



General Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star

## **TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP**

March 18, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

In this time of unprecedented challenges and situations due to the coronavirus pandemic and associated Government guidelines being issued in an effort to control its spread, I would like to provide the following information:

- ❖ Each Jurisdiction should make thorough and appropriate decisions regarding the question of closing, suspending or postponing their Grand Chapter Session, if needed. Each Grand Chapter should consult their own Constitution and Bylaws for guidance and make their decision. Please keep at the forefront of your discussions the precautions set forth by CDC, especially as they relate to high-risk groups because the majority of our members are in this group.
- ❖ The cancellation, suspension, or postponement of Grand Chapter Sessions. During this uncertain time of conducting business, I will not “write up” any Grand Chapter for taking any one of these necessary actions in an effort to protect the health and safety of its members nor will I note the closing down of any or all Subordinate Chapter meetings if a Jurisdiction determines this is necessary for the health and welfare of their membership.
- ❖ By the power vested in me as the Most Worthy Grand Matron, effective immediately and for the next 60 days (up to and including May 31, 2020), I hereby suspend the requirements in the Ritual and the GGC Red Book that the full ceremony for installation of Grand Officers must be performed. I am confident Jurisdictions can accomplish the installation of their Grand Officers with the dignity this important and necessary ceremony requires.

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We are a strong, caring and dedicated group of women and men who are willing to do our part to help the world get through this challenging time. Thank you for your patience, perseverance and willingness to do your best despite the unusual circumstances.

In friendship and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne R. Shenefelt".

Marianne Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP  
RW Grand Trustees  
Alma Lynn Bane, RWGS  
GGC Jurisprudence