

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I am sure that you have been monitoring the news regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

Brother Tim and I have been in constant contact with each other and with Grand Master Richard P. Naegele regarding the current situation surrounding the outbreak.

Governor Hogan has issued a statement confirming 12 positive cases of the COVID-19 virus within the state of Maryland. We all should be taking this pandemic very serious. The protection and health of our Eastern Star members and residents of Bonnie Blink is our first and foremost priority.

After detailed discussion with the Grand Master and Brother Tim, I have decided to take the necessary precautions to ensure that the continued safety and health of our members remains our top priority.

The following events have been canceled and/or postponed.

- 1) Calvert/Sanner Club Luncheon scheduled Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, canceled.
- 2) Past Grand's Association Luncheon scheduled Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, canceled.
- 3) Raynovich /Schupfer Club Luncheon scheduled Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> canceled.

The secretaries/treasurers of these committees will reimburse those registered.

- 4) Bonnie Blink resident birthday party scheduled Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>– canceled.

- 5) The Veterans Commemoration Day scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Contact has been made with the Department of Veteran's Affairs to reschedule – date TBD.
- 6) Palm Sunday church service at Bonnie Blink scheduled Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> canceled.
- 7) Rehearsal for Grand Sessions at Frederick, April 4<sup>th</sup> is still on with a note that members should use their best judgement.

The **I Believe There Is Good In the World** Grand Sessions is still scheduled as planned at this time, however the Imperial Potentate has issued a directive that there will be no traveling for any child under the care of Shriners Children's Hospital. Due to this directive, which we fully understand and support, Alec will not be attending our grand sessions. We will have representation from the Shriners and Shriners Children's Hospital in attendance to receive our donations.

These decisions have not been made lightly. Decisions have been made in the best interest for our Eastern Star family and the children. As a follow up to this, it has also been decided that NO children or youth will be allowed to attend grand sessions on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Children's fun event. We are still planning our get together for this night.

Accordingly, as to Part 2, Article 1, Section R.4, I do hereby grant special dispensations to any chapter that meets twice a month to cancel their second meeting if they have held one for the month until further notice.

With my deepest concern and star love

Deborah Lynn Raynovich

Worthy Grand Matron