

From Our Membership Committee

Sisters and Brothers,

The events of the past year have been extraordinary! The Covid pandemic has impacted our Order in a manner that none of us have seen in our life times. Our chapters have had to cancel meetings. Health protocols have made it challenging to achieve meeting quorums even when we can meet. These events mean that we've had to find creative ways to carry out our Eastern Star mission. Among other things, this past year as made it increasingly difficult to recruit and initiate new members. While this is always a critical objective of the membership committee and will not be shoved aside - for this year, the disruptions of the Covid Pandemic mean that a primary focus of the membership committee this year will be to retain and keep active our current membership.

Our Worthy Grand Matron, Carol Salmon has created a wonderful travel and service program that we can all participate in despite the challenges in getting our chapters meeting again where we can perform our service functions and our work. Our membership committee encourages every member of every chapter to do what they can to maintain and encourage the active participation of our membership.

Ways that we can do this include:

- Offer to give a lift to your sister and brother chapter members to your chapter meetings.
- Call a half dozen of your inactive members to see how they are doing. Ask if there is anything you (your chapter) can do for them.
- Call a member and ask them out for lunch, coffee, ice cream etc if they are comfortable and able and protocols allow.
- Consider as individuals or a chapter to create a "pen pal" (remember those?) relationship with another chapter member that may not be able to attend meetings but desires to be active in any way possible
- Consider as a chapter conducting social meetings when stated meetings are not possible. These can be in-person where practical, or even on zoom.
- Consider as a chapter, a visible philanthropic activity in the spirit that we may aid, comfort, and protect each other through our journey through human life and create visibility in your local community for what we do and what are about.
- Consider "adopting" a rest home or hospital ward (with a coordination with the entity) to send cards or make visits as protocols will allow.
- Develop something similar to "meals on wheels" to deliver a regular meal (ie: on a Sunday once a month) or provide rides to doctor's appointments
- Tell the membership committee of a successful strategy you or your chapter has used to sustain and grow membership so that we can share it with our order.

Do not worry if you or your chapter cannot do everything on this list. Our time and talents are truly limited, so anything that you and your chapter are comfortable with will help our Order

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reach its goals. Not only will these actions help us sustain our current membership through these challenging times, but strengthening (and maybe recreating) these relationships can only also pay benefits in generating new petitions for membership.

We generously ask as well that your chapter's membership committee make note of these and other activities your chapter and its members have come up with on their own and engaged in to sustain (and grow) our membership over this coming year. Then in late January/early February share with our committee your successes that can be passed on in our annual report to Grand Chapter next year. Details will be provided to your chapter via one of the Grand Chapter communications in late spring/early summer this year.

In closing, consider what the legacy of our service will be for the health of our order and the good of our neighbors and mankind.

In Star Service,

Your Grand Chapter Membership Committee

Chip Marcy-chair, Susan Dennett, Valeri Blackburn