Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 F.&A.M.

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Mark Sawa-Szostak - Worshipful Master
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Brethren,

Greetings and Happy New Year! I want to thank you all again for having the confidence and trust to allow me to serve as your Worshipful Master. It is not a position I take lightly, and I will give it my all this year to make sure I uphold the standards and traditions that all the Past Masters of Gulf Beach Lodge have handed down to me.

Being Master of the Lodge does not simply mean I am in charge of the physical building but rather the Brethren that meet there-in. As such, sometimes, it falls to the Master to make decisions for the whole of the Craft. By now, I hope you are all well aware of Directive 13 sent down by our Grand Master on October 13, 2020. This Directive was sent down for one simple reason; to keep the Brothers SAFE. It has always been my intention as an Officer and now more especially as Master of this Lodge to make all the Brethren feel welcome and safe in their Lodge. In order to make this clear and take a firm stance on making sure Gulf Beach Lodge is a safe environment for all of us to meet, I am hereby mandating that masks be worn at all times while in our building. I understand that the masks can be uncomfortable at times, but we must do what's right to keep each other healthy and safe.

I have high hopes that soon we will be able to break bread and enjoy meals together again, but for now, all meals will be suspended at the Lodge. Drinks will still be provided before and after our meetings, but social distancing MUST be adhered to if we are taking our masks down to have a drink. This caveat will also apply to any Brother who is talking for a long period, such as a lecture or catechism return, but again, social distancing is a MUST.

This has been a trying time for everyone, and the Lodge should be the last place that adds stress and worry to our lives. It should be a source of comfort and rest from the worries of the outside world, but until Covid is under control, we all must do our due diligence to protect one another.

As a fraternity, we have survived through wars, persecution, civil unrest, changes in culture, and every other inundation that the world has tried to throw at us. For over 300 years, this Fraternity has remained a Light in all dark times, and this time is no different. On behalf of all the Gulf Beach Lodge Officers, we look forward to seeing you all back in the Lodge soon.

Fraternally,

W∴ Mark Sawa-Szostak, Worshipful Master