

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this finds you safe and busy taking care of yourselves, each other, and your communities needs. Here it is almost a year since we suspended in person meetings.

Some of our chapters have embraced virtual business meetings and to be with each other. Since the 1st of the year, one focus of the zoom meeting is to discuss things we found positive in 2020. This will be something to discuss at our all member zoom on February 21.

I look back on the year 2020 as a year of vision. It opened our eyes to new ways of doing what we do, being who we are. Most of us joined our order to be with people we like to be with and to be of service to our neighbors and communities. It was not until our initiation that we were introduced to our beautiful ritual and its many lessons that we found true brotherhood in shared vows, expectations, and the larger scope of all that entails. For now, we cannot share our ritual with new friends, but we can still invite them into our circle of friendship and service by including them in our activities.

At first, the elected Grand Officers got together on zoom to discuss how to proceed, then included the appointed Grand Officers, next the chapter Worthy Matrons and Patrons, then the chapter members. We initiated calling trees and sent out cards. As chapters started virtual meeting we tried to attend as many as possible all in the spirit of "coming together".

If 2020 was a year of vision and finding new ways, I see 2021 as a year of opportunity. Opportunity to take what we have learned and move forward. Opportunity to expand our horizons and accept new challenges. Opportunity to grow our membership and outreach. Opportunity to look beyond what we have been and reach out to grasp new ideas and still maintain our identity.

Hopefully, we will soon resume our in-person meetings, initiate new members, and enjoy bringing our beautiful ritual to our new members. Sister Pam and I want so much to resume our official visits and be with you in your chapter rooms, but until then we must follow the best practices as set forth by our state, Grand Lodge, and CDC. Hopefully with the advent of vaccinations, many restrictions will be lifted. Until then, "be not weary in well doing" and forget not those friends who have been there to help in your endeavors and would like to become members.

The vision of 2020 has opened the opportunity for us to come together in 2021 in a whole new way. Let's don't waste it!

Don Sultemeier
WGP

