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GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP

June 16, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this finds you all doing well and staying safe and healthy. I would like to share the following information with you:

- 1) Cancellation. Cancellation of my Official Visit as MWGM to the Grand Chapter of Arkansas in December 2020. This has been a difficult year. I look forward to brighter times ahead for all of us in 2021!
- 2) Singing at Chapter Meetings. Ongoing studies show that group singing increases the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. Wearing a face mask may help, but singing is a particularly risky activity. If your authorities have lifted restrictions and if you are holding Chapter meetings, I am issuing the following directive: please do not sing the Opening Ode, National Anthem, Closing Ode or Welcome Song as specified in the Ritual. This directive is in effect until further notice. I would ask you to please refrain from singing in general at your Chapter Meetings. I believe we must take every precaution to safeguard the health and safety of our members.
- 3) Extending the Triennium. The question has been asked if the General Grand Chapter's Triennium will be extended due to the cancellations in 2020. The Triennium will not be extended. I hope you are making plans to attend the 50th Triennial Assembly, which will be held October 29th through November 5th, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The venue is the beautiful Salt Palace Convention Center in downtown Salt Lake. The Grand Jurisdictions of Wyoming and Texas look forward to welcoming you to a very special 50th Triennial Assembly!

Thank you for placing the safety and welfare of our beautiful members first and foremost when making the difficult decisions relating to your Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapter Meetings. I believe the world needs us now more than ever and because we took care of ourselves, we will be there. We will be busy building back better than before for a bright future! "The best way to predict the future is to create it." --Abraham Lincoln.

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

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP
Alma Bane, RWGS