

Happy New Year!!!

“What?” you say, “New Years was January 1.” Let me explain. For those of us in agriculture, our new year comes with the beginning of spring and new growth, new beginnings. We have done our planning as to what to plant and our expectations for a bountiful harvest. We have cleared our fields and cleaned our acequias. We have culled our herds and chosen bulls for the upcoming breeding season. Colts have been broken and mounts turned out for the winter, topped off in preparation for the spring works. Fences and corrals repaired, and wells put in order. All in preparation for the new year.

Now you ask, what does all this have to do with Masonry and our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star? Everything. As our farmers and ranchers know, no matter what is thrown at us, we cannot let it get us down. We must persevere in order to survive. So, it is with our order. The pandemic hit us a sever blow and we had to learn to adjust. We were set back on our ear, but we got up, shook it off, tightened our belts and proceeded forward. In many cases we had to discover new methods in order to do what we, as members of our Fraternity, do. We continued to be a positive force in our communities while striving to keep ourselves safe from the disease that stalked our streets. I know of no chapter in the state that has been totally idle during this time even through we have not been able to meet in person in our lodge rooms.

As spring arrives, our counties are changing from yellow to green, to turquoise. Some of our lodges and chapters can again meet ritualistically in person. Hopefully the work and preparation you have done during the preceding draught and winter will pay off and the seeds of brotherly love will find fertile, moist ground in which to grow and flourish. During this time, your Grand Chapter officers have not been idle. We have met often by way of social media in order to plan and discuss how best to lead us through to spring and eventual harvest in October. We have had to alter plans and strategies many times as situations ebbed and flowed. And we have strived to keep our members engaged and informed.

We are now set to have an all member “mini-conference” at 2:00 p.m. April 18 via Zoom and hope as many of our members as possible can join us. It will be a fun and instructional time. To join us, first you must download zoom on your computer or other device. Next, you need to go to the New Mexico OES website and pre-register. If you have trouble, contact sister Sabrina Pack, our Grand Conductress; Angela Kiefer from Los Alamos chapter; Brother Larry Holmes, PGP; or Debi Huffman and they will be glad to guide you through. There will be a table lodge OES style to high-lite our star points, so have a glass of your favorite beverage to toast each honoree. There will be three break-out session: One for instruction on how to best use social media and marketing, one for new and potential members to ask questions and become better acquainted with our order, and the third for fun and games. The highlight of this `mini-conference` will be a tribute honoring our 50+ members by sister Beth McKown, AGM and brother Jeff Satterfield, AGP. This will be followed by a memorial presentation by sister Shirley Crawford, the Grand Chaplain to honor and remember those who joined that “Golden Chain” this year.

Finally, as we are able to open again and hopefully initiate new members, remember to plant the seeds of brotherly love carefully, water deeply, and cultivate often and we will have a beautiful harvest come fall and our order will grow beyond belief.

May God be with you all, always.

Don Sultemeier

WGP

