

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

KEITH W. NEWTON
GRAND MASTER



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May 29, 2020

Grand Master's Edict 2020-4A

To: All members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio,

Effective immediately, the cessation of in-person Ohio Masonic activities is extended through June 12, 2020. These activities include but are not limited to Stated Meetings, Annual Inspections, Ceremonies and social events, Grand Master Receptions, Grand Master Class events, and Special meetings of all Ohio Lodges holding allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio and to all organizations whose membership is predicated on Masonic membership, including district associations, craft clubs, temple companies, and appendant orders.

The use of virtual meeting tools for Stated meetings is approved for continued use. Follow the same guidelines in place today, to conduct business, education and fellowship. No ritual work is permitted during the use of virtual meetings.

I have not taken this decision lightly, seeking good counsel and much prayer. The Governor's office classifies our fraternity as a "Social Group" in the Responsible Restart Ohio plan. This category has not yet been released to resume activity. As freemasons, we are charged to be true to our government and just to our country. My utmost concern is for the safety of our Brethren and the reputation of our Fraternity. We will continue to closely monitor updates and quickly respond as opportunity arises.

Please continue your good works in the community helping those in this time of need. Thank you for Stepping into the Light and living the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

I thank you for your continued encouragement and faithfulness,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Keith W. Newton".

Keith W. Newton
Grand Master