



**Grand Chapter**  
**Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Eastern Star Funeral Service is one of the few ritual pieces that can be performed in public. It is one of the dearest tributes we can tender to a departed sister or brother. With the state now lifting some restrictions on social gatherings and the size of gatherings, we have decided to allow chapters to perform the funeral service when requested by family members for their love one.

However, we stress that this is not a requirement and is on a case by case, chapter by chapter matter. If the chapter on a whole feels uncomfortable doing the service, they may tell the family that due to Covid-19 restrictions and our chapters being in the dark, that they are unable to perform the service at this time, but at a later time would honor their loved one.

If there are chapter members who feel they are willing to perform the service, the service can be performed with a limited number of officers or substitutes. NO ONE, and we stress this, NO ONE is to feel pressured, cajoled, persuaded, coaxed, or bullied into participating. Participating is a choice and if someone does not feel comfortable that is their right to say no. If a full slate of officers needed for the service is not available, people can double up on the parts. If no Worthy Patron is available, the Worthy Matron can read his part. Chapter Officer's Jewels are not required.

For the Chapters that do perform the funeral service publicly, the members participating must do the following:

1. Read, answer the attached questionnaire, and sign the waver. *(Forms are to be maintained on file by the chapter secretary. We recommend that the Worthy Matron maintain a copy of them as well.)*
2. Wear a facial mask that covers both the mouth and nose.
3. Wear their white gloves *(Avoid using lace or open crochet gloves. Gloves are to be worn for your protection)*
4. Maintain social distancing by standing 6 feet or more apart.
5. There is to be no singing as part of the funeral service.

If any of these requirements are not complied with, the member cannot participate.

While the state of New Jersey is gradually moving to ease restrictions on gatherings, and Grand Lodge of New Jersey has started permitting some individual lodge functions, Grand Chapter OES of New Jersey remains on hiatus at this time and our chapters remain in the dark. There are no District or Chapter activities or meetings, other than virtual gatherings and the above-mentioned Funeral services, without permission of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, and then they are on a case by case basis. Per Grand Lodge, no appendant bodies are permitted to use Lodge facilities at this time. The continued health and safety of our membership remains our priority. Should you have any questions, please contact your Worthy District Deputy, who has been given more detailed instructions from the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

We remind all of you to follow the recommendations to stay safe by practicing good hygiene, social distancing, and self-quarantining.

It is extremely important that you share this information with the members of your chapter. It is vital that they are kept informed of the determinations made by our Elected Line and the direction our Order is heading in during this unsettling time.

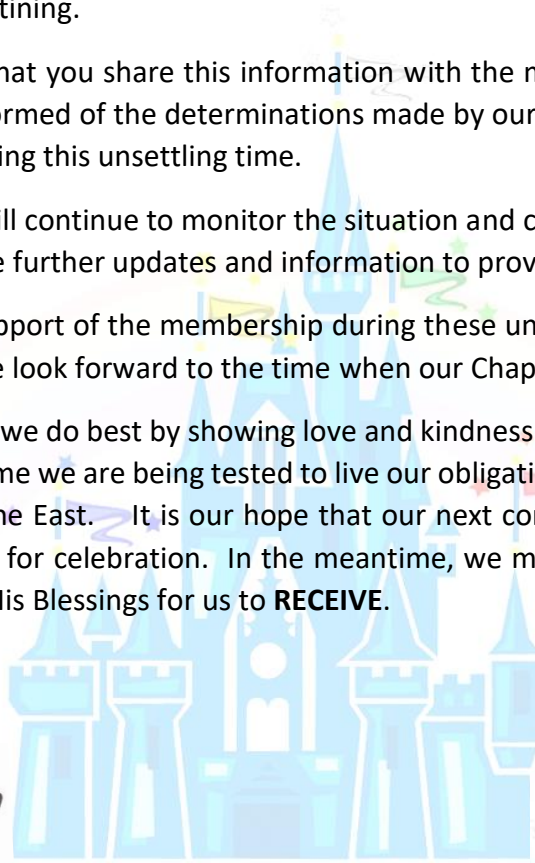
The Grand Chapter of NJ will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with you as often as necessary when we have further updates and information to provide to you.

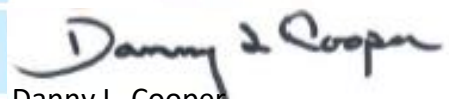
We are thankful for the support of the membership during these unprecedented and trying times. We miss seeing you and we look forward to the time when our Chapters can meet again.


Let us continue to do what we do best by showing love and kindness in all that we do. We are all in this together. This is the time we are being tested to live our obligation. Remember to always keep your focus on His Star in the East. It is our hope that our next communication will be one filled with good news and cause for celebration. In the meantime, we must **ASK** God for guidance and **BELIEVE** that He will send His Blessings for us to **RECEIVE**.

Fraternally,

  
Norma J. Hines  
Most Worthy Grand Matron



  
Danny L. Cooper  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

  
Daria Hamm  
Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron

Attest:

Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary