



GRAND LODGE OF  
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND SECRETARY

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## COVID-19 Update May 21 2020 Updates

May 21, 2020

Brethren,

This week's message contains some details that have been resolved since our announcement of May 13, 2020. Thanks to those who submitted questions.

### **A . District Projects (District Deputy Grand Masters):**

With respect to District Projects that have been set up with the Masonic Foundation of Ontario for 2019-2020, normal policies and procedures will be followed. Project may be terminated and paid out upon request at the end this Masonic year (July) or projects may be continued during the 2020-2021 Masonic year. New projects may be set up at any time by following the normal procedures.

### **B . Lodge Officers: Election and Installation:**

In our message of May 13 2020, we indicated that Lodges whose elections and installations have been deferred due to COVID-19 have three options based on a request for dispensation to change the date of the elections and/or installation.

The options available are:

1. Current Lodge officers could remain in their positions until the next election as specified in the Lodge bylaws
2. New elections could be held for a shortened year and then another election held at the time specified in the bylaws
3. New elections could be held conditional upon the officers agreeing to serve a partial year and the next full year

### **Some additional clarification on the above options:**

- If elections were held at the meeting before the hiatus, the lodge may install those elected officers at the first regular meeting after resumption of labours.
- Elections may be held on an emergent meeting after resumption of labours with the Installation scheduled for the next regular meeting (with proper notification in the summons).

If any of the elected officers chooses NOT to remain in position:

- the normal process for election and installation/investiture of a replacement officer of the lodge may be followed or
- the Worshipful Master may appoint a brother to sit in the chair and perform the duties of the office until the next regularly scheduled lodge installation as defined in the lodge bylaws (such brother shall not be installed or invested).

With all of the above, proper notification in the Lodge Summons and dispensation are required.

**Elections/Installations and Past Master Rank:**

Under option 2, the granting of Past Master Rank to a Worshipful Master serving less than 12 months will be considered by the Grand Master, upon request by the Lodge.

Finally, in all three situations described above, the Book of Constitution must be followed with respect to the proper notification of elections and Installation in the Lodge Summons.

**C . District Secretaries:**

In the announcement of May 13, the Grand Master stated that all elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers will remain in position until July 2021. Questions were raised regarding the position of the District Secretary. Based on feedback received it appears that the majority of the District Secretaries will continue to serve a second year (until July 2021).

- Should the District Secretary for some reason be unable to serve a second term, the District Deputy Grand Master will appoint a new District Secretary to serve until July 2021.
- The requests for Grand Lodge appointments for the District Secretaries of 2019-2020 have already been submitted. Therefore the Grand Master will defer consideration of those appointments until July 2021. If a District Secretary has served a shortened year and is not continuing until July 2021, an appointment for his shortened term will be considered by the Grand Master.
- Should a new District Secretary serve from July 2020-2021, a request for his appointment will have to be submitted at the proper time in 2021 for consideration by the Grand Master.

Further details regarding the Annual Communication will be communicated to you as they are confirmed.

Fraternally, Garry



D. Garry Dowling,  
Grand Secretary