



OFFICE OF  
**JOHN C. PILAND**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO  
813-281-0300

MEMBER  
ANSAR SHRINERS  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Temple Potentates and Recorders  
FROM: John C. Piland, Executive Vice President  
DATE: March 18, 2020  
SUBJECT: Questions Regarding Grand Master's Edicts

Questions have arisen related to what a Shrine Temple should do in response to their Grand Master taking action related to "masonic activities" within their jurisdiction.

We believe it is in the best interests of the Shrine, our Members and the Masons within the jurisdiction to have the Shrine Temple adopt any restrictions on activities provided by the Grand Master. This approach provides clarity and consistency throughout freemasonry within a jurisdiction. It also promotes unity of action and demonstrates Shrine support of the Grand Lodge.

If a Grand Master cancels all masonic activities in a jurisdiction, we strongly encourage temples, clubs and units to abide by his ruling.

We also believe that Temple leaders should be and remain in close contact with the Grand Master for purposes of future planning. Certainly, the "emergency" has not yet abated and the future is anything but clear. If there are particular events or activities that Temple leadership believes should be excluded from the scope of prohibited conduct, we strongly suggest that a request for dispensation, along with excellent reasons supporting the request, be presented to the Grand Master for his consideration.

Certain meetings, such as **Divan or unofficial fraternal meetings**, might be held via ZOOM (an electronic meeting platform) without violating the letter or spirit of the Grand Master's edict related to activities. You are able to use the ZOOM platform, without charge to the Temple. You can obtain 40 minutes with up to 100 participants through the site listed here: <https://zoom.us/pricing>. **Please note: stated or special meetings may not be held electronically unless special permission is obtained from the Imperial Potentate, per section 324.1(d) and only if the proper protocol is followed.**

We remain convinced that Temple leaders are in the best position to make decisions related to the actions that should be taken to protect, but also to engage and encourage Shrine-Masons in a particular jurisdiction. The right answer in one area may not be the right answer in another.

Thank you for your service to the Shrine.

JCP:alc