak of Corona Virus (Covid-19). We have been observing the suggestions and directives of the World Health Organization and are now in consideration of our Members and their families I am suspending all Masonic activities until the end of April.

March 15th: The Coronavirus pandemic and the suspending of Masonic activities has caused some emotions to run high. Please understand that our purpose is to protect our Members, their families and the surrounding communities. The Indiana Scottish Rite, Shrine, local York Rite and OES have all issued their statements which basically coincide with the suspension of all Masonic activities. ... as issued on Friday March 13, 2020.

MWGM Kenneth Roy, let me say thank you for taking this stand for the safety, health, and welfare of all Masons and their families within the borders of your jurisdiction. Your brave stand could be the one thing that keeps even one more person for contracting this world wide pandemic, and now a declared US National Emergency as given by our President this very day.

This being said, I respect the decision of our MEGHP Archie Smallwood to continue his Grand Chapter RAM Session meeting scheduled for April 3rd and 4th 2020. We congratulate you on the completion of your term of office and to you serving the RAM Companions of the State of Indiana. To the Cryptic Companions, I will attend this session for you and represent you as MIGM of Indiana, but I can not ask you to attend, ... Companions - unless you are required to be in attendance as an elected principle officer of your Chapter, err on the side of caution, remain home, avoid the crowds and stay healthy.

As Most Illustrious Grand Master let me add the following for the Companions of the State of Indiana.

First; MWGM Roy, again, I say thank you for recognizing the leadership and command structure of the Appendant bodies of the York Rite and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, but we are first and foremost Masons of the State of Indiana and we are ultimately under your purview and jurisdiction. When you direct a suspension of Masonic activities, that means all Masonic activities comes to an end. We will comply with your order.

Second; As all Masonic Temples and Lodge Facilities are now are to be closed. (see statement below)

“I further add that your Lodge buildings be entered only by essential personnel such as maintenance workers, contractors and any officers of the Lodge or other bodies who need to tend to business related items. {MWGM Kenneth Roy}

And being that every single Council of Cryptic Masons meets within a Lodge facility and or Masonic Temple, I, by this edict, hereby command that: activities of all Councils of Cryptic Masons of the State of Indiana, are hereby suspended from stated meetings, degree work “individual and or class”, inspections, and practices. Memorial services can be attended as is necessary per the families wishes and with the Worshipful Master of the Lodge’s permission, keeping our attendance as minimal as possible. Officers of the Council should meet only to conduct the official business and pay bills and orders to maintain our Councils, remembering that much of this can be completed online by “email” or through a group phone call. This is to be in effect through the end of April, 2020 as directed by our MWGM and now myself.

Third; (POSTPONING?) Our Grand Session slated for April 23 and 24th, 2020 (falling within these dates) is not being held in a Masonic Temple or Lodge Facility but instead a hotel and convention center which would not fall under the MWGM direction, but we are still Masons, acting in a Masonic activity/capacity. That being stated our session could possibly be postponed to a date to be determined after communication with the hotel and convention center in Muncie, IN. I hereby Direct our contact person PGC, ECDC and Companion Larry Brown to make such contact, and inform them we will be proceeding down this path of possibly picking a date agreeable to reschedule.

Again, this is not a cancellation of our Annual Grand Session event but a potential postponement, your Grand Council will keep you, the Companions, informed before 2 weeks prior if it’s going to happen. Most individuals can cancel their rooms within 48 hours of the event without penalty so that isn’t so pressing for you, but we will keep you informed as to our future plans. It’s possible that things will calm down by the middle of April, and the MWGM may lift his edict allowing us to meet...

As your Most Illustrious Grand Master, I will continue to represent you both in-state and out of state at all events that are considered safe to attend, but I will not place you “the Companions of this state” in any additional harm’s way than necessary. These decisions are not being made lightly nor without a tremendous amount of consideration for all of our members. Yes, this is an upheaval of normal daily business along with our annual time and place, but you answer this question... Is the safety, life, and health of one member worth the cost of a slight delay in our activities and actions?

You have elected me to this place of highest honor and leadership, and I stand on that pillar to serve you, the Companions, first and foremost. I do not take this honor lightly, “To whom much is given – much is expected” and as for me, I will err on the side of caution first for you.

Your safety, your health, and your welfare are the greatest concern of this Grand Council. We are first and foremost Masons with families to return home to safe and free from this deadly virus. Currently all reports indicate that people gathering in groups, especially those over the age of 60, are most vulnerable to the virus. Being around other people cannot be avoided but using social distancing is somewhat easy when shopping or tending to other business. Remember these basic steps to help prevent the spread of the virus: wash your hands often, cough into your elbow, don't touch your face, stay more than three feet from other people and stay at home if you are sick.

By order of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in Indiana

Fraternally;

David R. Ulrich
Most Illustrious Grand Master
Grand Council of Indiana

