

## GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY, O.E.S.

ORGANIZED JUNE 1903

OFFICE  
WORTHY GRAND MATRON

September 15, 2020

My Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky,

Greetings! This has been an unusual past 6 months leading into the autumn season with the chapter meetings having been suspended and all social and fundraising activities, local and statewide, have been cancelled. We have missed being with our family and friends! While today, many of us would have been arriving in Louisville to attend the 2020 Kentucky Grand Chapter Session, plans had to be changed. Instead, we have had to put our Grand Chapter Session on hold until September, 2021.

We have waited “patiently”, or “not so patiently”, for the Coronavirus to subside to a point where we can resume some sort of “normal” activity. And while there are still cases being reported statewide, many churches and other fraternal organizations have reopened, and many people have returned to their work sites, with little or no negative consequences when safety practices are observed.

*Therefore*, after much deliberation and consultation with several Past Grand Matrons, and the fact that all lodge buildings are now open and meeting, I have decided that **beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**, I will allow local Chapters to resume Chapter meetings to conduct business. This opening will involve some guidelines as recommended by the Most Worthy Grand Matron and me, *AND* keeping within the restrictions of state health officials. We will begin the reopening slowly, with Chapters “taking care of business”, and gradually resume our statewide activities and events. Remember, per state guidelines, there should only be a maximum of 50 people in attendance at your meeting or event.

I am going to list the guidelines that we will observe during this reopening process on a separate page. Please notify your membership of these guidelines and restrictions when informing them of the October Chapter meeting so that they can come prepared. I understand that some members may choose not to return at this time because of health concerns, and that decision is respected. However, those that feel comfortable in returning and observing proper safety protocol, are encouraged to participate.

As mentioned in previous letters, Chapter secretaries should be noting **each month** in the minute book **“NO MEETING DUE TO CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC”**, and *ALSO* attach a copy of *each of my monthly letters in their minute books for the respective months (from March through September) as an explanation of why Chapters are not currently meeting as an essential part of their Chapter history*. Please include this *September 15<sup>th</sup>* letter with the **October minutes** so the reopening information and guidelines are included for reference for your Chapter history.

Although, I realize that my official letters of the past six months (March through August) are “old” news, and will probably not be officially read during the correspondence in October, I would suggest that a copy should be printed out and made available for any member (who does not receive the monthly correspondence) to be able to read if they choose. This September 15<sup>th</sup> letter should be read in open Chapter during the October meeting.

As also mentioned in previous letters, there will not be an election or installation of Chapter officers for 2020 -2021 (all elected officers should remain in place for another year). I would recommend that the Worthy Matron prepare her *ANNUAL/End of Year* report to be read and attached to the November minutes. This will help to keep the report somewhat timely instead of trying to complete a two year report in September, 2021.

The Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports could be read and attached in October since they had to be submitted with the Grand Chapter Report which **SHOULD** have been sent in by August 10, 2020.

**There are still several Chapters which have NOT submitted their report and/or per capita to Grand Chapter. Per the Constitution, these Chapters are in jeopardy of having their Charters pulled for non-compliance.** Please contact Debbie Ballinger, Grand Secretary, and resolve this issue *immediately!*

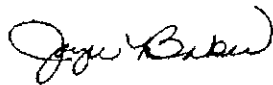
Your Chapter’s Auditing Committee should meet together at some point between your October meeting and November meeting and report on the financial status of the Chapter at the November meeting.

For those members who choose not to return at this time for personal reasons, please maintain some form of communication with them by phone calls, emails, newsletters, cards, facebook, etc. We want them to remain safe and healthy at home but want them to know that they are missed and are being kept informed of Chapter “happenings”. You may want to appoint a committee or make this a project to keep the lines of communication open for **ALL** of your members and encourage them to return when they are comfortable.

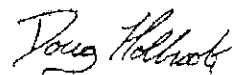
Please wear your masks and maintain safe, social distancing in public. We want our membership to remain healthy so we can resume our personal involvement with each other and continue our philanthropic endeavors within our Order and our communities.

In the *Spirit of Love, Joy and Peace*, we wish for all to remain safe and healthy; until we meet again.

Fraternally & For the Good of the Order,



Joyce Baker  
Worthy Grand Matron



Doug Holbrook  
Worthy Grand Patron



**KENTUCKY OES CHAPTER REOPENING GUIDELINES (effective October 1, 2020):**

- **EVERYONE** in attendance should be wearing a mask or facial covering at **ALL** times while in the building and throughout the meeting.
- Members who are feeling ill must not attend meetings. (Per MWGM)
- Members who feel uncomfortable or have concerns for their health and well-being should not attend meetings. (Per MWGM)
- Members are not to shake hands or give hugs. (Per MWGM)
- There should be **NO COMMUNAL FOOD** prior to or after the meeting.
- The fewer the number of people handling the paraphernalia in setting up and tearing down the Chapter is recommended. (The required Chapter room paraphernalia should be set up prior to opening and not have people just randomly sitting around the room.) Required paraphernalia includes: Altar in center of Chapter Room,,Bible on the Altar, Pedestals at the Star Points stations with the emblems, Signet, and American Flag.)
- Hand sanitizer should be available for use when entering or leaving the Chapter room.
- Either have one person signing in each person's name on the registration book **OR** have **multiple** sanitized pens available in a container for individuals to use and a "used" pen container after they have signed so multiple people do not use the same pen. (Similar to what is used in a doctor's office and some churches.)
- Members on the sidelines should allow for safe social distancing and should not sit together unless they reside in the same home or family "bubble".
- The **Worthy Matron & Associate Matron** should remain in their respective stations in the East and West, but the **Worthy Patron & Associate Patron** should sit on the sidelines **UNLESS** they reside in the same home (or family "bubble") with their respective officer in the East and West.
- The Chaplain may remain in his/her station on the floor; the Treasurer should sit on sideline.
- The Secretary may remain at his/her station. The Marshal may remain on the floor station IF it is at least 6 feet from the Secretary.
- The flag will not be **presented** during the meeting but should be **posted** in the East prior to the meeting when setting up paraphernalia.
- There should be no Opening March; officers should assume their stations prior to the Opening.
- Music **MAY** be played if you have an Organist or Sound Person; if your Chapter is choosing to sing, **anyone/everyone singing MUST be wearing a MASK!**
- The **Worthy Matron** may temporarily remove her mask while speaking during the meeting, and the **Secretary** may temporarily remove her/his mask while reading minutes and correspondence since both of these offices would be at least 6 feet from other members.
- There will be **NO FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS NOR ESCORTING** at this time. The (**Conductress** may temporarily remove her mask while she announces informal introductions of those entitled to introductions from the sidelines.)
- Balloting: It is recommended that the ballot box be placed on the Altar for balloting. Please ensure that members use hand sanitizer before approaching the Altar to cast their ballot. If the ballot box is passed to each member, please ensure that each member uses a hand sanitizer before casting their ballot. During these uncommon times, the Associate Conductress should present the ballot box by extending it toward the voting member as far as comfortably possible to maintain social distancing. Those handling the ballot box and those casting their ballot should protect the safety of all members by using hand sanitizer. (Per MWGM)
- I would **NOT** recommend any initiations to be scheduled at this time until Chapters handle business considerations of the past 6 months. We will address Chapter initiations in a future letter as that will deal with another host of restrictions and recommendations.

***(These guidelines are not permanent. They shall be in effect until local and/or national health officials and governments lift the CDC restrictions relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic and you are notified by the Worthy Grand Matron in your Jurisdiction to resume the appropriate Ritualistic Protocol.) (Per MWGM)***