

Grand Court of Georgia Order of the Amaranth

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TO: The Officers and Members of the Grand Court and Subordinate Courts
of the Order of the Amaranth of Georgia

Dear Honored Ladies and Sir Knights:

To coin a phrase from our Supreme Royal Matron, HL Dorothy Kippie – “COVID-19 has truly changed our lives.” Someone joked that January had 31 days, February 29, and March was 3-years long. While a bit of a stretch, there seems to be a lot of truth in the statement.

Not only have we not been able to meet socially or work for our beloved philanthropic cause, but even more importantly, we have not been able to attend our churches, synagogues, or live life freely as we have been so blessed to do all of our lives. Many have lost their jobs. Whether temporarily or permanently, the effect is the same with the loss of income and has put a strain on each of us, our family members, and our friends. My prayer is that soon we will be able to find a “new normal” for living our lives.

As of this date, the Grand Master of Georgia has suspended the opening of the Masonic lodges through Jun 12, 2020 (see his letter attached). In anticipation of that, I am including the letter from the Supreme Royal Matron which outlines the procedures for opening your Courts and handling the business of your courts. **Please read her letter carefully.** I would like to add something to the SRM’s list for you to consider: Most courts have a meal before their meeting. Because it is difficult to maintain social distancing in serving or gathering for a meal, I am asking that you refrain from sharing a meal in the lodge for at least a couple of months until things settle.

If your court has business that cannot be handled by the Royal Matron, Secretary, and Treasurer (something not requiring a vote) or cannot wait (ie acting upon petitions etc), then next would be to make sure you have a quorum to meet. Many of your members may not yet feel comfortable returning to a meeting, please do not make them feel guilty. The health and welfare of our members **and** their families is of the utmost importance. If you do not meet, continue to have the Secretary record in the minutes “No Meeting due to COVID-19 Restrictions.” **Please** call me if you have any questions about any of this. We are all monitoring the Grand Master’s communications regarding the usage of the Masonic lodges but notices will be shared if he amends the attached communication.

I would like to thank those of you who so willingly donated your Grand Court ticket money back to the General Fund. We sincerely appreciate your gesture. While the 2019-20 Budget is what we are working from, expenses are not doubled during this time of suspension. We have paid the Grand Court storage through April 30, 2021, and there will be usual additional expenses of Grand Court supplies and Supreme supplies (Rituals, GC By-Lays, etc), these are generally off-set by the purchase of these items by our membership. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer still must do their day-to-day business and whatever expenses are required for them, of course, we must handle.

As I stated to you in my letter of April 22, a great deal of our income would have come from the Session which depends upon attendance of our membership. Lack of attendance because of COVID-19 was the mitigating factor in having to suspend until March 2021. The hotel has not yet re-opened but the

Session Chair, HL Kim May, is continuing dialog with the management company. They, of course, refunded all of the meals, rooms, etc. for which they had charged us, with the exception of \$2,250 in pre-paid deposits by the Grand Court and me. We expect to get those refunds soon. By now, everyone should have received their meal refunds. Grand Court is under contract for our annual Sessions for both 2021 (Mar 18-20, 2021) and 2022 (Mar 17-19, 2022) as required by our Grand Court By-Laws.

I was recently asked about the Ad Book and Directories. I spoke with SK Dan Sims today about both. I gave permission for him to send one Ad Book to each Court so that the Secretary knows what was purchased. We will have an opportunity to sell more ads before the March Grand Court Session. Then they will be printed and ready for distribution with Registration packets. For those who pre-paid for directories, you will get the 2021-2022 Directories (HL Beverly Klenke and SK Jay Bratcher's year) at their installation as normal. Those that did not pre-order, will have an opportunity to do so when the Grand Secretary sends out the 2021 Grand Court packets.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES (LABOR DAY WEEKEND):

FRIDAY, SEP 4 – DANCING FOR THE CURE (*Diabetes Research*)

SATURDAY, SEP 5 – BOSTON BUTT SALE (*General Fund*)

Details for both these events will be coming out soon.

Finally, I have been asked if I am doing Official Visits once things go back to "normal." The answer: I am only required to do an Official Visit in each court once during my term of office. This is still one term, one budget, still me. *However*, I would *love to be invited* to attend a special meeting, or a not so special meeting, to have dinner and socialize with the members that I am missing so much. Feel free to call me anytime with a question or just to say hello.

In Amaranth Love,



H.L. Carol Jones Bratcher
Grand Royal Matron