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General Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star™
Established November 1876

To be shared with OES Membership

March 31, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

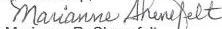
With the President's announcement of the extension of the guidelines that include social distancing until April 30, 2020, I strongly urge you to continue to observe these guidelines for the safety and well-being of our membership. It is our responsibility as loving Star members to do so and it is our duty to do what is right to help stop the spread of the virus.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how proud I am of the leadership of each Jurisdiction for their role in making some very difficult decisions in these unprecedented times. Thank you for putting the health and safety of your membership FIRST and understanding this is what must happen in these uncertain times. There is *nothing* we do that is worth putting any member's health and life at risk—no meeting, no gathering, no function. I am aware the present situation puts a great deal of uncertainty on upcoming Grand Chapters, as well as Subordinate Chapter meetings, etc. I note there have been some innovative ways of staying connected together. However, I do want to caution you about using Skype or Zoom. **The use of Skype or Zoom CANNOT be used for any CLOSED MEETING at any time, NOW OR IN THE FUTURE, because doing so would be unacceptable and ILLEGAL.** We will have time in the future, in the near future I hope, to "right the ship" and get back to our regular routines.

These are indeed stressful times, but I anticipate that in the sense of true Eastern Star we will not only survive, but will come out of this with more connection and support for each other. I recently read this great African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We can go far, my Sisters and Brothers.

Please take care. Stay healthy, stay safe and stay in!

In friendship,


Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP
Alma Bane, RW Grand Secretary
RW Grand Trustees
GGC Jurisprudence Committee