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## Grand Chapter of Oregon Order of the Eastern Star

March 13, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As of today, March 13, 2020 to support controlling further spread of Covid-19 virus we are suspending all OES meetings and gatherings until March 31, 2020 and will evaluate if the time needs to be extended.

Our law states we cannot cancel a stated meeting. If Chapter meetings are not held due to lack of quorum because of the coronavirus and submits a request for a special dispensation to hold a makeup meeting, will be considered on a case by case basis.

We feel we must make this decision for the health and safety of our members and communities if we are to be good stewards.

We are aware that group meetings and events throughout the world are being postponed or canceled, and that those cancellations are both disappointing and necessary to prevent further spread of disease. It is our intent to reschedule those events cancelled / postponed.

As COVID-19 spreads, many ask how they can stop the spread. Each of us can play a valuable part in limiting the spread of this virus through fairly simple measures.

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
2. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Reconsider handshaking
3. If you develop symptoms (fever, cough), isolate yourself from others.
4. Clean surfaces frequently- counters, doorknobs, computer keyboards, phones, desks, etc.
5. Implement social distancing measures. What does this mean?
  - a. Cancel large gatherings.
  - b. Meet virtually if possible. Use video, conference calls, skype, etc.
  - c. Keep in person meetings small. Only meet in person when absolutely necessary. No more than 20 people in a room, maintaining 6-foot distances.
  - d. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary.
  - e. Rather than shaking hands, consider an elbow bump or a nod and a smile!
  - f. While we all love hugs from others, now is not the time. Maintain the 6-foot distance.
  - g. If you are able to, work from home.

In Star Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Drushella".

Mary Drushella, Worthy Grand Matron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Gersbach".

William Gersbach, Worthy Grand Patron

