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**GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER**  
Order of the Eastern Star  
Established November 1876

**TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP**

May 8, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

These are unprecedented and challenging times for all of us. Difficult decisions are being made, different schedules being accepted and unusual adjustments made to our time-honored traditions—for the time being.

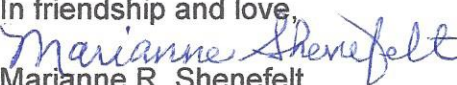
Economic reopening has begun. However, it is important as Eastern Stars we realize that the majority of us, or those we live with, take care of or associate with, are “vulnerable individuals” due to age and/or health concerns. At this time, restrictions remain in place that apply to us. Phase One reopening states: “Vulnerable individuals...should continue to shelter in place. Individuals who do go out should avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in places that lack appropriate social distancing; and nonessential travel is to be minimized.” Phase Two states: “...vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place. When people go out in public, they should avoid social settings with more than 50 people when appropriate social distancing is not practical.” Furthermore, the medical experts are expressing the distinct likelihood of a second wave of the virus.

I have made the decision to cancel my MWGM Official Visits in August:

OV Cancelled	Wyoming Grand Chapter, Cheyenne, WY
MWGM Visit Cancelled	Right Worthy Grand Sentinel Honor and Rob Morris Home Pilgrimage, Kentucky
MWGM Visit Cancelled	Rhode Island 125th Celebration, Warwick, RI
OV Cancelled	New Hampshire Grand Chapter, Nashua, NH
OV Cancelled	Ontario Grand Chapter, Toronto, ON

The number of virus cases and deaths continue to rise, especially with the economic reopening. I worry that if we gather, we risk the health and lives of our members. It is my sincere hope that serious thought will be given by all of us before we become active again. Thank you for putting our teachings in action by staying connected, being kind and loving, and keeping members one and all in your prayers.

Happy Mother’s Day! “We are born of love. Love is our Mother.” –Rumi

In friendship and love,  
  
Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron