

## General Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star™

Established November 1876

### TO BE SHARED WITH THE OES MEMBERSHIP

March 10, 2021

Sisters and Brothers,

The health and safety of all members during these unprecedented times of the Covid pandemic must be the number one priority for the long-term well-being of our Order. Consequently, the 50<sup>th</sup> General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly "Circle of Friendship & Service Around the World" scheduled for October 29 – November 5, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, has been CANCELLED.

Current information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states: "The risk for severe illness with COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Other factors that can possibly increase the risk for severe illness includes underlying medical conditions such as serious heart conditions; high blood pressure; diabetes; chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; and weakened immune systems." The majority of Eastern Star members are older adults, many with underlying medical conditions, who would travel from all over the United States, Canada and the world to attend the Assembly. Specifically, it is likely more than 80% of our expected Assembly attendees fall into high-risk categories due to age or health conditions making it inadvisable to hold our Assembly. It is prudent to realize that one person in attendance testing positive for Covid could bring an end to our conference.

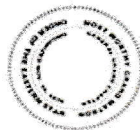
We understand this decision is very disappointing to our Sisters and Brothers. It is disappointing to us and our General Grand Chapter Family. The circumstances are certainly not what anyone expected or wanted them to be at this time. Plans are being made to move forward and you will be receiving further information in the near future.

Please continue your strong and dedicated service to our Order. Eastern Star members are some of the most determined, thoughtful and understanding individuals in the world. We will have the opportunity to come together again when there is not the burden of Covid restrictions. What a glorious time that will be!

In friendship and love,

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron



*Henry S. Martin*

Henry S. Martin  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

Attest:

*Alma Lynn Bane*

Alma Lynn Bane, PGM  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary