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Linda R. Winn-Christenson
Worthy Grand Matron
2019-2021

June 22, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A previous message from the Worthy Grand Patron and I informed the membership of the unanimous decision of the Corporate Board to cancel Grand Chapter and that all Grand Officers, Elected Board Members, Deputies and Committee members would remain in place.

At a subsequent meeting, members of the Corporate Board, wishing to clarify their intent, considered arguments that all Candidates for elective office will remain in place on ballots and no new names would be added to the ballots as the ballots were already printed. However, those ballots are no longer valid due to the cancellation of 2020 Grand Chapter. The Official Ballots must have the correct date of the 138th Session of Grand Chapter in August 2021 and as yet, have not been printed.

A majority of Corporate Board Members voted all Candidates' names are to remain on the ballots in the position for which they had previously declared their availability. The Worthy Grand Patron and I abstained from the vote.

As Worthy Grand Matron, I am charged with following and upholding the Constitution and Code of Laws to the best of my ability. I conducted an exhaustive search of our Constitution and Code of Laws, wherein I found:

(1) No law forbidding a member of Grand Chapter to request their name be removed from a ballot;

- (2) No law forbidding a member's name being placed in nomination for a different Grand Chapter Office than previously announced;
- (3) No law setting a deadline for Candidates to notify the Grand Chapter Office of their desire to be listed on the ballot;
- (4) No law preventing a member from being nominated from the floor, if said member is eligible to hold the office.

The Constitution and Code of Laws provides no justification to deny any eligible member a right to have their name placed on the ballot. Therefore, the vote of the Corporate Board on this issue is declared invalid.

Any member of the Grand Chapter of Texas who meets the requirements for Candidacy listed in our Constitution, Article V and is willing to allow their name to be placed in nomination at the 138th Session of Grand Chapter to be held in August of 2021, may request their name be placed on the ballot for such position. At an agreed time, the candidates will meet and draw for their position on the ballot. Resumes will be run in the May 2021 issue of The Official Bulletin of all candidates. If a candidate's resume was placed in the May 2020 Bulletin, there will be no charge to run another resume (even if they are now running for a different office). This decision is being made to avoid confusion from our membership as to who is running for what office. As the Grand Secretary's Office will have a printing deadline to have the new ballots properly prepared for the elections to be held at the 138th Session of Grand Chapter, all Candidates must submit their resumes to the Grand Secretary prior to March 1, 2021.

Sincerely,



Linda Rose Winn-Christenson
Worthy Grand Matron
2019-2021