

"Unexpected Possibilities"

Grand Chapter of Louisiana
Order of the Eastern Star

Donna M. Harrist
Worthy Grand Matron
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January 2021 – Newsletter

From the Desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Finally, we have come to the end of a year that has been quite unusual to say the least and 2020 is behind us. While not all our customs for celebrating this New Year were possible, hopefully each you found a unique way to usher in 2021 for a new beginning and attitude. Wherever you go, Whatever you do, We hope you have a wonderful year.

How I wish we could have our normal bustling and busy year, but unfortunately each week news is received of more members or family who have the coronavirus. We are just into the year and the state is reporting the largest number of COVID positive patients in the hospitals since April 17. Along with this news, some chapters have contacted me with concern due to the rise of infections in their area which in some cases includes their members.

From the start, the reopening of each chapter was left to the discretion of the majority of the active members. Each chapter knows the situation in their area and the vulnerability of their members. If your chapter is not comfortable holding meetings at this time, I understand and will allow you to suspend meetings during the next two months. Hopefully you have already installed officers if you are changing your Worthy Matron and other officers. If not, please make an effort to do so before suspending the meetings. If you choose to suspend meetings, you must inform me either by email or letter.

For those chapters who continue meeting at this time, the meetings should be kept to only members of the chapter and no pressure should be put on any member to attend. Each member should be sure they are feeling well and have not been with someone who is infected in the last 14 days. You do not want to be responsible for any unintended exposure of a member of your chapter. Also, please carefully consider your own vulnerabilities before attending and wear your mask.

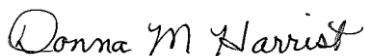
Our Associate Grand Matron, Kay McCray, has been receiving calls about the chapter requirements for this year. She asked that you be reminded that they were with the January 2020 newsletter. If you are going to continue meetings the next two months and do not have your copy, please contact Kay to receive a replacement.

The Disaster Relief Committee needs to have all applications related to the hurricanes completed and returned to them by January 19. Please be sure that everyone who needed a form received one and is aware of this deadline. Marilyn Abshire, PGM, is the chairman of the committee and can answer any questions.

After the cancelation of Grand Chapter last year, who would believe we were still having such limitations to deal with this year as we try to finalize everything. I know you want the tentative schedule. We are set up much as last year at this time, but through the 14th of January, we can only have 75 in attendance and that includes any employees of the facility which must be present. With the current conditions, political atmosphere and in discussions with the facilities, it seems most likely that we will not get any significant increase in participants allowed until the latter part of February. After all the refunds last year and considering our current situation, I believe it is better for us to plan a little shorter convention from the beginning. I am working on tying down some details and will have the schedule online by the middle of the month.

Though it feels like we are not moving forward, I want to assure you that we are. It is just slower than we would like at this time and hopefully by early summer our Order and our communities will be back in full swing. Hope to see you soon in Alexandria!

In Service and Love,

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

Donna M Harrist
Worthy Grand Matron:

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 21-24, 2021 – “Unexpected Possibilities” Session of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria and Holiday Inn Downtown

October 29 – November 5, 2021- 50th TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

REMINDERS:

Charity Funds - It is time for all charity funds to be sent through your Secretary to the Grand Chapter office so that your chapter will receive credit. All funds must be in before January 31.

SECRETARIES Reminder

Dues cards - It is your responsibility to put a PM or PP behind the name of any Past Matron or Past Patron when you make out their dues card. This is that person’s proof that they are a voting member of Grand Chapter.

First five officers - After the installation of officers, provide the names and addresses of the **first five (5) officers** of the chapter and the telephone number of the Chapter Secretary to the AGM, Gr. Secretary, Gr. Conductress, and Chairman of the Committee on Credentials. If your officers stayed in place, please inform them of that information and list them again so there will be no doubt. This is very important for the roster and other needs through the year. Remember to put the seal of the chapter on the letters.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS

Arizona – Mary Berthelot, PM (80, 105, 108) 32713 Carolee Circle, Denham Spring 70706
Exp. Jul 1, 2021

New Brunswick – Della Smith, PM (23, 235) 20781 Madison Avenue, Livingston 70754
Exp. Dec. 21, 2021

Utah – Barbara Stockner, PM (23) 6389 Esplanade Ave., Baton Rouge 70816
Exp. Sep. 30, 2022

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY:

Annual Returns – Have been mailed or emailed to Louisiana Secretaries. In the event you have not received, please contact the Grand Secretaries office. Reports are due by 1/15/21.

Esther #26 – Suspended Dennis & Marie Montgomery for NPD.

Moss Bluff #242 – Suspended Dan Guillory for NPD.

Roster Changes:

Broadmoor Chapter No. 233 – Linda Frazier, PM, Sec. – New Address - 900 Kingston Crossing-Apt. 302, Bossier City, LA 71111-6281

Campfire Friend - Wanda Hagemeyer, PM. - New Address - 9795 Nightengale Rd., Shreveport 71106

Electa Chapter No. 10 – New Domicile - Solomon Lodge, 2191 Hwy. 28 East, Pineville 71360 – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:00 P.M. (except July & August and 2nd meeting in December). **New Secretary** – Elaine King, PM, Sec 116 Wilderness Dr., Boyce 71409-8607 - 318-442-4611(H) or 318-792-2823©, email: elaineking1@suddenlink.net

Goldonna Chapter No. 244 – Eva Gates, PM, Sec. email: eva@keithgateslaw.com

Fernleaf Chapter #24 – Change of Meeting Day & Time to 2nd Sunday each month at 2:00 PM

Secretaries and Members... please make all checks payable to **The Grand Chapter, OES**. They should be submitted to me by your chapter secretary. Thank you.

Fraternally,



Diane Smith, PGM
Grand Secretary