



Essex Provincial Grand Lodge LOI

At the request of the PGM I have been tasked to explore the viability of a Provincial level LOI using Zoom as the host process owing to the current restriction on meeting and mixing.

GLMMM hold an “LOI” which is similarly hosted and attended by MMMs from across the globe. Whilst we may not have the same attraction internationally, I feel sure that sufficient enthusiasm can be achieved amongst members of our own Province! This will allow for a mixing of members, an increase in ritual skills (some books and memories may be a touch dust covered) and an opportunity to include all Essex MMMs from the newest Advancee (remember them?) to the PGM himself.

Essex Mark has a professional licence on Zoom, and this will allow the ProvGDC to host an, essentially, unlimited number but, certainly, sufficient for potential interest and attendance. I have contacted the ProvDepGDC who will be tasked to assist such that either the GDC or Dep will always host the meeting. Secretarial support, insofar as it is needed to monitor attendees and carry out the essential “administration” of attendees can be carried out by a willing volunteer and David Hook, Scribe of Fillebrook RAM has “volunteered”.

Meetings can be held on as regular basis as required by the PGM but, unlike the GLMMM version, weekly may not be sustainable but bi-weekly may be more appropriate (notwithstanding that weekly may be an initial launch aspiration).

Meetings will be published and advertised by way of our usual circulation methods, a provincial email circulation from the ProvGSec as well as the usual vehicles of our website and Facebook pages. Additionally, the ProvGDC maintains a distribution list of all DCs in both Degrees who will also receive individual invitations. The ProvGSec can do the same to secretarial officers for circulation to Lodge members as reminders.

Depending on the PGM’s requirements, it is proposed that each meeting alternates between Mark and RAM and that we concentrate on the four Ceremonies in general but certainly should consider concentrating on specific parts if needed and using the “explanation and walk through” approach being adopted by Fillebrook RAM. In the first instance, to achieve a launch, we may look at using those “more experienced” members of the Province to take on roles, but I am of a firm belief that we should aspire to integrate younger members to allow them to improve skills and understanding.

Each meeting will be preceded by a general circulation whereby attendees can volunteer to fill any office based on their own position, future aspirations or general need to rehearse and learn on a “first come, first served” basis. The ProvGDC will circulate at least one week in advance a list of confirmed offices plus a request for any remaining unfilled. Additionally, as is practice in many Lodges, certain parts of longer ritual, signs, working tools, addresses etc can be split into sections and the ProvGDC will circulate details as before.

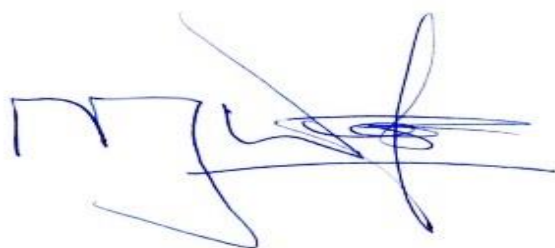
In the first instance, the ProvGDC will act as the “preceptor”, narrator and moderator of the meeting whereby additional rubric can be explained or specific movements are required that (obviously) cannot actually be undertaken; for example, the IG/Gdn actions on candidate entry, the candidate taking steps in proving himself a MM before the Wardens and WM or the JW actions with the axe at the discovery of the imposter.

The ProvDepGDC will act as the “IPM” and relevant prompt using the current ritual book in the first instance. In the fullness of time this could be considered as “an office” if any current master wants to have a practice as IPM.

Where we conduct LOIs around Installation Ceremonies then a strict check using KOL will be held to ensure only those entitled to attend do so.

Passwords will NOT be spoken as well as certain other words where we will substitute just the first letter rather than saying the word.

Whilst this is currently seen as an electronic and virtual meeting, once we are able to meet “face to face” again, we could view this as a sustainable and valuable resource to continue on a (tbc) “regular” (quarterly?) basis and differing Masonic Centres under the direction of both the ProvGDC and DepGDC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MJ West', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Michael J. West, ProvGDC