

Royal grand chapter, OES, PHA Proclamation and Newsletter

Flora J. Simon, GWM Johnny H. Carolina, GWP

Proclamation: By the power vested in me as Grand Worthy Matron, I declare February 27-29, 2020, as the 135th Annual Session of the Royal Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA. All officers and members of each subordinate chapter, and all grand chapter officers are to assembly during these days at the Masonic Temple at 2906 East Harding Ave. in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to conduct official business. **All 2020 relief dues must be paid by January 31 in order for a member to attend Grand Session and mailed in to the RGC office.**



2020 Theme: Empowering Leadership

Grand Chapter Events:

Thursday, February 27

- 10:00 am - All grand chapter elected and appointed officers, hostess and registration committee meet in the OES Chapter Room.

 - 3:00 – 5:00 pm – Registration in the OES Foyer
 - 6:15 pm - Begin lining up for Memorial Service in the Chapter room
 - 7:00pm - Memorial Service –
 - After memorial service, Reception for Visitors – Hostesses are District 5 Deputies and Worthy Matrons
- *****Marshals & Conductresses meet in chapter room immediately after memorial program.

Friday, February 28 at

- 7:00 am ----- Registration
- 8:30 am ----- Official Business Session
- 10:45 ----- Ritualistic Opening
- 7:00 pm ----- CN Toney Annual Trustee Banquet
 - Extra ticket - \$30.00

Saturday, February 29 at

- 7:15 -- New Matrons and Patrons Administrative Degree – Blue & White OES Rm
- 9:00 am ----- Grand Master Wilson's Address
- Reports Continue and Election
- 6:30 pm ----- Gala theme: *Blues on the River* (Dinner and Entertainment) The sponsor is district #7 South.
 - Extra ticket - \$15.00

NOTE: Invite family and friends to the Memorial Service, Banquet & Gala; these are open to the public. These can be great recruitment events.

Registration: Local Chapter registration forms have been sent to Worthy Matrons by Grand Matron. These forms must be returned **before Jan 15, 2020**. Only after the chapter registration form has been received in the Grand Matron's office, will the member registration form for grand chapter be sent out. Registration for an individual is \$80.00; late and on-site is \$95.00. Pre-registration deadline is Feb. 7, 2020. Gala and banquet tickets are included in this fee. A banquet ticket is not guaranteed with on-site registration. Register early. Extra banquet and gala tickets must be purchased during the pre-registration period. A Worthy Patron can register with the OES and use that registration to attend Grand Lodge meeting, but not in reverse. ALL members must wear registration badges.

Dress Wear: All white and full regalia both days. If you do not have regalia, wear your chapter badge on the five color side. For the memorial services, the dress is white and full regalia with white prayer cap. Local officers and members are to wear regalia.

- Gala: Casual dress, pants allowed which includes jeans. **Absolutely no shorts, or leggings – not even worn with boots.**
- **Elected and appointed officers will wear long** (to the ankles) dresses on Friday. On Saturday, they may wear long or mid-length dresses on Saturday. No officer will wear short white. Members: All dresses and skirts must be at or below the knee. All white boots are allowed.
- No head wear or hair bows. White gloves are required, and jewelry is all white or wear white pearls. Improperly dressed members identified to me will be asked out of the chapter room to redress properly before returning.

Choir Practice: Thursday at 3 pm. Please come and join the choir; also invite the brothers to join and sing.

Seating: Worthy matron, patrons, and district deputy grand matrons will sit on the north side of the room in the front section. Visitors will sit up front on the south side of the room. Choir members will sit on the south side near the piano.

Community Service Projects: Community service project reports are due on **January 31, 2020**. A monetary award is provided for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place reports to help the chapter provide continued charitable community support. Reports must be organized and in a scrapbook. We are to get involved in the community.

Policy and Procedural Manuals and New Burial Rituals: All members are required to have an official copy of the procedural manual. They are \$5.00. Bring an extra \$5 to Grand Session to purchase one. If ordered by mail, it will cost you \$6.50 to cover the postage. The newly revised Burial Rituals (2016) will be available at Grand Chapter for \$3.00. Other items will be on sale also.

Car Raffle Tickets: The first ticket report is to be made by January 31. All remaining ticket reports are to be into the PHGL office by February 16, 2020. Please send the stubs with the money. If for some reason, you need to make a report after that date,

turn in the report on Thursday, February 27 by 12 noon. **OES chapters should not be returning tickets. Sale or buy the tickets.**

2020 Masonic Calendar: The 2020 calendar was released in December. Additional calendars will be available at grand session.

Membership: A Continuous Process. In 2020, the emphasis will be continue to be on local meeting attendance and membership recruitment. Officer training will continue to be the focus our statewide workshop.

RGC Membership Fees:

1. New Membership fee is \$85. (This fee includes the 1st year dues; so applicant is only paying a membership fee of \$15.00; extra cheap fee.)
At least \$50 of the \$300 building assessment must be submitted with the fee.

