



The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Inc.

**Heather Earnhardt
Worthy Grand Matron**

295 Ridge Lake Road
Crestview FL 32536

850-902-2232
starrunner1@cox.net

August 6, 2020

To the Officers and Members of Subordinate Chapters of Florida;

As I said on March 16, 2020 “it is with a great deal of love and concern for our Membership that I am writing to you today”. I find myself in that same position again! Together we have endured many hardships since that time and we still face most of those same hardships. I want you to know that our Elected Grand Line has been working together to try and plan for opening our Chapters however, that does not appear to be possible! As you all know the Covid 19 numbers continue to grow around our State and while we do have areas that may not have increasing numbers the vast majority do. We did try to find the “light at the end of the tunnel” in May when I advised we would be celebrating Rob Morris and the opening of our Chapters in September however, that light has been extinguished and we are extremely disappointed!!

After a lot of praying, careful consideration, and reviewing the input from the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, I am extending the closure of our Chapters! While some have recommended that we extend this closure until the new year begins in January we have seen how quickly things can change and I do have faith that we should be able to resume “normal” live before the holidays! I again ask for your patience and understanding as we will be addressing this on a month by month basis. I understand that makes planning for those activities that you may be wanting to hold very hard however, I do feel it’s better to have no “target date” than to continue to plan and cancel again and again.

At this time the BLANKET DISPENSATION is extended through the month of September. This includes canceling Rob Morris observation for this year.

ALL Chapters should have sent their Financial Report to the Grand Secretary’s office. If you have not please be sure it is sent by August 15, 2020.

As in my previous letters;

Chapters may conduct regular Chapter business i.e. pay bills and hold funeral services during this period being sure to observe “social distancing”. The business is to be conducted as if the Chapter were in Summer Recess.

Required observances such as Landmark and Rob Morris will have been missed and Chapters will not be able to hold the required number of meetings per year. All this will be waived for this year. Secretaries are asked to be sure the “Blanket Dispensations” are included in your minutes to cover all missed meetings and activities.

As our Most Worthy Grand Matron stated in her latest letter, “We’re not an organization that crumbles at the first sign of challenge or we would have been gone a long time ago! What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly”. Working together we will all make it through and be strengthened by the hardships we have faced. Please remember we are here to help if help is needed. Please reach out and check on our Sisters and Brothers who may need assistance and most of all please remember to keep our country, our youth, our Order, and each other in your thoughts and prayers!

Lovingly and Fraternaly,

Heather

Heather Earnhardt
Worthy Grand Matron

