



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

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Worthy Grand Matron

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To the Officers and Members of Subordinate Chapters of Florida;

With the time we have had to reflect on what some call our “New Norm” I found the following quote I believe sums up how things will have to be the remainder of this year; “Sometimes you have to accept the fact that certain things will never go back to how they used to be. Life goes on”. In preparation of that life, and with the support of our Elected Grand Line and review of our Jurisprudence Sub Committee attached you will find a copy of the Guidelines received from our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Additional Guidelines for Florida. It is my hope that this will answer some of the questions and concerns that have been expressed concerning “how are we going to”? Please share these with your members and if there are any questions, I am always available by phone.

In addition, I am painfully aware that several of our Chapters have lost Elected Officers or had those that were elected advise they are no longer willing to be Installed. Because of the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in we are waiving the requirement that a vote of the Chapter must be held before requesting a Dispensation for Special Election. This will enable the Chapters to notify their members of the election as soon as advised we will be reopening and possibly install those Officers elected at that time. Please get your request for Dispensations to me remembering you need time to notify all within 50-mile radius of the Chapter that a Special Election will be held once that Dispensation is granted.

As I have advised in previous letters:

Chapters may continue to 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.

Chapters that have not had their Installations will be required to install their Officers within 30 days of our Chapters being reopened.

I realize this is a lot of information and may not cover all your questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons, or Elected Grand Line. We are in uncharted territory and “how we’ve always done it” will not apply to the issues we are facing. Your patience and understanding as we work through these unprecedented “problems” are VERY appreciated! The Elected Grand Line and I continue to meet through ZOOM and plan to continue meeting at least biweekly as we try to guide our Chapters through this crisis. I honestly believe that together we will come through stronger and more committed to our principals of CHARITY, TRUTH, AND LOVING KINDNESS. Together we can do this.

Lovingly and Fraternaly,

Heather

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