

**PROCLAMATION
2018 LODGE OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, a Statewide Open House program has been established to be held in every Texas Masonic Lodge that may be held at the convenience of the Lodge on any day within the time frame below except for Sundays and the Saints John Days.

WHEREAS, it is extremely important to the future progress of Texas Masonry that the citizens of our great State become better acquainted with our Lodges, our philosophy, our many charities and community service activities; and

WHEREAS, your Grand Master considers it vital that all Texas Masons stand shoulder to shoulder, without a gap in the line, to complete mutual support and cooperation;

I, THEREFORE, PROCLAIM AND DIRECT:

1. That every Texas Masonic Lodge shall host an Open House for all citizens in its own Lodge Room, in accordance with previously distributed guidelines, between January 22, 2018 and November 30, 2018.

2. That, where two or more Lodges meet in the same Lodge Room, and only under that condition, Lodges may conduct joint Open Houses. Each Lodge must stand on its own.

3. Where Lodges meet in buildings with several Lodge Rooms and share mutual lounges and dining areas (such as Scottish Rite buildings), each Lodge shall conduct its own Open House in its own Lodge Room, but may host refreshments in banquet halls or lounges.

4. All Appendant Bodies and affiliated organizations are encouraged to provide at least one member appropriately dressed in that organization's regalia, uniform or costume; and appropriate headgear such as fezzes, chapeaus, and Scottish Rite caps may be worn in the Lodge Room during the Open House (provided no mixture of Blue Lodge and other regalia or headgear is worn). Further, Appendant Bodies and affiliated organizations may provide tables with handouts and/or promotional materials in lounge or dining room areas, but NOT in Lodge Rooms.

I, FURTHER REQUEST AND DIRECT:

1. That each District Service Team, headed by the District Deputy Grand Master, give maximum support and encouragement to every Lodge in its efforts to plan and conduct its Open House; and

2. That District Deputy Grand Masters immediately report to me any planned or probable variations to the directives of this Proclamation by any Texas Lodge, wherever situated, and for whatever reason; and

3. That this Proclamation shall be mentioned, but not necessarily read in its entirety, in open Lodge at each Stated Meeting until the Open House is held.

This Proclamation shall expire and be of no further force or effect at midnight, January 19, 2019.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL THIS TWENTIETH DAY OF January, 2018.

Tommy F. Chapman
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.

Orville L. O'Neill
Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of Texas