

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this finds you all well and surviving the heat. We have had a promise of rain here in East Central New Mexico. Enough to turn us from hot and dry to hot and muggy. Thankfully we have had no new COVID cases here in over a month.

I have three things I want to discuss this time. Number one is we are planning two more all member Zooms this month. The first will be July 22 at 7:00 p.m. and the second will be July 30 at the same time. We have had two previous sessions and both have been very successful. If you have not attended one of these, they are a lot of fun and Pam and I will be there to answer questions. It is good to see and talk to our sisters and brothers around the state. It's almost like being together but in a different way. If you are interested, please contact sister Sabrina by email at Sabrinapack@gmail.com. She will put you on the list and send out the information on how to log on as an invitation. We hope to see you at one or the other 'Zooms'.

The second thing I want to bring up is the DOC's. We will have several positions to vote on when we are able to have Grand Chapter. If you feel you would like to run for one of these positions, it's a simple procedure. Go to the OES website and click on the member hub and it will ask for a password. If you don't have the password, call your worthy matron or any one of the Grand Officers and we will be happy to give it to you, then click on the declaration of candidacy form. Also, your chapter secretary or the Grand Secretary will get you one. Fill it out and sent it to the Grand Secretary and it will be posted for the members to see. Please don't hesitate to send in a DOC, even though someone else has sent one in for that position. Remember, having a choice of people to vote for is good. Some of the Grand Officers have commented that having more than one running would have made them feel better knowing that they were selected instead of that they got it because they were the only ones running. There is one new position open next Grand Chapter and that is marketing and membership.

This brings me to my third subject, membership We cannot continue to exist without bringing new members into our order. Even though we have been dark since March, I know we have not been idle. Hopefully you have inspired someone or better several someones to wish to join our order. Get them a petition, if you haven't already, but caution them that it might take some time for their petition to be read and acted on due to the restrictions on meetings. Keep them involved and active in what you are doing to keep their interest up.

When we are finally able to meet and act on petitions, we need to be able to get them in as soon as possible. Therefore, get out your ritual, study the parts you know, maybe learn a new part or several, and don't forget to study the instructions. We want their initiation to be as impressive as possible. You may ask, if we are limited to how many may be at a meeting, how will this work. By knowing several parts, we will be able to confer an initiation degree. I will be working with the WGM, Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, Grand Chapter officers and the jurisprudence committee to map out how we can do this best and will get you these guidelines as soon as possible.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you on Zoom and until we can meet again in person, stay safe, stay healthy, stay cool.

May God Bless and keep you,
Don Sultemeier, Worthy Grand Patron

