

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Here it is time again to send out my message. It seems I just finished the last one. As always you, my Brothers and Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star, are in my prayers. I hope this finds you all safe and sane and remind you that the Lord has promised to aid and assist you by the "right hand of his power."

This pandemic has been hard on all of us and its not over. We must continue to do what is right for ourselves and others. That means following the CDC's directions, social distancing, masks, small gatherings. There was a funeral here in Santa Rosa a few weeks ago in which 50 people were exposed to the virus. Eleven of which tested positive to COVID. Some of these were corrections officers, paramedics, and police officers. So, you can see we must stay vigilant and not let down.

Sunday, we had a board of Grand Trustees meeting on zoom. It was a good meeting with most valuable information being shared. As you can imagine, many of our appointed boards have been very busy, others not so. The benevolent board has been very busy taking care of our members in need and our funds there have taken a hit, but we have been able to meet all of these needs. The Necrology committee, headed by our Grand Chaplin, reported 39 of our members have passed with three PGM and 1 PGP. These are sad numbers when you realize we can't come together, yet, to commemorate their virtue and their service. But they will be honored and remembered when we can meet again.

General arrangements are not able at this time to make concrete plans for our extended "Coming Together" session on October 12-17, 2021, as there is no way to know the kind of numbers we will have to work with. However, sister Pam, WGM, has signed a contract with the motel. The Education Committee was able to meet and consider applications prior to the shutdown and scholarships awarded.

Due to COVID, the membership committee has not been able to function as planned. A future zoom meeting is in the works and will be announced shortly. If you are on that committee or wish to be involved, please contact Sister Sabrina by e-mail that she can include you on the list of invites.

On a fun note, reading my e-mails this afternoon, I find from our Grand Secretary, Debbie Davis, that New Hampshire Grand Chapter is hosting an online "2020 International Weekend and Membership forum" called "Putting all the Pieces Together", October 30-November 1. They are inviting members from all jurisdictions to join them. Check out your e-mail for the flyer and lets all go to New Hampshire for the weekend(virtually).

I must close so Kathie can type this up and get it to Sister Sabrina. Stay safe, stay healthy, help others when you can, and we will all pull through this together. And as sister Dale and Brother Roy Rogers closed, "Happy Trails until we meet again".

God Bless you all,
Don Sultemeier,
Worthy Grand Patron

