

Ms. Dorothy I Kippie
Supreme Royal Matron
(253) 686-7831 cell
Email: dikippie@aol.com

*Supreme Council
Order of the Amaranth, Inc.*

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Mr. Gerry Milton
Supreme Royal Patron
(405) 623-7582 cell
Email: gmilton53@cox.net

Ms. Patti Baker, Supreme Secretary
Phone: (303) 986-4977
Email: abaker1054@aol.com

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IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATE: AMARANTH ACTIVITY

Dear Amaranth Members:

We are currently experiencing an unprecedented situation not only here in the United States but throughout the World. The Corona Virus has put many of our Organizations in a tail spin as we looked to end the 2019-20 Amaranth year for Grand Court Sessions, SCJ visitations, Elections and Installations of subordinate courts, and general monthly court meetings. I know all of you have worked hard throughout the year and you all look forward to celebrating your accomplishments. I can assure you the Supreme Line Officers want you to have your “moment in the sun”, however, we must be diligent in keeping the health and welfare of our members in mind and do what is best for them.

Many have asked why I have not sent out a directive and guideline for Amaranth. I have spent much of time this past week, while attending Oregon Grand Court, responding to questions as a result of letters and edicts sent by Grand Masters for Masonic Events, State Governmental Officials and State/City Health Departments setting restrictions for group events and individuals over the age of 65, closing of schools, business’ and services. This has become a revolving door. We are finding that most of the communication between jurisdictions is different in various ways, while communications are changing rapidly. There are many jurisdictions where there has been little to no communication and Corona Virus has not impacted the area. This makes it difficult to communicate a single action plan for Amaranth Members and Events, as the Corona Virus has not affected everyone in the same manner. Here are some Guidelines to follow:

General Guideline: I would whole-heartedly suggest abiding by the CDC and Health Department guidelines to keep yourselves healthy under all conditions. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Avoid hugging.
- Avoid facial contact.
- Wash your hands in hot water and soap for 20 seconds or more frequently. When washing hands is not accessible, use liquid hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face.
- If you are attending a meeting wear gloves. If gloves are of a concern, wear latex gloves or surgical gloves under your normal gloves.
- Keep moist wipes handy for cleaning surfaces.
- Cough into your crooked arm.
- Sneeze into your crooked arm.
- Use tissues rather than Handkerchiefs, and make sure you dispose of the tissues.
- If you are not feeling well, **STAY AT HOME.**
- If you are a person who has underlying health issues, **CONSIDER STAYING AT HOME.**

Subordinate Court Meetings may need to be rescheduled due to unavailable meeting sights, or the inability to have a quorum. Communication with your GRM or SRM (for SCJs) is essential. If your Grand Court Bylaws or Court Rules and Regulations stipulate when elections or installations are to be held, work with your GRM or SRM (for SCJs) to reschedule or issue dispensations to bypass the Grand Court Bylaws or Rules and Regulations. Every effort should made to hold your meetings while staying within the Guidelines of the CDC and Local Government. Royal Matrons have the responsibility to make the decisions based on the best interest of the health and well-being of their members. If you are able to hold

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your meetings, try to keep the length of the meeting to a minimum: ritualistic opening, reading of minutes and approval, paying bills, any “time sensitive” communication and ritualistic closing. When taking the password, wear gloves, avoid close contact with the face. Follow the General guidelines above at all times. All subordinate court meetings must be rescheduled within 30 days, but if the restrictions are in effect, reschedule as soon as possible.

Grand Courts, may need to be rescheduled due to attendance size, or facility closure. Please know your contracts! If you do not have a cancellation clause in your contract, or you do not understand your cancellation clause, do not cancel your Grand Court Session with the hotel. This could result in a huge financial burden to your Grand Court. Work with the Hotel, but make sure the hotel cancels your Conference. Having the hotel cancel, will ensure your Grand Court will not have any penalties. Please contact **the SRM** when a cancellation occurs to reschedule your Grand Court Session. Grand Courts must be held prior to Supreme Council. There are several Grand Courts who are currently working with the SRM to reschedule their sessions. Dates for any Grand Court changes will be posted on the Supreme Web Site and Facebook as new information is known and confirmed. The GRM of each jurisdiction has the responsibility to make their decisions based on the best interest of the health and well-being of their members. In all cases, the current GRM will stay in office until a new GRM is elected and installed.

Again, these are difficult and stressful times, but we will work together to get through all the issues. Please continue to monitor the spread of Corona Virus in your area. Communication is essential to ensure a smooth transition these next few months. What is most important to everyone is the health and well-being of our members.

The following are the Grand Courts that have cancelled their current scheduled session and is in the process or has rescheduled their session:

Washington – rescheduled to May 24-27, 2020	same hotel
Pennsylvania – rescheduled to June 7-9, 2020	same hotel
New Jersey	TBD
Connecticut	May 1, 2, 2020
Missouri	TBD
Georgia	TBD
Wreath Laying in Arlington	TBD

We will keep everyone informed as changes occur. Please be safe and stay healthy.

In Amaranth Love and Service

Dorothy I. Kippie
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Supreme Royal Matron



C: Supreme Secretary
Past Supreme Royal Matrons
Grand Secretaries
Grand Royal Matrons

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