



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of New York
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My Companions,

As we are hopefully on the downward side of this pandemic we should all continue to practice the guidelines put forward by the Governor and Grand Lodge. They may feel onerous but I believe it is the safest route for all to take.

With the COVID numbers as high as they are, many Districts in the State are yellow at this time with certain areas edging higher. That being said please take all the precautions necessary for you and your families safety. If you have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive, seek out the health professionals in your area as soon as possible.

Now, with the Holiday Season upon us many will or would like to gather with friends and family. If this is the case please observe the safety guidelines with masks and social distancing. It only takes one infected individual to contaminate an entire gathering. Play it safe!

I have visited several Councils this year prior to the second round of warnings with several meetings being canceled. That's fine, better safe than sorry!

When the COVID numbers decline we do have the Royal and Select Master Degrees re-written with the COVID Safety rules implemented and they have worked out very well. Our Grand Lecturer R.:I.:Stu Card took the time to make modifications to the Royal Master Degree and I the Select Master Degree. The Ritual itself was not changed, nothing was left out, but safety measures were put in place. So If you plan on performing a Degree please contact the Grand Lecturer before doing so.

With the COVID numbers increasing many Councils have decided to go back to Zoom meetings. This is fine as long as you are not performing elections or installations and such. The number needed to hold an Official Meeting is still 9. Minutes should be kept of those meetings and the minutes should be read and approved by all who attend.

If you have gone Dark for the winter months or just decided that it would be better and safer to not meet during this period so be it, but you should be informing your District Deputy and the Grand Secretary of such decisions. Even if you are not holding official meetings, a Zoom session is a great way to keep in touch and it's nice to see and hear from other Companions during this very unusual time.

None of us knows when this pandemic will decline or cease to exist. But we will make it through this as we have survived thru hard times before. With Faith, Hope and Charity among Ourselves and our Companions we will persevere!

Finally, I would like to Wish All of You and Your Families a Very Safe and Merry Christmas with the Hope for a Happy Holiday Season and Normal New Year for All!

Zealously,

Most Ill. Phillip J. Chandler
Grand Master
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York