

# The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

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Re: Grand Lodge of Ohio 2020 Annual Communication

Greetings Brethren All,

I hope this communication finds you and yours healthy and enjoying a beautiful Ohio summer.

Our new normal includes a daily review of the Coronavirus status and the current restrictions imposed in our communities. Freemasonry in Ohio continues to adapt thanks to you and your efforts. As you know, there is a mandate limiting the number of people permitted to attend “mass meetings” or public gatherings in our state. There is little expectation that this order will be rescinded prior to our Annual Communication.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio Annual Communication will be held October 23, 2020, to satisfy a constitutional requirement. A limited number of voting members will be invited to participate in an abbreviated format. The agenda will be very different in 2020. Two plans are prepared to conduct Ohio’s 2020 Annual Communication depending on the allowable number to gather according to state and local restrictions.

Plans One and Two include an early release of Committee reports, legislation and 2021 Officer information to prepare for electronic voting through Grandview. On or about September 16, 2020, session pre-print materials will be made available for review through your Grandview membership system. This includes Committee reports, Legislation to be considered in 2020 and the Grand Master’s allocution. The material will remain available on Grandview, open for review and questions through October 6, 2020. All voting members will have access for questions and clarification.

Grand Lodge 2020 voting will be accomplished using the Grandview membership system. A voting period will open October 9 and will close October 18, 2020. All voting members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will receive access through Grandview, to cast their ballots during that period.

**Plan One** is prepared if attendance is limited to 300 people (event gathering limit) by invitation only. We are currently moving forward with Plan One. The Annual Communication will begin Friday, October 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Ballroom A of the Roberts Center. Most of the business of the Grand Lodge will have taken place in the weeks prior to October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Annual

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Communication will be held in a telecommunication environment where the lodge Worshipful Masters and Wardens, and all voting members will be able to access the session. The session includes the Grand Master's Allocution, a few critical committee reports and the results of Grand Lodge Officer balloting for 2021. The agenda is projected to be completed by midafternoon Friday. The Installation of 2021 Officers is scheduled to begin at 5:00pm.

Saturday, October 24, 2020, the 2021 DDGM and DEO Workshop will take place at Robert Center, Ballroom B. All District Deputy Grand Masters and District Education Officer training begins at 9:00am. The training is expected to be completed by midafternoon.

**Plan Two** is ready to execute if event gathering cannot support 300 people. The Grand Lodge Officers will open the Annual Communication on October 23, 2020 at 9:00am in a Lodge room. All members will have access to view the meeting using telecommunication tools. The District Deputy Grand Master/District Education Officer Workshop will be rescheduled.

Grand Lodge 2020 will be different than any other in our history. The safety and well-being of our membership is most important. Your Grand Lodge Officers are prepared to adapt as needed, meeting our obligations while promoting this great fraternity.

Love Simply...Love Generously...Care Deeply...Speak Kindly

Fraternally,



Keith W. Newton  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio