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## Order of the Eastern Star

Grand Chapter of Vermont

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Organized November 12, 1873

February 5, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers

It is that time of year when we start our planning to attend our Grand Chapter session as well as other Jurisdiction sessions. Many other Jurisdictions have already made announcements regarding their 2021 sessions. Per our Most Worthy Grand Matron Marianne R. Shenefelt in her letter dated January 19, 2021:

"I say farewell to 2020 and hello to 2021, my Sisters and Brothers! For the well-being of our Order, I believe it is necessary for Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters alike to move forward with their business, elections, installations, etc. I am aware there are challenges for doing this due to the various COVID-19 restrictions, but I have every confidence that together we can figure it out."

Therefore, Vermont will have a Grand Chapter session scheduled for June 3-4, 2021 but at this time, we do not know exactly what it will look like. This will depend on Vermont regulations in addition to ensuring the health and safety of our members. Bruce and I will continue to work with our Jurisprudence Committee, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron and Grand Secretary, to develop the best path forward for our membership. We are exploring several scenarios for the session and Installation of the new Grand Family. Further information will be provided at a later date.

While there are many great things about going to the Grand Chapter session, one of them is seeing our sisters and brothers from other Grand Jurisdictions. It is an honor to have them in attendance, but alas, **this year we respectfully request only Vermont members attend our session.** This is due to the COVID-19 restrictions including the requirements for quarantine. **Please note that many other Jurisdictions have the same restriction. Vermont members, please check with the Jurisdiction before making any plans.** We do not know if these requirements will still be in effect in June, but believe it is best to make this determination now. We look forward to seeing our sisters and brothers at a future date when we can once again meet.

Should an urgent matter arise during this period, please contact either myself or Sister Jerri K. Riegler, Past Grand Matron, Grand Secretary via phone or e-mail.

Please be attentive to our elderly members and check in on them frequently as they are the group that will be the hardest hit. When there is a change in our status, we will notify the membership accordingly. Please stay safe and healthy! We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Stay Home – Stay Connected – Stay Safe – Stay Strong – STAY POSITIVE!**

Proud To Be,

Jacqueline (Jacque) M. Shiner

Bruce A. Johnson