

*How good and pleasant it is for God's people to live together in harmony.* This is one interpretation of Psalms 133:1, which we find in our Entered Apprentice Degree circumambulation. With the recent COVID-19 (Corona Virus) outbreak, togetherness in harmony may be disrupted. As I write this, the first confirmed case has been diagnosed in the New Orleans area. Given the wide spread nature of this disease, other cases are sure to follow. It is only a matter of operating with Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, while keeping the flame of Hope alive, that each of us will do our best to address this extraordinary and complex situation at our Lodges and within our Craft.

I urge each member to follow the precautionary guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, the first of which is to remain calm. Fear and emotion have no place in our responses. As in all cases of flu and virus outbreaks, wash your hands regularly. Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. When you are sick, stay at home and suspend your regular routine. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, after using the bathroom, before eating, and after you sneeze or blow your nose. DO NOT touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands or fingers. Common household cleaners will suffice with disinfecting hard surfaces.

Should our local or state officials issue advisories and precautions, you will be provided such as they come to our knowledge.

With the Grand Lodge Session only 46 days from today, we are closely monitoring the Corona virus impact in Louisiana. Lodge officers and members should be applying logic and caution respective to their scheduled open meetings. I prefer not erring at all, but should we be in error, then let's do so on the side of caution.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Steve Pence  
Grand Master