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General Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star™
Established November 1876

DATE: September 1, 2020
TO: Worthy Grand Matrons (currently serving)
Grand Secretaries
FROM: Marianne R. Shenefelt, Most Worthy Grand Matron *MRS*
RE: In-person Installations with Social Distancing

It is my hope this finds you and your loved ones doing well—safe and healthy. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has created some challenging circumstances when it comes to conducting the business of Grand Chapters, Subordinate Chapters and Subordinate Chapter directly under the General Grand Chapter. I am proud of you, the leadership, for your commitment to serve your Sisters and Brothers in the best way possible under the circumstances.

Attached are my Guidelines for In-person Installations with Social Distancing. These instructions are a deviation from the normal Eastern Star procedures due to the coronavirus pandemic. These modified instructions can be used where in-person meetings are allowed per Covid restrictions in your area and in keeping with the directives of your WGM. These instructions are not permanent.

Please adhere to all government and local authority health and safety guidelines regarding the virus that are in effect in your area to protect the well-being of our members. Please wear a face mask!

I hope you will find this information helpful. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at mshene8185@yahoo.com.

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP
Alma Bane, RWGS
GGC Jurisprudence Committee

attachment: In-person Installations with social distancing

Instructions – In-person OES Installations with Social Distancing
These instructions are a deviation from normal Eastern Star
procedures due to the coronavirus pandemic

I hereby issue the following temporarily modified guidelines for the Ritualistic ceremony for conducting in-person Installations with social distancing. These modified instructions can be used wherever in-person meetings are allowed per Covid restrictions and the WGM. When the Covid restrictions have been lifted in your area and your WGM indicates you can meet in person, it is expected you will return to performing the entire Ceremony of Installation as directed in the Ritual. The following instructions are not permanent.

Modified In-person Installation. The Installation Ceremony language printed in the Ritual shall be used, adjusting wording as necessary to fit the circumstances (pages 98-126). The floor work shall be modified as follows in order to maintain social distancing: All Installing Officers shall be in their Stations six feet apart. The Installing Marshal will remain at her/his Station and invite the incoming Officers to enter the Chapter Room. The Officers will enter the Chapter Room carrying their badges and proceed to the Stations where they will be installed. It is possible their Stations will be on the sidelines six feet apart. When the Officers reach their Stations, they will be seated. The Installation Prayer will be given at the Altar or from the Installing Chaplain's Station. The Installing Marshal will read the roll of Officers to be installed. As their name is called, the Officer will stand at their Station and remain standing. All Officers remain standing and face the Altar to repeat the Obligation of Office given by the Installing Officer. The Officers will then be seated at their Stations.

The Worthy Matron-elect and the Worthy Patron-elect shall be seated in the Chapter Room wherever necessary to maintain social distancing. The Installing Officer shall direct the WM-elect to approach the Altar to be installed. At the Altar, she shall put on her badge when directed and then as directed proceed to the East or near East, whichever position maintains social distancing, to receive Grand Honors and be seated. The same procedure shall be used for the WP-elect.

All other Officers shall remain at their Stations, stand when addressed by the Installing Officer to receive their charge, put on their badge when directed and be seated.

At the end of the Ceremony (Ritual, page 126), the Installing Officer shall direct the Installing Marshal to proclaim, from her/his Station, the Officers regularly installed.

Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron
September 2020