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GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

To be shared with OES Membership

April 8, 2020

- **Additional clarification of abbreviated Installation Ceremony**
- **Elections**

My Sisters and Brothers,

Abbreviated Installations

Grand Chapter Officers who are now serving, and will continue to serve (a year, several months, etc.) in accordance with the decision made by their leadership, do not have to be re-installed. The GGC Red Book states: "It is necessary to install **re-elected** officers." (GGC Red Book, Book of Instruction, Installation Ceremony, pg. 193); therefore, those who are now serving and will continue to serve do not have to be re-installed.

The installation of Grand Officers of Grand Jurisdictions whose leadership has made the decision to hold elections and will have new Grand Officers to be installed, the abbreviated Installation Ceremony as described in my earlier letters can be used, i.e., having the necessary Installation Prayer, the Obligation of Officers and the Proclamation of the Officers being duly installed. It is essential to do this without violating the current guidelines relating to the very serious COVID-19 pandemic that threatens the health and safety of the majority of our members who are classified as high risk. This abbreviated Installation Ceremony can be accomplished by conference call, video conferencing, a separate phone call to each individual Officer, or any other means that maintains social distancing. It is my intent to have a small measure of ceremony with the official portions of the Ritual, that must be performed, with no danger to the health and safety of those involved.

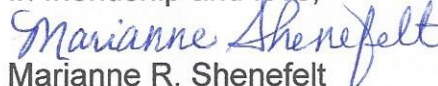
Elections

Election of Grand Chapter Officers, as well as Subordinate Chapter Officers, is a complicated issue during these challenging times. With Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters adhering to the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines as directed (thank you!) there are no meetings being held; therefore, elections cannot be conducted in person. Due to the restrictions in the duties and powers of the MWGM, it is not possible for me to become involved in the actual governance of a Grand Chapter or their Subordinate Chapters—this includes elections. I encourage you to follow your

Constitution, Code of Laws, Law Book or similar source for your Jurisdiction as closely as possible; yet, in these unprecedented times it will be necessary to do so with practicality and with the understanding that it's possible none of the usual rules can be applied. These are drastic times. The world will not end if certain rules are not followed. What could end is our beautiful Order if we are not willing to be flexible enough to value our members instead of our rules. This is the most important thing to remember: **nothing** we do is worth putting any member's health and life at risk—no meeting, no gathering, no function or the immediate enforcement of a rule printed in a little book. I am asking you to do the best you can with fairness, compassion and honor.

“Always remember, you are braver than you believe; stronger than you seem; smarter than you think; and loved more than you know.” --Winnie the Pooh

In friendship and love,



Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

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