

"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

March 2021

From the Desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Unexpected is the most applicable description for all we have experienced this past year. Plans have been nearly impossible to determine and even more difficult to complete. Thus, after canceling our session in 2020 and much reorganizing for this year, finally a plan for a modified session is going to come to fruition.

With the edict issued by the Governor on March 3rd our state has moved into Phase 3 Covid restrictions which opens activities in the state to a degree. Today, March 5, the Grand Master has issued an edict allowing us to follow the Governor's Phase 3 guidelines in relation to our meetings. This allows us to have Grand Chapter in a modified manner.

We will adhere to all the guidelines by the state, the Grand Master and those currently in place for chapters. MASKS WILL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. Social distancing will be in place in the seating of the sessions.

It will take a couple of days to get everything tied down and provide you a schedule, but this is some general information. A letter was sent out on February 1st to all other Grand Jurisdictions informing them that due to Covid and the restrictions in our state, any session we might be able to hold would be restricted to Louisiana members only.

There will be NO Sunday and NO Monday events. The first Grand Chapter Session will be the formal opening on Tuesday morning. We will conduct our business on Tuesday and Wednesday concluding with the installation of officers on Wednesday. Times for things may be a bit different from the usual. An effort will be made to have this all settled by Tuesday at the latest and posted on the web site.

Joy Beth Williams, Chairman of Credentials, has extended the pre-registration deadline and forms with checks must be received by March 15th. The form is back on the website now.

Your secretary should have received the credentials for the first 4 officers today or tomorrow.

The Holiday Inn has extended the room block to March 12th. This information is also back on the site. Make your reservation directly with the hotel (318) 541-8333 using code GES or Order of the Eastern Star.

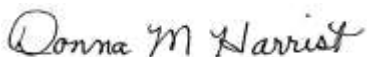
First and foremost, please carefully consider your personal health and wellness before deciding to participate in this function. If you are not feeling well in any way or have been exposed to Covid in the last 14 days before session, please protect your sisters and brothers by not attending. Do not let anyone pressure you to attend, do what is best for you because your wellbeing means more to us than anything that will take place at Grand Chapter.

If you would like a little something extra to do, we could use some assistance on Monday in preparing for Grand Chapter. With a year delay, changes in work or home situations and just the chaos of this last year, some of those on the committees preparing for the session are not able to participate this year. Just let us know and we will find a place for you to help.

In a year filled with cancelations, delay and unexpected situations, to be able to move forward in anyway is a pleasure. It is now time for all chapters to return to regular meetings while continuing to follow the guidelines for the protection of our members. At the completion of Grand Chapter you will be under new leadership who will steer you into the rebuilding and rededication of purpose. Everyone is excited to move forward as Kay McCray and Johnny Byrd with their 2021-2022 Grand Family will be at the helm of this Order. They have our support and prayers for calm seas and safe travel throughout the journey of this uncharted year.

Sisters and Brothers, Keith and I cannot begin to thank you enough for your patience and cooperation these past two years. Our time with each of you has been special and our memories are overflowing with the love and acceptance you have given. While normal is something that no longer exists in many areas of our lives, your support of one another and of us has been a Gift of Love that will always be treasured.

In Service and Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna M. Harrist". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Donna M Harrist

Worthy Grand Matron:

*Between yesterday's mistakes and tomorrow's hope
There is a fantastic opportunity called TODAY*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 23-24, 2021 – “Unexpected Possibilities” Session of the Grand Chapter of
Louisiana Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria
Hotel: Holiday Inn Downtown**

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

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS

Australia – Anna Hall, PM (59) 817 Dupard St. Mandeville 70488-4328
Exp Dec. 31, 2021

Connecticut – Kathryn Foster, PM (85) 1103 Lisa Lane, Ruston 71270-1448
Exp Dec. 31, 2022

Idaho – Kevin O'Donnell, PP (35) 2810 Cupid Street, New Orleans 70131
Exp Dec. 31, 2022

Ontario – Delores Smith, PM (45) 1013 Pak Road, Franklinton 70438
Exp Dec. 31, 2021

Wyoming – Lora Silvers, PM (36,) 9 Cypress Drive, Ponchatoula 70454-3930
Exp. Dec. 31, 2022

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY:

Roster Changes:

Marilyn Abshire, PGM new email - mlabshire@outlook.com

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Smith".

Diane Smith, PGM

Grand Secretary

Website: www.laoes.org