



June 4, 2020

To: All XSNGH's, PXP's, Proctors, NGH's, Chapters, Outposts and Brethren of E Clampus Vitus, Inc.

Re: Protecting Our Order - Part 1 By: Brandon Wilding - XNGH-P

Brethren,

At this point in any other year, most of us generally would have had a few events already under our belts; however, this year has proven to be frustrating thus far. The toll of the Covid-19 pandemic has been felt throughout the world, and the frustration caused by it has seeped into E Clampus Vitus as many events have been canceled, and the next few months remain uncertain. It is easy for us to make light of the precautions that have been set by our local governments, and to push back against them in a reactionary manner. However, it is vital to the good of our Order that we don't let frustration get the best of us and rush into something that could cause harm, not just to an individual, or to a Chapter, but to our entire Order. This is the time for the Brethren of E Clampus Vitus to stand up and protect our communities and act out of a moral duty and not a selfish desire.

As we start to see restrictions easing in our communities it is understandable for us to want to jump back into things. Everyone in Clamperdom desires the camaraderie of fellow brothers and longs to see history celebrated; however, many of our events take place in small, isolated communities that we need to protect. It is not in the best interest of these towns to bring a large group of brothers to their doorstep. Even if we follow current state and federal mandates, we could still be risking the safety of these populations. It is important that we protect these small communities that we serve to restore. Communication is a vital tool that at this time needs to be utilized. We need to be in constant communication with these communities if we plan to have events there in the next few weeks or months. Working with local historical societies and the locals is a way to ensure that we are welcomed back, and to not have them see our presence as a risk to their health. A canceled event is far less impactful than having a community that no longer supports us due to our careless actions.



Watering holes are also a very important feature of our Order, and we need to show them respect as well. We all know that bars and restaurants are suffering through these current shut downs. It is natural for us to want to help our friends and the people that have supported E Clampus Vitus for many years. Nonetheless, we must also strive to protect these businesses the same way that we protect the small towns. We need to be in contact with these watering holes and make sure that we are not putting their businesses at risk by having meetings and gatherings. Some states have stricter mandates than others and we need to make sure that we are strictly following these mandates and protecting the businesses that support us. Fines and shutdowns have been consequences to state mandates not being followed, and if these occur at our watering holes, we don't want it to be because of, or associated with, our Order. If meetings are to take place it is in the best interest of the bars and of the Chapters to strictly follow these mandates and to have a unified group of Officers helping uphold them. Unified in this sense means not scoffing at the very mandates we ask fellow brothers to uphold. A blasé reaction to rules and guidelines is the very thing that could get our beloved watering holes in trouble.

There are two camps of thought that seem to be developing in our Order at this time. The first, consistent with the nature of who we are, is to make light of things and not take things seriously. The second tends to be a more serious reaction and enforces social distancing guidelines. The potential problem in the development of these two opposing thoughts is the creation of a schism in our Order. One camp continues to get together and throw caution to the wind, while the other group keeps distance and isolates themselves. This creates a system of taking sides and builds resentment towards each other. Whether it is intentional or not, jokes are made and simple jabs can easily turn to resentment. This is where leaders need to prevail and protect our Chapters. It is not our place to question if masks and distancing helps, it is our place to protect our brotherhood. We need to view each other with a sense of Brotherhood during these times. We need to show respect for each other and protect our friends and families. A divided Chapter is a doomed Chapter. We need to be unified as Chapters and as an Order. If Chapters are getting together, they should be following guidelines that make everyone feel, not only welcome, but also safe. This is also a way to show our communities that E Clampus Vitus respects their safety and is not a separate organization, but a caring member of that community.



Chapters at this time should be sitting down with level heads and figuring out a game plan for the next few months. As businesses set plans to reopen, Chapters need to follow suit. We need to set safety precautions up for events, set rules, communicate with insurance providers, and stand in unison to protect this great and honorable Order. The strongest Chapters in our Order operate as a unified front. It would not hurt any current Chapters to have plans that are supported and upheld by their Officers.

Now is an ideal time to show our communities who we really are in E Clampus Vitus. Research history, reach out to those in need, protect the people that have supported us, and serve our communities. Our right arms are not down. We are not in distress. Let us continue to protect our Order. What sayeth the Brethren?

Brandon Wilding, XNGH – P

Lastly, all Chapters, Outposts and Clampers are asked to please continue to check the Grand Council Website for updated information.

Please direct all questions to sgnr@ecvinc.org.

In Vitus' Service,

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