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February 1, 2021

Honored Ladies and Sir Knights:

The coronavirus continues to be at the forefront of our news and lives. The Governor has extended the state of emergency declaration to the first week in March.

The decision to meet in person is a very personal decision and each member needs to make this decision for themselves. While I would like nothing better than to be able to plan on attending meetings and other events, I continue to monitor the restrictions placed on Oregon by our Governor as well as direction from our Grand Master to determine when the restrictions will allow attendance at Court meetings.

Recently a survey was sent to every voting member with an address on file and nearly half of the members surveyed responded. Approximately three quarters of the members responding are not comfortable attending Grand Court as of this time and are in favor of suspending the 2021 Session of Grand Court to March 2022. Thank you to our members for returning the survey so promptly and it was good to hear from many members that have not attended Grand Court recently but cared enough to provide their opinion. While the Monarch Hotel has been very willing to work with us, recently we were advised that the latest contract could not be signed at this time. The hotel needed to lay off its Sales and Catering staff and do not know if they will be able to meet that contract.

The Elected Grand Officers, Jurisprudence Committee, Parliamentarian and Arrangements Chair held a virtual meeting November 15<sup>th</sup> and discussed the options before us. The Parliamentarian presented her comments as Roberts Rules of Order states: Per RONR, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, a member of Grand Court may not be refused attendance unless they are under disciplinary action. Others presented specific information relating to holding the 2021 session. SK Dick and I looked at the budget for our Grand Court Session and provided that to the group to discuss. Holding Grand Court in 2021 could possibly cause a significant financial loss to Grand Court depending on how the Session would look and what bills are turned in.

The decision to suspend the 2021 session has not been made lightly and without discussions and consultation with many members of Oregon Amaranth. Our Grand Court budgets for 2020-2021 will remain in place and any overage will be approved by our Trustees. The 2020-2021 officers will remain in office as will all committee members and chairmen. Anyone leaving their office or committee will be filled as vacancies. Donations to the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation for the 2020-2021 year will be sent to the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation in the required time frame. The directory will be updated as we move forward.

Thank you to the Elected Grand Officers and committees of Oregon Grand Court that provided valuable input to make this decision. SK Dick and I look forward to getting back to attending Court meetings as allowed. We do miss all of you very much.

I will continue to provide updates as they become available.

HL Patti Nielsen

Grand Royal Matron

HL Sue Mills

Grand Secretary

HL Dorothy Kippie

Supreme Royal Matron

