

Clarifications and Directions from the MWGM with NMWGM additions:

Grand Officer Installations: no instruction needed since we will not be installing any new NM Grand Officers for the coming year. The current officers have agreed to stay until our 2021 Grand Chapter. For those who are wondering, I will not be appointing or installing a new Grand Organist. NM chapters will use the 'open' installation if/when chapter installations need to be done. It is only necessary to install **newly** elected officers. If the need occurs in your chapter to change one of more elected officers, a dispensation may be requested and they may be elected in your next regular meeting and installed in the following meeting. Other vacancies in the elected or appointed officers can be filled with pro-tems for any meeting.

A closed meeting is an OES meeting opened with the proper opening ceremony in ritualistic form from the ritual and closed in proper Ritualistic form from the Ritual. **These are the meetings that would be unacceptable and illegal to conduct using Skype, Zoom, or any other type of video conferencing.**

The August 26<sup>th</sup> letter from our MWGM provides guidelines for video conferencing. Please read them carefully and adhere to this script for your video-conferencing meetings. **The business meetings held virtually should be held on a regular meeting night.** The members are notified of the meeting through the on-line invitation and this would be a regular event for them. Social meetings can be arranged for as many days and times as you choose.

I believe that we in NM are getting closer to having the opportunity to meet in person. I want to mirror our MWGM and encourage 'vulnerable' individuals to continue to be very careful. Individuals that go out should avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in places that lack appropriate social distancing. In phase two we should avoid social settings with more than 50 people when appropriate social distancing is not practical. In short, if you cannot stay 6 feet from other people you do not live with or see regularly you should not have a gathering. Our governor has also mandated mask wearing and that has been echoed from our MWGM and should be done at all chapter meetings. **Our MWGM recently issued the following directive: please do not sing the opening ode, national anthem, closing ode or welcome song as specified in the Ritual.** This directive is in effect until further notice. In short, we need to wash our hands often, have hand sanitizer available, wear masks, and maintain social distancing to keep everyone we know and love healthy and with us for as long as possible.

The video conferencing guidelines from the MWGM (8/26/2020) are on our website and can be printed for those that don't have access to them electronically. When we can meet in the lodges, copies of the in-person guidelines should be printed and available to all members.

I hope this is clear and we can enjoy 'seeing' each other for these meetings. Pam Sutcliffe, NMWGM