

Flora J. Simon, Grand Matron



Electa-
Triumphant
#348, Dermott



Johnny H. Carolina, Grand Patron



Morrilton Star-
Eureka-LOV
#16, Morrilton

From the Grand East:

Greetings My Sisters and Brothers,

We just celebrated our 135th Annual Session in February. The session was well attended by members and guests. I could not have been any prouder to be the leader of the Royal Grand Chapter. Everyone was in fellowship and exhibited the kindest behavior towards each other and our guests. It's always the membership that makes or breaks the leadership of any organization; you made this an extraordinary session. Thank you for your kindness, flexibility, and support.

The coronavirus has temporary interrupted our meetings and other events but we will continue our OES mission, but in a different manner. We will correspond by phone, email, text, conference call, mail, and even social media if necessary. For years we have dealt with adversities; so, this is nothing but another test of our truthfulness, belief, and faith. Prayer remains to be our strong hold.

Obey the Masonic Executive Orders from Grand Master Wilson, and State Civilian Orders from our Governor. Be careful, stay safe, and stay well.

GWM Simon

2020 THEME:

"Empowering Leadership"

"The Price of Greatness is Responsibility. "

To sustain a joyful organization requires much from both the leaders and the members. Each member of the organization has to become a, in a special way, servant of the others.

Current Status of the Royal Grand Chapter

2020: There are 59 active chapters.

District #1 – 6 chapters
District #3 – 8 chapters
District #4 – 14 chapters
District #5 – 8 chapters
District #6 – 7 chapters
District #7N – 4 chapters
District #7S – 7 chapters
District #8 – 5 chapters

2019: 2 chapters merged; 2 charters rescinded

2020 RGC Membership Fees: Effective January 15, 2020

1. **New Membership fee is \$85.** (This fee includes the 1st year dues; so applicant is only paying a membership fee of \$10.00; an 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 was due before or on the night of your annual election. Relief must now be paid in one payment in full. **Absolute deadline is June 30th for relief and assessment fee to be paid in full. No exceptions.**

- When the document is 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 was \$40.00. It remains and they will remain as an honorary. They cannot change to a regular member.

3. **2020 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; plus the building assessment of at least \$50, if she owes some.

REMINDER! Membership in Other Houses: One cannot be a member of the Guild, Heroines of Jericho, or Golden Circle or Phyllis Auxiliary 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 an officer of that house.

ALERT! Although we are not meeting, fees are still due. Mail or take fees to the Chapter's Financial Secretary. Financial Sec. must mail these fees to the RGC office. Do not hold. We are still working. ALL fees (local, building, relief) must be paid by June 30, 2020.

Membership -	351
Guest-----	81
Total -----	432

<p>Visiting States: Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, D.C.,</p>

2019 – February 2020 Chapter Updates:

Eureka #60 in Russellville (District #7 North) has merged with Morrilton Star-Lily of the Valley #16 in Morrilton.

Boulware #74 in Grady (District #4) surrendered their charter. Financial members demitted to Mt. Zion #75 in Dumas and Gleaner Star #338 in North Little Rock.

Perla Gate-White Lily #23 in Malvern (District 7 South) Charter was rescinded.

Holly Grove #387 (District #5) merged with Universal Evergreen Verbena #192 in Gum Springs.

Western Star-Bright Future #21 in North Little Rock (District #7 South) consolidated with Gleaner Star #338 in North Little Rock.

Mortgage Donations: The special mortgage donation of \$300 per chapter was given to the Mortgage Clerk Pat Jones in the amount of \$12,000.00 on Friday of the RGC Grand Session. An additional \$400 was submitted later. All chapters that gave the total amount of \$300 names are on the Mortgage except for the last two contributors and those names will be there soon. There are a few chapters that have made \$0.00 contribution. I am expecting a donation from those chapters real soon. The mortgage balance is around \$500,000 currently. Those that have not gotten on board, you still have time. The Lord knows your heart and your abilities. Every dollar helps.

Poston-Sears Queen and PHGL King Drive: This event will occur in September during mid-year session. Every chapter should already have a contestant in place and fundraising should have started at the end of the 2019 contest. Sisters encourage your sponsoring lodge to participate. Help them prepare and accomplish a monetary goal for the event. The money raised goes to the Mortgage and the queen and runner-ups gets a leaf on the tree; the king also. **“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”**

Royal Grand Chapter Fund Raisers: A Vast majority of the chapters have really supported every event the RGC has sponsored. I applaud you. It is a great feeling to know that we have leaders and members that really have a vested interest in this organization. **“Every Charitable Act is a Stepping Stone towards Heaven.”**

- **For this year only**, the District Deputy Drive for the Shirley W. Inghram Scholarship Drive will be waived. Each chapter/district is to donate more to the Youth Penny Drive held each year in August during their annual session.
- The ***Toss the Coin*** Fundraiser by the Worthy Matrons for the RGC Scholarship will continue. The amount each matron must donate for this year only is \$75.00. You can always contribute more, but every Worthy Matron must contribute \$75.00 in June

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19)

There is a lot of good information being shared. As in any situation like this there are always persons out to take advantage of others to make a few dollars; so, be aware of scams. If prices suddenly go up on goods, call the Attorney General office and report it: call **(501) 682-2007**).

I am sharing interesting information from different sources:

- Wash hands in soap or detergent in warm water; make some foam
- Listerine and any antiseptic that is 65% alcohol or more will help
- Your nose and throat are cool places in the body; so the virus can enter & survive in those areas. That is why you wear the mask.
- The virus is a protein molecule that will decay on it's on. The breakdown time depends on the temp and were it lodges; it cannot survive in temperatures 80 degrees and above.
- Mixed Clorox bleach with water and put in a spray bottle to use
- If you use peroxide, do not dilute
- The virus linger the longest on cardboard, metal, & wood. It will stay in the air for about 3 hours.
- Feel a little fever, take Tylenol not Advil, Aleve, etc.
- Can't find a mask? They are now making them at home

Be Careful; Stay healthy; Watch the young children because the virus has now shown up in a child. Use common sense. Keep the Faith! There is no 100% earthly safeguard.

Points to Remember:

1. Order of the Eastern Star (OES) is based on 5 degrees of the Adoptive Rite. By adopted, the OES was approved/accepted by the Masons. Rite refers to ceremonies.
2. One joins on their own free will and thus pledge to obey the rules and regulations of the Order.
3. This is a fraternal not religious organization based on religious beliefs and teachings.
4. The lessons are scriptural; teachings are moral; and purpose is of assistance.
5. The OES was organized in 1778; Arkansas was organized in 1885 in Augusta. Maria or Mariah Craigean was the Worthy Matron and J. E. Peake was Worthy Patron.