

APRIL 2020

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Brothers, ladies and friends;

As you know, due to the Coronavirus, our Lodge and Masonic activities, in general, have ground to a virtual halt. This will be the case until further notice by Most Worshipful John Trauner. In a 3/18/20 email from MW John, he states that "it is my direction that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state until further direction is received from me."

I don't know about you, but I definitely plan to make use of my Masonic education to help get me through these trying times. First of all, I will do all that is possible to aid myself and others by keeping the recommended social distance. I also plan to practice my civility while shopping, as I happily wander the aisles at my local Trader Joe's or Pavilions. In other words, I will not be needlessly or selfishly hoarding any items. Not even that coveted roll of toilet paper.

Thankfully, my job as an auditor does allow me to work at home quite a bit, thereby limiting my potential exposure to the virus. However, while I will be busy with work, not really looking forward to being locked in at home so much. But then again, I

will also be saving my usual commute time back and forth to work. This is easily a saving of 2 to 4 hours per day. So, what will I be doing with my extra free time? While there are many options here, I will be devoting some of that time to happily reading my little blue cipher book, refreshing my ritual knowledge.

While this may go on for several weeks or even months, we will be able to get through this. And when it is over, won't it be even more wonderful to get back to the Lodge and to live a full Masonic life again. I know that I will then embrace Masonry with even more vigor and drive.

So, hears to wishing you the best in these troubled times. When the going gets tough, do as I do and think back on all that you have learned in Masonry, regarding brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Fraternally,

Steve Resnick
Master

UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE ON FREEMASON.ORG

Log in to freemason.org

Under "My Profile" click "Change my contact information"

Enter changes in selected sections, Click Save

If you have any questions contact Member Services (415)292-9180

IonicComposite.com



FROM GRAND MASTER JOHN E. TRAUNER

March 18, 2020

Masonic Events During COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions

On March 16, the California Department of Public Health released new guidance on the prevention of COVID-19 transmission. The Department has found that all non-essential gatherings should be postponed or canceled until further guidance is provided. **All Masonic gatherings are non-essential in the context of this guidance.**

In addition, a growing number of counties are issuing “shelter in place” orders, directing everyone in those counties to stay inside their homes and away from others as much as possible while the order is in effect. They may leave their homes only to provide or receive certain essential goods or services, engage in certain essential activities or work for essential business and government services. **All Masonic gatherings are also non-essential in the context of these shelter in place orders.**

Based on the foregoing, it is my direction that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state until further direction is received from me.

Masonic Funeral and Burial Services

While there is some authority to the effect that a funeral is an essential activity, you should contact the licensed funeral director for the service about your participation. If the licensed funeral director believes that the conduct of the funeral will qualify as an essential activity which you may attend, then members of lodges, Masonic organizations, and Masonic Youth Orders may attend and participate, but only in such numbers and with such social distancing as the licensed funeral director for the service shall determine.

Payment of Lodge Essential Bills Including Charity

As a result of these actions, no lodge can hold a stated meeting to pay its bills, and there is no clear remedy in our law to solve this problem. I do note CMC §403.095 which allows the elected officers of Grand Lodge to conduct the essential business of the Grand Lodge if a competent state or national authority prohibits an Annual Communication. While this provision is not available for use by constituent lodges, I believe that the extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances we are now experiencing allow me to exercise my powers as follows:

Special Procedure for Lodges

Effective today, a majority of the elected officers of the lodge may order the advancement of lodge funds to pay those essential lodge bills whose payment cannot reasonably be deferred.

- The elected lodge officers may confer by telephone, video conference, or email in making this determination.
- Expenditures by the lodge charity committee are an essential lodge bill for which payment should not be deferred.
- The lodge must ratify these payments at the next stated meeting held by the lodge.

FROM THE WEST

IWow! This Covid-19 or Novel Corona Virus or whatever it's being called has certainly had an impact on life as we know it, not just Masonry. I know I've never experienced anything like this. Everyone thinks of the current state of affairs as a very negative thing . . . and it is. But why not make the most of it?

Lodge functions have essentially ground to a halt. In April, we will have our regular Stated Meeting, but it will be run with as minimum an agenda as the C.M.C permits. The rest of the April calendar will be shut down and the Lodge will be dark.

Okay, so we will not meet as Masons, but why not take this opportunity to especially act as Masons. We can take the time we would otherwise be in Lodge to read a book on a Masonic topic or about a historic Freemason. Those of us who are studying Proficiency can use Lodge time to study. Same for those of you going through the Officers' Line. . . study your parts.

