

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

M. W.: Steven S. A. Pence
Grand Master, 2019-2020
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Organized 1812

Edict 2019-3 (2020)

On March 13, 2020, Governor Edwards declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19 (Corona Virus), closing all public schools and prohibiting gatherings of 250 people or more. Beyond those announcements, nursing homes are prohibiting all visitations, including family. All sporting events and all concerts have been cancelled. Universities are ceasing classes and closing their campuses. Churches are eliminating activities and services, and many are using social media and online digital platforms to continue with worship services. Within the coming days, there will be additional restrictions and cancellations.

Children and teachers are unable to go to class. Congregants are unable to attend worship services. Athletic teams are unable to participate in their respective sporting events. Families, with loved ones in nursing homes and similar facilities, are unable to visit and provide personal comfort. Many stores are reducing hours of operation. I find it unreasonable that our Lodges must continue to open and operate, when our members are restricted from so many other activities.

Therefore, out of abundance of caution and to eliminate any uncertainty and any distress of having to open a Lodge, I issue the following:

Effective immediately, all Lodge Stated and Special Communications are suspended until April 5, 2020. Lodge Officers are authorized to pay normal lodge expenses without the consent of their members. Masonic Burial Services may continue as either the Relief Lodge or Worshipful Master deems appropriate.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA, F & A.M.

This 16th Day of March, 2020

Steven Storm Alan Pence
Grand Master

Woody D. Bilyeu, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary

“Charity, Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love”

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