

Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from the southern reaches of the Land of Enchantment. I hope this will find you all well and prospering! Our weather has moderated; the "oven" appears to have been turned off. In fact, we had a low of 44 degrees night before last. The watermelons are slowing down, but the cherry tomatoes are flourishing! The seasons are advancing just as we, the occupants of Mother Earth, must also advance and hopefully, flourish.

As the seasons of the year 2020 progress, so also does the OES year 2019-2020. This year will soon be closing. Our officers are working diligently to accomplish their assigned duties to our Order according to established rules and legislation. In a "normal" year, our membership demonstrates dedication to our Order by attending scheduled meetings, participating in business of the Order, supporting charities, and socially demonstrating our care and love of our sisters and brothers. Obviously, during the pandemic, this is not possible. In our current situation, to successfully complete the 2019-2020 year, we need the active participation of the Order of the Eastern Star membership. With the restrictions implemented to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the individual initiative of our membership is crucial.

Most Worthy Grand Matron, Marianne R. Shenefelt, has issued guidance for limited OES business transaction using video conferencing. Our Worthy Grand Conductress, Sabrina Pack, has established the video conferencing tool "Zoom". We are blessed with several members who are very knowledgeable in the operation of "Zoom". Many chapters are meeting using "Zoom", both socially and in limited business session. It is critical on the part of our membership, to include all sisters and brothers. Please go out of your way to include those who do not have the equipment, expertise or mobility to attend these get-to-gathers. Patience, understanding and indulgence will be required of us all. Communication is the key to success. If you are having problems, call one of the grand officers. My phone number is 575-680-0311. If I can not answer your question, I probably know someone who can. Do not give up.

Remember the basket raffle for the Scholarship fund. Chapter secretaries have basket descriptions, pictures and tickets for that raffle.

The OES 2021 Campout will be at Bonito Hollow outside Ruidoso, New Mexico, beginning Sunday, July 11 through Wednesday, July 15, 2021. Additional information is available from Wayne Walker, (575)642-7807 or Bob Bradshaw, (575)233-4436.

On the subject of questions, there are several things that I wonder about. For instance, where did we come from. Some say we evolved from apes. If that is true then why are there still apes? And, why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds; when they know you are already broke? On TV, I was watching a show where a young mother was feeding her baby with a tiny spoon. I wondered, what do Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks maybe? In light of the things I wonder about, perhaps I should concern myself with the statistics on insanity. Considering that those statistics say that one of every four persons suffer some sort of mental illness, think of three of your best friends. If they seem to be OK, then you might start worrying.

Respectfully, your Brother

Robert "Bob" Bradshaw
Grand Sentinel

