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## **CHAPTER SECRETARIES PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we start to return to a more “normal” way of living, I hope this letter finds you in good health. Many have received their vaccinations and are feeling very relieved. I urge everyone to continue to wear your masks since there are some who have not been vaccinated yet.

I am hearing of chapters holding meetings – some are only meeting informally for business meetings; other chapters are holding ritualistic meetings. Whichever type of meeting you have it is good to see one another in person again! Remember we are not to have any singing yet, but your organist could play the songs for the officers’ enjoyment.

Sister Marianne Shenefelt, Most Worthy Grand Matron, stated in her May 16, 2020, official letter that it is not possible to have presenting and escorting and we still need to observe social distancing. However, it is acceptable to introduce members and visitors from their places in the chapter room. It is also acceptable to give Grand Honors to those entitled to receive them when they are introduced from their seats in the Chapter room.

We will restart our incomplete 2020 school season on April 17, 2021. There will be many differences from years past. If a chapter is not comfortable having sideliners and/or pro-tem officers, they do not have to invite guests. As stated in the previous paragraphs there will be no singing or presenting. Social distancing should be observed as much as possible. Please see my 10/5/2020 letter regarding instructions on doing initiation at this time.

Camp Courageous is doing a drive-thru omelet breakfast this year. Check out their website or FB posts for more details.

The Barthell OES Home plant auction has unfortunately been cancelled again this year. Stay tuned though, they may have a modified virtual version similar to last year. If you would like to send them a donation you may send your check to our Grand Secretary and she will see that they receive the funds.

As of today, the always popular golf tournament in July is still going to happen! So check the website for forms, get your teams together and get your reservations in!

Other events on the calendar - degrees, official visits (limiting the number of sideliners), the All Iowa Celebration and the Boone Home picnic are still going forward with planning but are subject to change (including last minute change) or even cancellation depending on circumstances.

As we look toward to our "Butterfly Dreams" Grand Chapter session, Oct. 8-10, 2021, at the Sheraton West Des Moines, we are uncertain what things will look like for our annual meeting. We are working on different plans for our session – it could be 2-days or maybe only 1-day. However, we have made the hard decision to not have any out-of-state guests this year. We continue to monitor the state/national/CDC guidelines in an effort to make these plans. We will keep working on our plans and let you, the membership, know when we have a more concrete idea for Grand Chapter and other upcoming events.

This last year has been a difficult time for all OES members! I may have wished to stay home for a weekend or two before Covid, but not for this long! I tried a 2-month trial of retirement when the governor/Iowa Dental Association recommended dental offices shut down. I learned I much prefer working to being at home! Give me a few more years, then I may be ready to have a change – go part-time maybe? Keep smiling, remember to stay in touch with one another, wear your masks and until we meet again May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

In Star Love and Friendship,



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