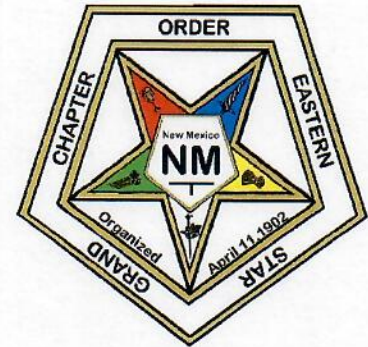


Mrs. Pamela Sutcliffe
Worthy Grand Matron
in New Mexico
Email: pamela.sutcliffe@oesnm.com



June 5, 2020

Greetings NM OES Members,

I wanted to update you on considerations and contingency plans that have been formed due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Don, WGP, the elected Grand Officers, and I have been meeting weekly via Zoom during this crisis in order to maintain continual communication. This has allowed us to stay as abreast as possible with OES membership needs, be able to address those needs, and also to continue to make plans. We have held several additional Zoom meetings throughout the course of the past couple of months. We have had meetings where District Instructors, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Secretaries, Grand Officers, and others have been able to meet to hear about what is happening in the various chapters and areas around our state, help encourage communication with our members during these challenging times, and communicate decisions being made.

During the month of June, we are inviting any OES New Mexico member who is interested to join us in "all member Zoom social meetings." Each meeting will be limited to 20 members, where Don and myself will attend, plus a few of the elected line officers split between meetings. We are looking forward to having some fun and hearing from you. The meetings will have a theme and activities. If you are interested, please contact me through email or phone to be placed on the list. We will divide the list into groups and let you know your special social meeting time (which will be on a Wednesday or Thursday from 7 to 8, one night this month). Sabrina Pack will help with the technology component for us. Let's "Come together" in this unique way!

I also wanted you to know that we are all certainly focused on the safety of our members and about a decision regarding having Grand Chapter or not. This final decision has not been made yet, as Grand Chapter is still almost five months away and a lot can change in that time frame. However, we have been actively considering all options. We feel it is too soon to make this call yet, but certainly we are considering that potentially all Grand Officers and Grand Appointments may stay in place for another year. This has NOT been decided, yet. We will be meeting with the Pyramid Hotel in the next week to determine if our membership will be able to safely meet. Also, the evolving Governor's plans, Grand Master's plans, and hotel's capabilities are all factors that weigh into the decision. We need to evaluate as the summer

proceeds. The decision will be made as soon as possible, no later than August 1st. We will contact all Chapter Worthy Matrons and Secretaries of the decision, an email will be distributed, letters will be sent to the Chapter, information will be posted on social media and our website of the decision when it is made. This will give chapters enough time then to decide, if it is decided to cancel Grand Chapter, to optionally hold over their current officers for another year as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or any one of the elected line officers. The safety of our members is our number one priority and fellowship is number two.

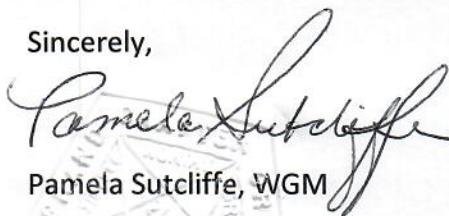
As of now, camp-out is still happening but in a different format than originally planned as attendees will basically be camping with their individual group. As with all gatherings in the state, we will be expected to follow the rules that are in effect at that time for masks and social distancing. As a result of the restrictions currently in place, we cannot plan for meals and other activities together. The campout committee chairmen, Kathy and Wayne Walker, will be giving us more information about what we will or will not be able to do as the restrictions change.

As far as the remainder of the official visits, depending on the health situation and with safety as a main priority, it will be determined if the remaining Official Visits will or can be held in August and September or if everything is postponed to a later date. A special thank you is extended to Chapters, whose Official Visits have not happened this term, for sending me your books for inspection.

The Elected Grand Line continues to write messages posted regularly on the OESNM website under the special "red" section for COVID-19 and on Facebook to keep in touch with all of you. Please reach out to any of us if you need anything or have any questions.

May we find strength in knowing we are all in this together and we will get through this.

Sincerely,



Pamela Sutcliffe, WGM

Pamela Sutcliffe, WGM