Reminder: The assessment fee must be sent in a separate check made out to the PHGL building fund. The remaining \$50 for the first year must be paid by June 30. Afterwards \$100.00 for the next two years. New members still have the option of paying the total \$300 at one time as a pledge and get name on Pledge Board in the foyer. The applicant is also to pay \$14 for the ritual and \$5.00 for the Policy and Procedure Manual. **The total to be submitted is \$154.00.**

2. Relief fee is \$75.00 yearly. The total amount is due before or on the night of your annual election. Relief must now be paid in one payment in full. **Absolute deadline is June 30 for relief and assessment fee to be paid in full. No exceptions.**

- When documents are provided that a member turned 76 years of age on or before December 1, her/his fee is reduced to a lifetime fee of \$40.00.
Clarification: Once a member reaches the age of 76, she/he does not change status from a regular member to an honorary member. They remain a regular member. It is just because of age that they get a lifetime reduced rate. No documentation, no reduction.
- If the member joined as an honorary member, the fee is \$40.00 and they will remain as an honorary. They cannot change to a regular member later.

3. This Reinstatement Fee: \$150.00 regardless to how long they have been out.

- They must also pay the \$75.00 current relief fee
- If she owes assessment in any amount, at least \$50.00 must be paid.
- She must also purchase the Policy and Procedure manual for \$5.00.
- **The total fee due with the reinstatement application is \$230.00.**

Membership in Other Houses: One cannot be a member of the Guild, Heroines of Jericho, or Golden Circle unless they are a totally financial member in the OES. If fees are delinquent in the OES, they cannot attend any other house meetings or functions as a member of that house.

Many OES members were dropped for delinquent fees in 2019. Thus, every Head of a Concordant Body is to send to the Royal Grand Chapter an updated copy of the 2020 membership roll to the attention to Grand Matron Simon by February 27, 2020.

Worthy Information

Worthy Matrons, some of you are not keeping all communications in a three ring binder. Again, all communications are to be placed in one three ring binder. That notebook becomes another reference law book for you. It will keep you up-to-date and on task. It should be passed on to new matrons or make her a copy. It will serve as your goodwill jester to helping her get off to a great start as a new matron.

Worthy Matrons, you cannot change the meeting date, time and location of your meeting unless you write and get an approved dispensation from the Grand Worthy Matron. If approved, you must send in a revised annual return form. Election meetings must be held at the regular schedule time and place. Please do this!

Worthy Matrons, you are the leaders of the organization so you must be knowledgeable of all polices, laws, and regulations. Therefore, **when you attend state meetings (workshops, mid-year, and grand session), you are expected to stay for the entire meeting. You are not to leave at lunch; the entire meeting in informational and important.**

Worthy Matrons, be open to suggestions from your members and be an innovative thinker conducting an engaging & enjoyable meetings.

Worthy Matrons, there is no reason why your officers (secretary, & now financial secretary, treasurer, and audit committee) are not prepared to give a correct annual report on the night of election. Information is sent to you way in advance of your annual meeting outlining expectations. Again, read and share communications. Also, during election months, no meeting date, location, and time can be changed. No one except the Grand Matron can give you permission to change a date, time, or location.

Worthy Matrons you are the one totally responsible for actions, errors, etc. that occurs in your chapter. You are to monitor the activities of all financial officers as well as elected and appointed officers. If the officers will not do their job the and correctly, you have the right to remove them. Be sure to inform your Deputy of your concerns with officers.

Mortgage COMMITMENT: Some chapters did not make the \$300 special donation to the mortgage. In 2019, you asked for additional time and I gave it to you. The absolute deadline is February 26, 2020. These chapters will receive a personal reminder as to when the fees are due. You have had plenty of time to respond financially. You had one full year to prepare to make this donation

- In 2020, All Worthy Matrons, local and state officers are expected to support the mortgage program. That means you are to make a personal contribution as soon as you can before June 30. If you have already made one, I thank and commend you for your support.

Reminders:

1. District Deputy Youth Scholarship Funds are due in February 14, 2020.
2. Worthy Matrons Toss the Coin Fundraiser is due in June 13, 2020. All matrons must participate. You should already have your funds. Local chapter members are to assist.
3. Toss the Coin Scholarship applications are due in June 30.
3. Queen and King Contest is in September 26. Each year this contest gets better.
4. All districts must provide the Queen of South and/ or Amaranth Degree in 2020. Grand Matron must approve the date for a local chapter or district before it is given.

State Wide Initiation: Members have requested a statewide initiation. I have agreed to host one. The date has not been confirmed with the officers. Time is needed to plan and organize the event. Information will be sent out as soon as arrangements are finalized. This does not mean local and districts are to stop giving the degrees.

The OES initiation, Queen of the South, and Amaranth Degrees will be given on that day. One person will only be able to take one degree on that day. The rules remain the same: candidates must be financial, meet the membership required time in order to receive the degree (refer to the policy and procedural manual).

Shirley W. Inghram Phyllis Auxiliary Annual Meeting: A luncheon meeting (12:00 – 1:15) will be held on Saturday, February 29, during Grand Chapter Session in the Blue and White Room. President Della Horace and officers will plan for this meeting and send out information to members. Interested members can join the organization on this day. If not a member, I encourage you to join.

The Phyllis Chapter is an independent research organization of the Order of the Eastern Star. You must be a member of the OES to join, but the organization is not an official OES Body. The dress for the meeting is business casual (dressy pant suits allowed) and there is no regalia.

The Phyllis Chapter National meeting is March 4-8, 2020, in Raleigh, NC. OES members present research paper, historical information and data; all related to the Order of the Eastern Stars. Some workshops deal with leadership in the OES and personal development information. I encourage you to attend this meeting. Secretary Edwina Briggs-Smith has sent out the registration information. I am presently serving as President of the Phyllis Chapter. Your attendance and support is desired. The organization publishes a magazine: ***"The Phyllis."***