

Grand Chapter of Nebraska



Order of the Eastern Star

Karan Birdsall, Worthy Grand Matron
749 Sunny Slope Road
Lincoln, Ne 68505
kmtbirdsall@windstream.net 402-499-9697

Bruce A. Baker, Worthy Grand Patron
2510 South Deer Trail
Hastings, Ne 68901
bruceabaker30@gmail.com 402-984-7396

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of Nebraska Eastern Star,

You are essential! You are essential to your family, your extended family, your community, and especially to your Chapter and the Order of Eastern Star. You are loved! The Creator of the universe designed you, breathed His very life into you, and loves you as if you were the only creature on this planet. We love you as well, and are privileged to share this Order with you, have taken the same Obligation and serve beside you. We hold you in high regard and take very seriously our relationship with you. We pray daily for each Chapter and each member. We pray for your health and well-being.

We want to address our Chapters' meetings and events for the month of June. Covid-19 cases continue to escalate in Nebraska. We hope soon to see a leveling off and a decline but grasp the reality that we are not yet there. We ask that you continue to practice social distancing and refrain from gathering, meeting or hosting events through the month of June. Stated and special meetings again for the coming month are to be cancelled to allow for the mitigation process hopefully slowing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Thank you for your faithfulness to this request and to this public health process. We pray you are well and will stay free of the virus and disease. By maintaining another month of social distancing we will hopefully continue to protect each other and promote the health and safety of all of our members.

Again, please pay your bills in a timely manner. Document each transaction and disbursement accurately and thoroughly. If you have specific questions regarding an item of business or procedure, please ask. June is not a month with a great deal of business before us. Please practice common sense and practicality. We want roadblocks to be few and far between.

Thank you and congratulations to each chapter that is awarding a scholarship(s). Our students need us more than ever. Award and present your scholarships in a manner respecting the public health directives, yet please include as much joy and publicity as possible. We all are eager to be aware of our successes. Please share your news and awards with us! Our Masonic Youth groups will each have a recipient to receive our Grand Chapter Scholarships as well. We will share that great news as well.

Please continue to communicate as effectively as possible with your members. It is such a blessing to receive a phone call, an email, US mail, or message from our members. Encourage your Chapters' members; offer to assist as able and safe. Gather as many email addresses from your members as possible. Build your contact list to increase your ability to share communications. Encourage members to join Nebraska Order of Eastern Star Facebook page. It is a great tool to receive updates, communications, stay in touch with our chapters and members across Nebraska. Does your chapter have a Facebook page? If yes, please share its existence on our Nebraska Facebook page so that others can join. If no, maybe it is a good time for your chapter to consider one. It is important to stay in touch. Our mental health depends on connecting with each other, sharing joy and seeing what is happening beyond our own walls.

Enclosed please find some suggestions and requests. ☺ We want to hear from you and share the great things that we are thinking, doing, planning, and moving toward as we practice social distancing but remain eager and active. As the days pass we have learned from watching the world around us that what we considered normal in January of 2020 has evolved. When we return to meeting and sharing events, we will enter into a new and different normal. Together we will address these changes and challenges. 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 calling us to serve.

Star love and enduring hope,

Karan Birdsall
Worthy Grand Matron

Bruce A. Baker
Worthy Grand Patron



Directing our Energy to Sieze the Month of June

As the challenges and changes brought on by our current public health crisis continue, evolve and present themselves as our new normal we need to consider **how can we be at our best** as an Order, a Grand Chapter, Chapters, members and individuals.

Please share as a Chapter and engage during the month of June:

1) At the date and time of your Chapter meeting.....

What can you do? How can you share together?
Consider praying together our Grand Chaplain's prayer.
Share the Mizpeh Benediction

**ZOOM virtual gatherings can be scheduled.
CONTACT THE GRAND CHAPTER OFFICE.**

2) Continue to be assertive with communications.

It amazes me that some of our officers and members still do not know:

We have a Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star Facebook page.

It is a great tool for sharing information and staying in touch.
It is a private group for members only and FREE COMMUNICATIONS!!

We have a public page that shares the successes of our Service and Therapy Dogs.

Visit the Facebook page: **NEBRASKA STAR DOGS**

You can LIKE, FOLLOW and it is a **public page**.

INVITE YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS to Like and Follow the Page. This is a tremendous outreach for introducing your community to our Order and our primary philanthropy.

SHARE ITS EXISTENCE WITH YOUR MEMBERS AND BEYOND!

