



Bulletin: Covid-19 Complacency

12 July 2020

From: The Grand Master Freemasons of SA & NT

In South Australia, social distancing is a requirement in law, hand shaking and hugging are not permitted in law and the advice on covering the mouth, washing the hands, staying at home if unwell, and consideration of the use of the covid-19 app are still strongly encouraged. **Please do not let complacency be added to our three c's of common sense, courtesy and calm.**

This deadly virus is still present and I encourage all Brethren in South Australia and the Northern Territory to proceed with extreme caution. You have done a great job to date amongst yourselves and family and friends; please do not drop your guard.

Your Grand Lodge continues to be very active in your interests.

At the last Board of Management meeting, I reminded the members that you are looking forward to receiving an executive summary of the minutes of their May meeting. Those minutes were confirmed at the June meeting. I, like you, am looking forward to receiving an executive summary in the next week or so. You own AF&AM Inc and have an entitlement to a knowledge of its activities.

AF&AM Nominees Pty Ltd, trustee for the Freemasons Hall Trust, has met and will very soon be putting to you several professionally researched options for the further use of 254 North Terrace. Please read these options objectively and carefully; as Grand Master, I have constantly encouraged communication with you from all of our Boards; please extend to me the courtesy of consideration and, where applicable, response to material sent to you by the Chairmen of your several separate boards. **Also**, please remember in your constructive criticisms that no Chairmen or Board members are paid to be Chairmen or Board members. They love Freemasonry as you do!

Masonic Charities has communicated with you. They have three pillars of concentration: investment, distribution, fund raising. They are on track with all three. Enormous interest in Freemasonry is being generated by this Company.

Further interest is being engendered in the business community by the efficiency of its operation and the stability of its investments in a very difficult market.

The Freemasons Centre for Male Health and Well being Ltd has approved grants to the Menzies School of Health (CDU) in the Northern Territory and the University of Adelaide. This company has national status and is sighted on international status through production of research outcomes. Your previous company has just produced a paper on testosterone and its inter-relationship with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus-major clinical disease of all people.

I placed further matters before the Board of Management of AF&AM Inc, the company responsible for membership services, at their June Board meeting- such matters will be summarized in the executive summary in August, after the minutes have been confirmed. Of interest, the Board members met informally on Saturday 4 July for a full day workshop facilitated by WBro John Teager AM. This is a Board dedicated to actioning positive initiatives.

Since launching the MMXXI Membership Promotion on 1 June 2020, we are now on the cusp of a 3 % **NET** increase in membership. This has resulted from twenty seven months of hard work, the introduction of the ability to make application to join directly online, updated website hyperlinked to masonic charities, greater facebook activity, modernized office procedures, building a new and efficient membership data base and generally interacting with the public and raising the opportunity for interested men, and their partners, to view our activities and see the reason why we are a several centuries old great fraternity. People are beginning to understand why we say, “they matter and we care”. Be proud of that figure of 3% because, to the best of my knowledge, only the Grand Lodge of England, with much greater resources than us, has achieved this result! Thank you to the DGSs, the Lodges, the Master Masons and the team at 254 North Terrace for gaining this magnificent increase. Now, we must double our efforts and keep this momentum moving. It will be necessary for each one of us to “speak up” and not become complacent.

No complacency re Covid-19 and no complacency re our membership promotion

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you all.

MWBro Dr Neil Jensen – Grand Master