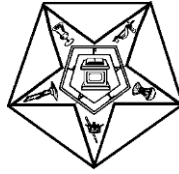


Grand Chapter of Georgia Order of the Eastern Star

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 21, 1901

From the Desk Of
Tina Spier
Worthy Grand Matron



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154 Killian Hill Road
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September 26, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I pray that this finds you and your family safe, healthy, and well. So many of our families and love ones are dealing with this virus daily and many have fallen in death and this is so heart breaking.

Our MWGM recently shared some "Revised Criteria" to be used once we feel that it is safe to have face to face meetings. Worthy Matrons and Secretaries please share this information with your chapter members so that all are kept informed. In the meantime, please use the zoom meetings if your chapter has chosen to do so.

I am continuing to monitor this virus situation each day and will update you on any changes that concerns our members and chapters.

Stay well and safe until we meet again and may each of you keep faith, hope, love, and peace within. Let's please adhere to our health and safety guidelines and now may be a good time to add the flu shot to your list. Please continue to wear your mask, use social distancing, and wash hands often.

Blessings of Love
Tina Spier
Worthy Grand Matron

attachment:

Approved:



Tina Spier, Worthy Grand Matron



Jeff Sperin, Worthy Grand Patron



Attest:



Betsy Nibeck, PGM, Grand Secretary

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Most Worthy Grand Matron
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General Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star™
Established November 1876

TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP

September 23, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

I want to thank you for your continuing efforts and dedication to our Order. We've made adjustments and done our best to take these new, perplexing times in stride. Now that some national and local governments have partially lifted Covid-19 restrictions and the WGMs and Deputies in these areas have given permission to return to in-person Chapter meetings, I would like to provide you with the following information.

Masks. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states: "Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of masks is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain." (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>)

MWGM Instruction. It is my official instruction to the Grand Jurisdictions and Subordinate Chapters directly under the General Grand Chapter that face masks shall be worn in our Chapter Rooms to protect the health and safety of all members and visitors. This instruction shall be in effect until further notice. The virus does not care about all the hullabaloo about wearing a mask, it's just looking for a place to live and thrive. We're going to do our best not let it find its new home with an Eastern Star member!

Initiation. In-person meetings may make it possible for the ceremony of Initiation to be held, which is acceptable. There is no abridged form of initiation. The candidate(s) must be given the full ceremony as prescribed in the Ritual. The candidate(s) must be informed that their initiation is a ceremony where some brief contact may occur and physical distancing is not always possible, and face masks will be worn by all involved. It is our responsibility as their future Sisters and Brothers to explain this to them, followed by giving them the option of not being initiated at this time. The candidate(s) shall be directly

asked if they are comfortable being initiated under these circumstances. If their decision is "no," their decision shall be respected and their initiation scheduled for a later date. Additionally, if circumstances are such that there is any question whatsoever about the health and safety for all concerned, the ceremony of initiation shall not be held.

Thank you again for all you are doing in the best way possible to support your Sisters and Brothers and our Order. These unsettling times are a challenge for everyone. Maya Angelou said, "Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space. Invite one to stay." Sisters and Brothers, I am so proud to know we are inviting HOPE to stay.

In friendship & love,

Marianne R. Shenefelt

Marianne R. Shenefelt

Most Worthy Grand Matron

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

