

**Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star
and Rite of Adoption for the State of South Carolina and Jurisdiction**



Sister Linda Owens Neal
Grand Worthy Matron

Brother Reginald Y. Scott, 32°
Grand Worthy Patron

“Exalting the Star through Community Building, Education, and Service to Humanity”

Sister Mary M. Ennis
Grand Associate Matron

December 21, 2020

Brother Jermaine C. Nowline, 33°
Grand Associate Patron

To Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and Rite of Adoption for the State of South Carolina and Jurisdiction's Executive Board, Elected and Appointed Officers, District Officers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, officers and members of all local chapters.

Sister Artonya C. Scott
Grand Treasurer

Greetings:

Sister Tamiquia T. Simon
Grand Secretary

As we continue to navigate through unprecedented times and approach the end of the 2020 calendar year, COVID-19 continues to have a profound impact on our nation, state, and local communities. With the health and safety of our membership at the forefront of all decisions, it is imperative that we continuously evaluate and make adjustments based upon science, data and current circumstances.

Sister Blanchie J. James
Grand Conductress

First, I would like to thank you for your support of Stardom in South Carolina and your fortitude as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times and continue to “EXALT the STAR” while sheltering in place. We must not grow weary of staying the course because our safety, our lives, and that of our families are in jeopardy if we do not.

Sister Ella McGee
Grand Associate Conductress

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, E. Spencer Scott, on December 5, 2020 has issued a declaration concerning a “soft opening” for the Jurisdiction of South Carolina. We wholeheartedly support Grand Master Scott and his declaration and do now issue the following guidelines for those owing allegiance to Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and Rite of Adoption for the State of South Carolina and its Jurisdiction. I, Linda Owens Neal, as Grand Worthy Matron of this great order do issue the following guidelines:

Past Grand Matrons

Sister Joyce M. Durant
Sister Juanita D. Edwards
Sister Sheila B. Danforth
Sister Jeanette P. Singleton

Past Grand Patrons

Brother Fred Herriott, 33°
Brother Herman L. Rivers, 33°
Brother Lewis H. Nelson, 33°
Brother Terry B. Law, Sr., 33°

Newly Initiated Sisters & Brothers: Those sisters and brothers who completed the Modified Initiation are to be considered full members of your chapter and are entitled to the rights and privileges of all other members in your chapter. They are entitled to receive the white ritual and a copy of the PHGC's Constitution. These publications are available for purchase from the Grand Lodge's store. Order forms can be found

on the Grand Lodge's website. Workshops will be planned, when health conditions permit for **all** members - new members for additional training; old members for needed review.

Burial Rites: ALL in person meetings and events which includes burial rites and ceremonies are suspended until further notice. **If there is a death of a Chapter member, what should you do?**

1. **Worthy Matron of the chapter should contact family immediately upon notice of chapter member's death.** Offer condolence and inform them that because of the present health issue within our state, the chapter **will not** be able to perform the burial rites or serve as flower bearers for the funeral.
2. **Purchase the floral star for the funeral service.** Please inform the funeral director to place the floral star in the grave with the departed sister or brother before burial.

Chapter Meetings: All chapter meetings will continue to be held virtually. There will be **No** face-to-face meetings held until further notice. Virtual meetings are those meeting held using teleconferencing (i.e., Free Conference Call) and ZOOM. Yes, I am allowing Zoom chapter meetings with stipulations.

- a. **Teleconference Chapter** meetings will be held using the call-in number provided by the Grand Associate Deputy and or Grand Supervising Deputy **ONLY**.
- b. **Zoom Chapter** meetings can be held provided that all chapter members are invited to attend and notified well in advance.
 1. **GSDs and /or GADs MUST BE INVITED TO ATTEND.**
 2. **ALL ATTENDEES TO THE CHAPTER ZOOM MEETINGS MUST BE DRESSED IN WHITE.**

District Meetings: Annual District meetings are canceled January 1, - June 30, 2021. Realizing that the business of the districts must go on, GSDs may employ the use of teleconferencing, zoom or alternate modes of multimedia. Absolutely **no** ritualistic work will be conducted.

Fund Raisers: Fund-raisers are allowed, but only with the following stipulations:

1. No mass gatherings. Only grab and go activities.
2. Face masks and social distancing required of all in attendance.
3. Teleconferencing, and zoom, modes of communication may be used.

Scholarship Testing: Scholarship testing (district & state) will be scheduled later and will be announced as soon as the logistics have been finalized.

Annual Mid-year (State) Workshop (February in Columbia) is **canceled** at this time. This workshop may be re-scheduled if safety conditions change.

Grand Queen/ King Contest: Plans are already being made for another successful contest. *We want another one just like the other one.*

112th Annual Grand Communication: We are optimistic about the hosting of the **112th Grand Communication in July 2021**. However, our decisions will be based on the prevailing science, data and circumstances as the health and safety of our membership is at the forefront of all decision making.

Again, Thank you for your continued support and your adherence to the afore stated guidelines.

Please continue to stay safe, wear your masks, socially distance, wash your hands frequently, and remember the life you save may be your very own or someone very dear to you.

I wish for you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with good health, lots of wealth and most of all lots of love.

Exalting the STAR...

Linda O. Neal
Linda Owens Neal

**16th Grand Worthy Matron
PHGC OES RA SC**