We have a website: <http://www.neoes.org>

Updates, communications, committees, forms, contacts posted for all members

Red Book available here for allmembers (Password protected) the words of Electa's pass - no spaces, all lower case

3) Does your Chapter have a representative to the DOGS?

If "YES" YAY! Encourage them to share with your members the news/communications they receive.

If "NO" please consider appointing one and share that contact information. Your Chapter can benefit from news/communications about our Service & Therapy Dogs. You can stay connected and involved with our dogs.

4) PLEASE RESPOND and SHARE

*We need each other! Let's celebrate what we are doing as chapters and members!
In the obstacles we can find opportunities!!*

PLEASE RESPOND TO ME - via USPS mail, email, text, facebook message.....OR SHOUT REALLY LOUD!

I want to hear from you! Please share:

1) HOW MANY MASKS HAVE YOUR MEMBERS SEWN AND SHARED?

2) HOW ARE YOU REACHING OUT TO YOUR MEMBERS?

3) HOW ARE YOU REACHING OUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

4) Do you have a CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE?

5) HOW ARE YOU SERVING? HOW ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

6) WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS?

PLEASE SHARE!!!

YOU CAN REACH ME AT:

Karan Birdsall, 749 Sunny Slope Road, Lincoln, Ne 68505 402-499-9697 (texts ok)

kmtbirdsall@windstream.net

AND VIA FACEBOOK

Please ask questions as they arise! I am here to serve you!

Directing our Energy to Squeeze the Month of June

COMMUNICATION

Communicate with Members
Share meeting and event changes

Inquire how Members are doing
Engage in serving,
meeting Members needs
and other unique needs
due to our
public health crisis

Update and Expand Communication Tools

- Verify correct contact information of Members
 - Expand email data base to increase effectiveness of quick and complete communications
- Do you have a calling tree?**

COLLABORATION

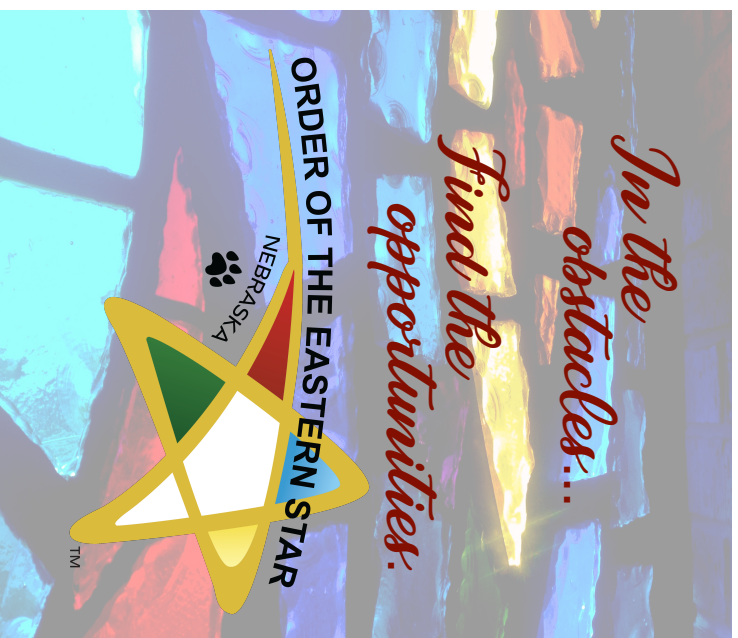
Share awareness of and participation with:

Nebraska Star Dogs

Facebook page
PUBLIC PAGE that can be
shared with ANYONE
Encourage Members to join and also to
invite their Facebook friends

Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star
Facebook page for Members
Join and share with your Members

◆ **WEBSITE:** <http://www.neoes.org>
News, updates, communications,
contactscommittees, forms



CRITICAL CARE

*what should we do sooner
rather than later*

**Meet needs of those who
should not be out shopping**
DELIVER

SEEK OUT
75 year members and families

INTERVIEW AND SHARE
These members joined
during the last interruption of the
Grand Chapter year.
Please take the opportunity to learn
from them about the world of
1944-1946.

CREATIVE THINKING

*How can you utilize
technology and social media
to keep members close?*

ZOOM

(Virtual Meeting Application)
Social opportunities being scheduled
so Members
can meet face-to-face for fellowship
and stay close

CONTACT GRAND CHAPTER
to schedule a ZOOM event for
committees, chapters, other groups

COMMON SENSE

*It is impossible to predict
at this time
what our new normal
will look like.*

*At our best we should prepare
for change.*

Our Obligation does not change.

*Charity,
Truth
and Loving Kindness
will be our guide.*