

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from the southern part of the great state of New Mexico!

We had a short reprieve from the heat, but that appears to be over. We are back in the 103 – 105 degree range again. We have had some random showers and the weeds are doing great.

I have no idea what to write about this time. My fellow Grand Officers have provided words of inspiration and guide lines to ensure personal safety and support our Order. Redundancy is not needed.

I would suggest that we periodically review those articles. They are posted on the OES website under each Officer's name by date of publishing. Those articles are pertinent to our situation today!

Kudos to members Debbie Huffman and Sabrina Pack for their dedication to keeping our members connected during these trying times. Other un-named members are also laboring to keep us all connected with calling trees and postal mailings. The Order of the Eastern Star exists to provide for the welfare of the families of Master Masons. In these trying times we must be diligent in that pursuit.

When growing up, my dad impressed upon me the importance of greeting a person with a handshake. It was a gesture of respect and a way to take a measure of a person. I miss greeting my Sisters and Brothers of the Order with handshakes and hugs. That is always the first order of business. However, if the CDC statistics are to be believed, Covid-19 infections in the 50-64-year age group are 15.6% fatal; 65 to 74 age group infections are 21.0% fatal; 75–84 age group infections are 26.3% fatal. The percentage of fatal infections for the age group 85 and up is 32.2%. Absolutely frightening! As much as I miss these physical inter-actions, we must forego them for the protection of our membership. Enough of the down side. With common sense and diligence, we will endure!

I recently heard this story of an older Louisiana gentleman who had owned a large farm for several years. It had a large pond on the remote side of the acreage. The pond was well shaped for swimming, so he had built up a recreation area over the years with picnic tables, shades, apple and peach trees. As he had not checked on the area in quite some time, the old gentleman decided to check on the area and took a bucket to bring back some fruit. Nearing the area, he heard voices laughing and shouting. When he got closer to the pond, he realized that a group of ladies had discovered his pond and were skinny-dipping! He made his presence known and approached the pond. From the deep end of the pool one of the ladies hollered that they were not coming out until he left! He apologized profusely and told them that he wasn't there to chase them out. Holding up the bucket he said, "I have just come down to feed the alligator".

Respectfully, your brother

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Grand Sentinel

