

Grand Chapter of Nebraska



Order of the Eastern Star

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of Nebraska Eastern Star,

¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this. ¹⁹ Don't put out the Spirit's fire. ²⁰ Don't despise what God has revealed. ²¹ Instead, test everything. Hold on to what is good. " These are Paul's words from 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, and in translation we read them as his admonition to "HANG ON"! As you open and read this letter, let me put it in proper perspective. This is the seventh consecutive monthly letter from us that deals with our national emergency, public health crisis and it's impact on our Order, chapters, and members. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience as we address the coming month of our Nebraska Grand Chapter. True confession: Am pondering this question - who in our history has ever had to write so many letters and make so many pleas for your faithfulness and patience? Answer: Probably the Apostle Paul. Take a review of the New Testament and it contains 13 letters attributed to him. We acknowledge some of their originations as being letters directly from him are disputed, but his letter writing does currently exceed ours. We invest our time and attention to his insight, wisdom and talent once again as this letter is penned.

Thank you to each Worthy Matron and chapter that has stayed in communication with Grand Chapter, and especially all of your communications to the Worthy Grand Matron. Staying informed and in touch are always important, but now are vital as we journey this new path. I appreciate hearing if you are meeting, if your are not meeting and how you and your members are doing. Prayers can be more specific when our communications are frequent. Thank you!

As we prepare to enter September, permission is granted for Nebraska subordinate Chapters to enter Phase 1 of opening in September. Permission is not a requirement or an expectation for your Chapter to meet or enter Phase 1 or meet during September. Permission allows your Chapter to individually determine what is best at this time for your Chapter. We advise caution as you consider the timing of opening your Chapter to begin Phase 1 meetings. Opening too soon can cause higher risks for attenders. The welfare and safety of our members must continue to be our highest priority. Conditions and risks are not the same in all communities. Focus on the unique conditions and risks of your Chapter and members. While we make our decisions for a date that lies in the future, conditions and risks will continue to evolve and attention must be paid to the realities as the date draws near. A plan may need to be altered as the date draws near as conditions evolve and warrant. A cancellation may become necessary.

Attached to this letter is a document for clarification for our meetings and activities during the month of September. Please specifically refer to this separate document for details. Please ask if you need further clarification.

We do not find ourselves entering a month with a vaccine or fewer cases of the virus. The risk for infection is more widely present in most of Nebraska now than it was in March when we started this new path. But we do enter with more experience and hopefully a greater understanding of how to keep our risks at a minimum while engaging in some benefits. There is still much to learn and understand; however, there is a great deal of information and experience available to each of us as we chart our courses. Personal interpretation and implementation are the rights and responsibilities for each of us. No two of our situations, needs or concerns are alike. Our choices for our daily living are individual and we show our love and compassion by responding respectfully to those whose opinions differ from our own.

As we move forward together as members of Nebraska Eastern Star, may we listen to each other and accept with grace our differences, individual circumstances, concerns, and needs. We are guided by charity, truth and loving kindness and I anticipate we will each demonstrate our loving compassion in each encounter and communication. It is our ongoing honor and privilege to serve you. We pray for the wisdom and courage to find the paths through this crisis that God is blessing and on which He is calling us to serve.

Star love and enduring hope,

Karan Birdsall
Worthy Grand Matron

Bruce A. Baker
Worthy Grand Patron

