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DEMOLAY

FLORIDA

From your Executive Officer COVID-19 UPDATE - March 22, 2020

Brethren,

We are in trying times; times like none of us have ever seen before, and potentially will never see again. Recent testing has proven that COVID-19 has spread further than anticipated and many of our communities are on mandated or voluntary lockdown.

We, among Florida DeMolay, have a directed cessation from in-person gatherings through (at least May 4th), consistent with the order of Most Worshipful John W. Westerman, III, Grand Master of Masons in Florida.

However, while the spread of this virus may impact us, **we will not let it define us.**

In consultation with the Executive Staff of Florida, and by Executive Officer edict, I have the following to report:

1) Chapters, Manors and Advisory Councils will still be required by statute to meet at least once per calendar month. As standard, minutes should be taken and stored/maintained in a virtual format.

2) Virtual/online meetings are now acceptable for Chapters, Manors and Advisory Councils until May 15, 2020 (this date may be amended as prudent and necessary).

- It is recommended that a secure video conferencing system be utilized (i.e. [Zoom](#) or Skype), and that the designated URL link be sent to each DeMolay member and registered Advisor on the Chapter roster, and copied to your District Master Councilor, EO Personal Representative and also to calendar@fdemolay.com; it will be added to the respective District Calendar on www.fldemolay.org.

- Notice for these meetings shall be distributed at least one week prior. Should you have a stated meeting the week of March 23, you may send notice ASAP upon receiving this correspondence. That shall be adequate for meetings this particular week (only).

- **No ritual is to be utilized during these meetings, save for the opening and closing prayers, and the nine-o'clock interpolation.** [An interim agenda template is attached with this communication and shall be used throughout the jurisdiction.](#) Doing so will help us maintain some sense of normalcy while we endure.

- Per the edict of DeMolay Grand Master Dad John Whitaker, **no virtual initiations may be held – short form or otherwise.** It is therefore encouraged to include your prospective members in these virtual meetings during these next few cycles, so that they will not be forgotten in the tumult and forced to be absent from DeMolay activities by no fault of their own.

3) We are working with Dad Dale Dietzman, Director of DeMolay Awards in Florida, on temporary regulations regarding the PMC-MSA for Master Councilors (or MS-MSA for Master Squires) whose terms will be impacted. However, it is recommended that Master Councilors (Squires) work with their fellow Chapter/Manor officers and Advisory Councils to consider alternative (outside-the-box) events to meet the requirements of the award. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis as the final summary is returned to Dad Dietzman.

4) Understanding that individual school systems may extend the spring break, and may make alternative arrangements for grading and testing, etc., this may also be an ideal time for your DeMolay members to complete some of their benchmarks to further their DeMolay experience. The [Representative DeMolay application is available](#), as are all of the tools and resources necessary for completing the five modules of the [Leadership Correspondence Course](#). Additionally, proficiency coaching may always be done on the phone or through virtual conferencing, so long as a secure location is used on both sides of the conversation. And, individual ritual enrichment may be tasked to officers and members – perhaps learning the [Ceremony of Light](#) or Flower Talk. Our ritual is what defines our organization, and sets us apart from others.

5) Chapters should send photos (Senior photos) and names of their graduating Seniors, along with the name of their High School, for a special recognition on the Florida DeMolay website (send to news@fdemolay.com). We are aware and compassionate to the potential loss of a graduation ceremony as a rite of passage. While we, among Florida DeMolay, have no power over the decisions of the individual school boards with how they proceed, we can pay tribute to our Seniors, letting them know that we are extremely proud of them and wish them well in all their endeavors.

I truly appreciate all of the support and patience you all have shown during this time of transition. My family was out of town when this all started, and we were trying our best to monitor local news updates. We have since returned, and are working around the clock with the Executive Staff and Jurisdictional Officers to monitor local regulations and make changes to our program accordingly.

Please know that you are appreciated, and together we will get through this trying time. DeMolay is truly a Brotherhood Beyond Borders, and together we will prove that our fellowship will span even a mandated quarantine.

Fraternally yours,



Dad R. Jordan "Jody" Meguiar
Executive Officer for the Jurisdiction of Florida
Active Member of the International Supreme Council

Zoom.us

Florida DeMolay Administration utilizes Zoom for its video conferencing needs. This is not an official corporate endorsement, but Zoom may serve as a viable option to host your Chapter/Manor's video meetings.

Free accounts may be acquired by any of your Chapter/Manor members or Advisors who have an email address, offering each user a private "Zoom room." Meetings may be impromptu or scheduled, with calendar invitations available.

Each free account offers unlimited one-on-one meetings, and group meetings (from to 100 participants) are limited to 40 minutes.



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