We don't have to limit our Masonic time to reading or studying. This is a time when we can go out of our way to act as Masons. With the near panic with which some people are acting, we certainly are presented with opportunities to act as Masons. We can be civil to others, even when they are not being civil to us or others. Don't hoard, even when others are doing so. Do you really need several cases of toilet paper?

Remember, my Brothers, we are Masons both within and without the Lodge. Let's take this opportunity to be Masons outside the Lodge.

Ilook forward to seeing you all in Lodge sooner, rather than later.

Fraternally,

Jeff Bear, P.M.
Senior Warden

We have a block of seats for the Tony Award Winning Musical The Band's Visit

Sunday, July 26, 2020

6:30PM

\$84/person

at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood

For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)556-4463 or email brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Roll Call Meeting & Dinner Monday
June 29, 2020

Scotch Tasting Saturday
October 3, 2020

Obligation Renewal
November 9, 2020

Brethren

Please don't forget to pay your dues!

If you paid and do not have your dues card or if your dues card was not signed, please contact the Lodge secretary.

THINK ABOUT IT

Mike Fiers played for the Houston Astros in 2017, when that team laid claim to the World Series title. Mr. Fiers was subsequently traded and then gave an interview to a sports publication in which he acknowledged that the Houston team had been using high-tech equipment installed in their home park to steal signs that the opposing catcher was giving to his pitcher regarding what pitch should be thrown. That information was then transmitted to the Houston batter by banging on trash cans. It appears to be generally agreed by all parties, including other members of the Houston Astros, that this cheating did occur. This confirmation came as a result of the investigation conducted by Major League Baseball (MLB, which consists of all of the owners of the baseball teams).

According to the baseball commissioner (an employee of MLB), Rob Manfred, the investigation initially encountered difficulties because of the reluctance of the players to be interviewed and answer questions. After some negotiations with the Major League Baseball Players Association (the players' union), the players were all granted blanket immunity from any disciplinary action by MLB. Thus the only punitive action that was taken was that the league fined the Houston Astros baseball club. The Astros, in turn, fired several members of their front office and coaching staff

(who were not members of the union).

As I looked at this outcome, I could not figure out how MLB sent any message to anybody that cheating is wrong. While the Astros did have to pay a fine, I cannot help but wonder if the fact that they could advertise themselves as world champions and hang a flag at their ballpark did lead to more money in additional ticket sales than the amount of the fine. In other words, everybody who was cheating (except a few relatively uninvolved officials of the team) suffered no consequence from their actions; some may have even profited. Why shouldn't they, or others, do it again?

I have no idea how the cheating affected the final outcome of the World Series (or the playoffs leading up to those games). Mr. Manfred stated that he did not strip the title from the Astros because he did not want to do something that altered the results on the field. Of course, he also had no idea what would have happened on the field had the Astros not cheated. The reason for taking the title away (and declaring that there was no 2017 World Series champion) would be that fair games were not played. There was no true 2017 World Series, so how could there be any champion?

Think about it.
Ron Koretz, P.M.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jon Wax	01	Clayton Jones	13
Mark Mischel	03	Harold Wax	13
Koorosh Moshtahedian	03	Harvey Glaser	14
David Gediman	04	Michael Turner	14
Andre Torosyan	04	Jeff Bear	16
Marc Behun	05	Hamid Shooshani	23
Brandon Koretz	07	Edward Segal	27
Shahriar Esshaghian	08	Michael Leiaghat	28
Renato Garcia	09	Jack Rapke	28
Luis Tananta	10	David Harris	30
Arnold Fazekas	13		

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

Len Cohen .. Home with several medical problems

Earl Hellum.. Home after recent hospitalization

Bruce Shaphran.. Home after knee surgery and other medical problems



It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that the following Brothers have laid down their working tools and have been called to that Celestial Lodge above.

Br. Alan Wax 6/9/1959 - 2/18/2020

Brethren Please, a Telephone call from you could brighten their day. To get the contact information of those listed please contact the lodge Secretary or Master. If you know of a Brother or a member of a Brother's family who is ill, please contact the Lodge Office.

Funeral Telephone list: Any brother who would like to be placed on the funeral notification call list, your presence would be deeply appreciated. **Lodge Office telephone: 310. 657.2628**

2020 OFFICERS

Master – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Marshal – Yuriy Kotlyar

Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Senior Steward – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.

Junior Warden –

Junior Steward – Renato Garcia (Minerva)

Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Assistant Secretary -

Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)

Tiler – Evan Weiss, P.M.

Chaplain – Kyle Ware

Officers' Coach – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock

Inspector for the 622nd Masonic District
O. Gary Pealer PM (Lelah)

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Yuriy Kotlyar