



Considerations for Planning 2021 Installations

We are approaching the winter season with Covid-19 infection rates in Nebraska rising to their highest levels yet during the pandemic. It is time to discuss and plan for our Chapter Installations of Officers. Please remember these simple yet effective precautions to keep risks in your community and chapter as low as possible.

- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are critical for minimizing the spread.
- Masks are essential.
- Common contact of surfaces and objects must be avoided.
- Keep attendance at any event to a minimum.
- 6 feet in social distancing should be the minimum. Keep social distancing greater than 6 feet whenever possible.
- Limit time of event to limit exposures.
- No one who has been recently exposed to Covid-19, is experiencing symptoms, or is ill should attend.
- Socializing should not allow for removing masks.

You have been practicing the guidelines and are experienced, do not relax your elements and behaviors of caution. The risks and spread have increased. We must increase our diligence.

Our law and instruction define Installations as follows:

Section 86. INSTALLATION. All officers shall be installed each year during the month of January at either a stated or special meeting. Installation at other times, except as provided in Sec. 89, 91, and 92, or by dispensation, is irregular and any Worthy Matron permitting it is subject to discipline. Officers cannot be installed by proxy.

- Our law allows for Installations to be performed at open or closed meetings and on any day of the week during the month of January.

In the Book of Instruction, Installation of Officers, page 74, #2:

- 2. The incoming Worthy Matron is responsible for planning all items concerning installation and shall select the Installing Officers.

In the Book of Instruction, Closed Installations, page 75, #1

- Closed Installation:1. The Chapter is opened in ritualistic form and the necessary business is conducted. The Installation Ceremony may take place under New Business or Good of the Order.

Considering our law, instruction and current public health critical crisis, if a chapter is able to meet in January please include these perspectives with your plan:

- Installations should be kept small in crowd size, simple in ceremony, brief presentations, brief in time of the gathering.
- Please do not invite guests from outside of your chapter.
- Please wear masks at all times, which means no reception or social gatherings as masks would be removed.
- Escorts are not to be included. This applies to the Installation Ceremony and Introductions.
- Officers should put on their own badge of office. Wear it into the room prior to installation to save time and contact.

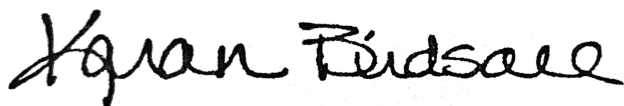
- Installations to be included with your January Stated Meeting, or first stated meeting of 2021.
- If it is the desire of your Chapter to use the Open Installation ceremony, no prior vote by the Chapter will be required. However, that would not occur on your stated meeting time and date and would cause your Chapter to meet twice during the month of January and I discourage that. Keep meetings, events and in person contacts to a minimum.
- Communicate your plan for meeting and installing with the WGM. No dispensation for your stated meeting will be required.
- For officers not able to attend the January Chapter Installation, follow Book of Instruction page 82 for out of time Installation of those Officers. If these Installations occur while we remain under under CDC guidelines, refrain from escorting and have the officer wear their badge into the Chapter Room.
- Follow all normal procedures for reporting installations.
- Enclosed in this mailing is an Executive Order defining an acceptable modification to allow for a more brief Installation Ceremony to be used only in 2021.
- Contact information of those attending should be retained in case the need for tracing arises.

Sisters and Brothers thank you for your faithfulness, dedication, engagement and diligence. It is an ongoing privilege to serve with you. Please continue to use your best judgment and common sense for the protection of our Order and especially with regard to the health and safety of our members. Our Order is precious, yet our members are more precious. Please ask if you have questions. You are not alone on this journey and in these decisions.

Please be aware that conditions will change as the days of our Installations draw closer. While we pray for a decline in the presence of the virus, we may not have safe conditions to meet in January. If additional changes and adaptations are needed they will be shared as they are defined. We will remain hopeful, flexible and continue to monitor conditions and concerns.

We have been travelling through these challenges for ten months. The horizon suggests that better therapeutics and possible vaccines will be with us in the coming months. Prayers of gratitude for each of you as you remain diligent and patient. Prayers of gratitude for all who have dedicated their intelligence, skills, and devotion to the benefit of mankind through their dedication to their scientific processes which will serve all mankind worldwide.

Star love and gratitude with great expectations,



Karan Birdsall, Worthy Grand Matron





Executive Order for 2021 Subordinate Chapter Installations

Considering the unusual conditions within Nebraska as the presence and impacts of Covid-19 escalate in rates and risks, permission is granted to Nebraska Chapters for their 2021 Installation of Officers to be implemented with this Order of Business and use of our Ritual. This definition of Installation does not change our Constitution, Bylaws, Book of Instruction or Ritual. It is merely an option for adapting 2021 Installations where public health risks are high and in an effort to maintain low risks for our members.

Installation may be in connection with your January stated meeting or your first stated meeting in 2021. It is to be closed with no special guests invited.

- Prior to entering Chapter Room, officers pin on their own officer's badge and wear into the room.
- All officers and members enter and are seated socially distant without ceremony.
- Chapter is opened in short form.
- Keep business to be transacted to a minimum. Suggestion: read end of year reports and share any memorial service at a later meeting.
- Installation of Officers may occur during New Business or as the Good of the Order.
- Ceremony of Installation may be modified in this manner:
 - Installing Officer assumes station, declares Chapter open for Installation, directs Installing Chaplain to lead Chapter in prayer. Rap up Chapter.
 - Chapter seated and roll of Officers is called. Officers stand when called and remain standing. Installing Officer calls up all other attenders.
 - Installing Officer administers Obligation to Officers where they stand. No floor work.
 - Installing Officer seats the Chapter.
 - Installing Officer proceeds through Ritual administering each Officer's charge by addressing the Officers in the order they would have been escorted and grouped, the Officers stand at their station and receive their charge. Officer seated. Installing Marshal does not move or speak.
 - At the conclusion of all Officers having received their charges, the Installing Officer continues in the Ritual (page 123, large print, 2018 edition) to complete the ceremony.
 - Return to Order of Business and close chapter with the Closing Ceremony.

**THIS MODIFICATION IS TO BE USED ONLY IN 2021 and
ONLY IN NEBRASKA SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.**

Respectfully submitted,



Karan Birdsall, Worthy Grand Matron