

"Unexpected Possibilities"

Grand Chapter of Louisiana
Order of the Eastern Star

Donna M. Harrist
Worthy Grand Matron
224 Aurore Avenue
Lafayette, LA 70506-4219

Diane Smith, PGM
Grand Secretary
P.O. Box 99
Mt. Hermon, LA 70450-0099

September 2020 – Newsletter

From the Desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Without a doubt, you are surprised to receive this regular form of newsletter so late into the month. We were preparing this to circulate when two storms decided to head our way. Needless to say, we all began preparations for whatever may come. No one was prepared for what occurred.

Amidst the aftermath of Hurricane Laura and all the devastation suffered by our members and friends, we are thankful that to our knowledge our members are safe and uninjured. We do have members whose homes were destroyed. Some have major damage, almost all have roof damage in the southwestern part of the state and a lack of power is still widespread. Much of the state sustained damage and many lives will long be affected. And for those who have been out of work due to Covid-19, recovery will be even more stressful. Our Grand Chapter has two funds to help members in times of financial distress.

Fraternal Assistance was the original fund set up for members in need of “dire or emergent financial relief.” In a large disaster, it is the fund from which members are eligible for once they have gone through the process of insurance, FEMA, and have estimates or repair bills. The very process and design for Fraternal Assistance involving the chapter and the board made it difficult to work in a timely manner when there is a natural disaster.

Disaster Relief was formed with guidelines set up by the committees in the past. It provides funds for more immediate needs following a disaster. It was used following Katrina, the 2016 flooding, for individuals who had a disaster and for donations to other Jurisdictions after a disaster. A form for application is being included with this letter.

I have appointed a **Hurricane Laura Disaster Relief Fund Committee** to manage the applications and oversee this fund. They are:

Marilyn Abshire, PGM – Chairman, 28028 Saltzman Road, Gueydan 70542-5517
Cell: 337-230-1862 Email: omabsh@ktctelecom.net

Rovenia McDonald, PGM, 585 Wells Road, Haughton 71034-7390
318-949-1798 Cell: 318-294-4515 Email: roveniaoes2@gmail.com

Rex Thornhill, PP 6306 Donnybrook, Greenwell Springs 70736-4221
225-261-5918 Cell: 225-963-0068 Email: rexthornhill@bellsouth.net

The committee will be accepting applications through September 30, 2020. Only after this date will funds be disbursed to allow the committee to first determine the number in need of aid and the degree of need. The amount of funds available will also be a determining factor. Please contact one of these committee members for any questions or information you may need to apply. Brother Rex was affected by the floods and may be able to offer an understanding of what those affected may be going through. If you know a member in need of assistance, please be sure they are aware of this information.

What can the rest of us do at this time to help our members? Our funds in the Disaster Relief fund are limited when you consider all who have been affected by Laura. Any donations you would like to make to this purpose will be greatly appreciated and will go to assist our members. Habibi Temple in Lake Charles has also set up a distribution center for Masonic families if you would like to help in that manner.

After five months of restricted Eastern Star activities, I hope that you will find a joy in returning to meetings with your chapter. It was my hope that everyone would be back to meeting by September. Yet here we are in September and things are not opened to the extent that we expected. To my knowledge, we had more Eastern Star become infected in the last month than all other months together. There is not a requirement to begin meetings if your chapter does not feel the time is right for them. The original guidelines sent out in June are still in place. They will be reconsidered on a month to month basis. Your first meeting should have plenty of business to keep you busy so I have no set requirements. Take time for discussions from your stations. Share news and enjoy being together.

While we need to focus on helping those affected by the hurricane, we need to be sure our members who lost their jobs are making it through this difficult time as well as our elderly members on a limited income. I hope we will also remember our communities. During the shut-down with the rapid rise in food cost, many people whose income has been greatly decreased are struggling. Additionally, those on a limited set income may also be struggling financially. In this time of uncertainty we need to support food banks, school drives, utility assistance programs, homeless shelters or meal providers. Our community needs are greater than we may realize.

As we go into fall, let us all pray for guidance, understanding and acceptance.

In Service and Love,

Donna M Harrist

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna M Harrist".

Worthy Grand Matron

*"A friend is one who strengthens you with prayers, blesses you with love and encourages you with hope."
author unknown*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2021 - Unexpected Possibilities Session of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana

SERVICE DOGS: The Committee is selling masks with the shooting star logo, but due to the hurricane I am unsure when they will be able to deliver new orders. Check with Jim Josker.

SECRETARIES

Reports with letters of instruction were emailed to the Secretaries of each chapter and sent by regular mail to those without email. While many reports have been received, there are still a few that I have not received. If your chapter did not receive the reports, please contact the Grand Secretary and she will provide them to you in the form you need. Thank you, secretaries for taking care of this for us so we can keep our records up to date

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS:

Delaware – Joyce Smelley, PM (227) 134 Hope St., Mansfield 71052
Exp. December 31, 2021

Indiana – Jame Pantallion, PP (202, 233) 4625 Fern Ave Shreveport 71104
Exp. January 1, 2022

Maryland – Eugenia Vaughn, PM (24) 215 Hardy St., Amite 70422-260
Exp. December 31, 2021

Michigan – Lewis “Mace” Morris, PP (13) 5826 Hwy 6 West, Natchitoches 71457-7108
Exp. January 1, 2022

Missouri – Melissa Sedlock, PM (242) 762 Marilyn Rd, Lk Charles 70611-3415
Exp. December 1, 2021

New Mexico – Judy Sanders, PM (239) 59254 Mt. Pleasant Road, Bogalusa 70427
Exp. December 31, 2021

Oregon – Eva Jean Gates, PM (55, 244) 168 Gates Road, Goldonna 71031-3102
Exp. December 31, 2022

Pennsylvania – Connie Quave, PM (24) 17283 Ben's Ford Road, Bogalusa 70427
Exp. August 11, 2021

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY:

Your 2021 Dues Cards have been mailed; however, please allow sufficient time to receive them as the mail service is extremely slow during this time. In the event you haven't received your dues cards by October 1st, please let me know.

<<<<<<< AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE >>>>>>>>

2019-2020 Roster available - \$1.50

Rituals –Large spiral bound - \$26.00 each (5 ¼ x 8 ¼ - navy blue or white)

Rituals – Extra Large spiral bound NOW AVAILALE - \$36.00 ea. (7 x 10 ¾ – purple

Revised Book of Instruction, \$1.75

Constitutions are available. They are as follows:

Constitution Revisions, 2018, \$1.00 (If you only want to update you Constitution)

Constitution Revisions, 2019, \$.50 (If you want to update your Constitution)

Constitution Pages Only, \$4.68 (You have your binder and tabs but want new updated pages)

Constitution Tabs, \$3.62

Constitution Pages and Tabs, \$8.10

Constitution Binder, \$6.00

Secretaries and Members, please make all checks payable to **The Grand Chapter**. Thank you.

Fraternally,



Diane Smith, PGM
Grand Secretary

Website: www.laoes.org