



*Grand Chapter of New Hampshire
Order of the Eastern Star*



Mrs. Joan L. Smith, W.G.M.

16 Cliff Rd.
Nashua, NH 03062
Tel. (603) 888-0891 or e-mail nhwgm19.20@gmail.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

These are certainly trying times these days, and uncharted territory for Eastern Star in NH. With the COVID 19 limitations mandated by the State of Emergency by the Governor and the National Emergency declared by the President, and the need to have less than 10 people meeting at a time, social distancing, and discouraging any people over the age of 65 and people immune compromised to be out and about socializing, we need to protect our membership against this invisible War.

By requirement of the New Hampshire Constitution, a Special Committee for Grand Chapter has met to invoke Article XI Section 1 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of NH, and discussed Suspension of the Constitution due to our being in the National State of Emergency. It is not anything which I take lightly but for the health and welfare of our sisters and brothers, and our family members who are the most vulnerable is my priority at present.

I certainly appreciate the Chapters autonomy to make their own decisions in these matters, and encourage our Worthy Matrons in charge to be empowered by the knowledge that with the Suspension of the Constitution you may and are encouraged to take the following actions for your Subordinate Chapters:

1. Any Stated meetings will be cancelled during the COVID 19 State of Emergency declaration. This edict is to take effect retroactively to March 13, 2020, the date that the President of the United States declared the State of Emergency.
2. Cancellations shall be noted 24 hours prior to the date to your membership, to the WGM, the Grand Secretary, and posted on E-Guidepost and NH OES Facebook page
3. Notice shall be posted on the door of the Temple that the meeting is cancelled with contact information
4. The Cancellation shall allow for the Worthy Matron to direct the Secretary and Treasurer to pay all necessary and routinely occurring bills until the next stated meeting is held
5. The Worthy Matron shall have the ability to have a virtual business meeting to discuss necessary activities of the chapter, provided all members are invited to attend at the stated time. No ritual can be done. No Petitions read.
6. Notice of cancellation shall be documented in the minutes of the next stated meeting, as well as any bills paid, and business virtually conducted.
7. The cancellation of the Stated meeting will **NOT** require the Worthy Matron to choose a make -up meeting for meeting missed during this time period
8. Visitations during this period will be altered and made up if possible. Inspections of books and Chapter Property will be conducted at a later time during the term but before our 2020 Grand Chapter
9. Chapters are encouraged to find alternate ways to stay connected to their membership and check on their elderly members frequently
10. There will be no blanket cancellation, but rather each Stated meeting cancellation will be addressed individually until this crisis is over.
11. At this time, all Grand Chapter and local Chapter activities are cancelled through May 1, 2020.

Sisters and Brothers, the COVID 19 Pandemic is an unexpected emergency and each day the updates are going to make our decisions quite fluid in nature. We need to work together and follow the guidelines provided by the CDC and WHO to stop this menace and protect our fraternal family.

Fraternally and Sincerely

Joan L Smith, WGM
Worthy Grand Matron

David R. Walters, WGP
Worthy Grand Patron