

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

KEITH W. NEWTON
GRAND MASTER



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June 10, 2020

Grand Master's Edict 2020-9

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

This edict authorizes use of a Grand Master's Class as an alternative to conduct Ritual work for multiple candidates and revises the minimum proficiency requirements when exercised. This is effective June 10, 2020 for all Lodges holding allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio and remains until further notice.

Authorization to conduct a Grand Masters Class (reference Ohio Masonic Code Chapter 27, Section 27.05).

- Lodges can conduct a Grand Master's Class as a Lodge or work together in cooperation with additional lodges.
- Indoctrination and education of the Candidates prior to each Degree is to be presented by a Lodge Education Officer, District Education Officer or his designee. The education presentation to be used prior to each Degree is available from your District Deputy Grand Master.
- Candidates present are seated on the sidelines to observe the Masonic Degrees.
- Lodge Officers/Participants perform the Ritual work using a volunteer exemplar candidate.
- A Master Craftsman is assigned to sit near the candidates to educate them as the Degree is conferred.
- During the obligation, conduct Candidates west of the Altar behind the exemplar Candidate, with right hands over their heart. (not applicable if Candidates have their own individual Bible, square and compasses).
- Report the use of the Grand Master's Class to your District Deputy Grand Master.

Candidate advancement and minimum proficiency requirements, (reference Ohio Masonic Code Chapter 27, Section 27.02).

- The only proficiency requirement for Candidates is to return to a Stated Meeting in their Lodge within sixty days following the date of their Master Mason Degree. They are to receive their permanent dues card at that time.

Remember, we are meeting while following the guidelines of the Ohio Department of Health Stay Safe Ohio initiative pertaining to Covid 19. Use current social group meeting guidelines for all meetings and Ritual work to promote the well-being of our members.

Interest and curiosity bring men to petition our lodges for membership. It is up to each of us to educate them and provide programming of interest to keep them coming back. Step into the Light in your Lodge to mentor candidates and make new Masons.

Together We Can enjoy A Timeless Treasure. The Time is Now to promote this Brotherhood of Values. Embrace Our Heritage and Preserve Our Traditions as you Invest in your lodge. Celebrate the Past, Build the Future as you STEP INTO THE LIGHT.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith W. Newton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Keith W. Newton
Grand Master