

Sisters and Brothers,

Sisters and Brothers it has been a while since I last wrote, and I am sorry for that. Excuses are like belly buttons, and mine is: I was focused on completing our official visits and campout. I am pleased to report that the official visits were all very good and it was interesting to watch progress and innovations made as we came out of COVID. I must commend our chapters and members as we persevered during these challenging times. Campout was a very fun time though it had its challenges. For me juggling getting in and set up and participating in the first ever General Grand Chapter mini-conference with limited WIFI excess. For our AGP Jeff Satterfield and his wife, Paula, vehicle difficulties, we pulled together as a family and made it home safely, though Sister Debbie Davis GS and his daughter went home to a soggy mess. Roswell had its third flood with hail and inundated Debbie's business, broke windows at her daughter's house and beat up vehicles. Thank goodness no one was physically hurt.

The Friday after campout Adah 5 initiated two new members at a special meeting and I witnessed the most impressive Associate Patron's lecture I have ever seen and I assure you, I have seen many. Beautiful work Thomas. If you want a replay, Adah 5 will be initiating two more candidates on August 6 at the Temple 6 building. It will be worth your time and travel.

Sister Pam's homecoming is one for the record books. Santa Fe 19 and particularly, Laura Hill went all out for their WGM, Sister Pam. The chapter room and dining hall were beautifully decorated and a delicious meal catered. The guests arrived and were signed in. All was going as planned. A light rain was falling as we headed into the chapter room to start and the lights went out. Discussion was held as to what to do. Wait for the lights? Use lights from cell phones? How about candles?

Candles were found and places throughout the room and we proceeded with the official visit. Following the initiation we went to refreshment for introductions in the dining hall as we had light from windows and skylights. After introductions and presentations, WGM Pam declared chapter closed.

Dinner was served and a lot of socializing ensued. The comments heard was after two years of technical innovation, we returned to the 'really old way' of doing things. When the official visits pictures are publicized there is an impressive picture of the chapter room bathed in candlelight. (We were without electricity for nearly 3 hours.)



Next up is the State Fair parade on September 11 in Albuquerque. We will have more information on that as it gets closer. Also in September is the 1st annual OES bowling tournament to benefit Paws and Stripes and we will have more information on the web page and fliers.

October is Grand Chapter. Sister Pam and my "Coming Together" session. We would like to see as many of you there as possible for a real great session. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible. Sister Kathie (my wife) is taking the mail ins and the online reservations should be on the web page soon if not already. Please sign up for the meals. Remember your meal tickets are what pays for the meeting rooms and all the little things the hotel does for us.

We look forward to a really great time being with our sisters and brothers. And until we meet again
"Vaya Con Dios"

Don Sultemeier
Worthy Grand Patron