



General Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star

**TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP**

March 14, 2020

To: Grand Chapter Secretaries of the General Grand Chapter, OES  
Deputies of General Grand Chapter, OES  
General Grand Chapter 2018-2021 Appointments

My Sisters and Brothers,

I am sure you are well aware of the current world-wide pandemic involving the coronavirus (COVID-19).

I believe we have a responsibility to do our best to keep you healthy and safe; therefore, I have made an extraordinarily difficult decision. I am heartbroken to inform you that as of today, March 13, 2020, I am cancelling ALL of the scheduled Official Visits--the one visit in March and all of the visits for the three months of April, May and June. This decision is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC assessment that a high-risk group is older adults, in particular those suffering from serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and having compromised immune systems (cancer treatment patients, etc.). CDC has specifically stated that "...people over age 60 and people with chronic medical conditions—the two groups considered most vulnerable to severe pneumonia from Covid-19—to avoid crowds as much as possible." Unfortunately, my Sisters and Brothers, this describes the majority of Eastern Star members.

The following Official Visits are cancelled: Louisiana Grand Chapter; Florida Grand Chapter; Connecticut Grand Chapter; Tennessee Grand Chapter; Alaska Subordinate Chapters; Massachusetts Grand Chapter; Maine Grand Chapter; New Jersey Grand Chapter; Puerto Rico Grand Chapter; Alberta Grand Chapter; Indiana Grand Chapter; South Carolina Grand Chapter; and Washington State Grand Chapter.

I strongly urge all Jurisdictional leaders and members to be diligent in following the guidelines set forth by the WHO and CDC regarding the coronavirus. I encourage you to seek out additional information on their websites and make responsible decisions for the health and safety of all members.

CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

WHO website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

In friendship and love,

Attested:

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

*Henry S. Martin*

Henry S. Martin  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

*Alma Lynn Bane*

Mrs. Alma Lynn Bane  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary