



THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA Order of the Eastern Star

HAVING JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

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WORTHY GRAND SECRETARY
MRS ELIZABETH TAYLOR

28th August 2020

To: Grand Secretaries : District Grand Secretaries : Chapter Secretaries

Dear Sisters and Brothers

EIGHTEENTH BIENNIAL SESSION

I refer to my letter dated 7th August 2020 when it was indicated that the United Grand Chapter Executive was considering the pros and cons of proceeding with the Eighteenth Biennial Session due to be held in Sydney in June 2021 taking into account various aspects of the current state of affairs in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Present circumstances have created unique situations calling for tough decisions. There are so many uncertainties and the risk of other States having a similar second wave of coronavirus cases as Victoria is presently experiencing is not what anyone wants to have on their conscience. The health, safety and welfare of all our Members and their families is upper-most in our thoughts. This does not only take into account our elderly Members who are of the vulnerable age-group affected by the coronavirus, but consideration also has to be given to our younger Members who may have had their hours or employment reduced or are now without a source of income.

It has also come to our attention that there has been a change of Directors and Board of Management at Bankstown Sports Centre and the funding that was granted to cover rental for meeting rooms and audio equipment has been revoked by the Bankstown Sports Centre and another application for the grant has to be submitted. They have recently changed their rules and regulations regarding grants and it may well be that The United Grand Chapter of Australia will not receive a grant as has been the case in previous years. In that event it may mean that further fund raising will have to be undertaken.

Taking all that into account the United Grand Chapter Executive has made the decision to **err** on the side of **caution** and defer the Eighteenth Biennial Session for **12 months**. It will now be held in **Sydney on 8th to 12th June 2022**.

With this extension of time, it will mean that the term of office for Worthy Grand Office-bearers will be extended for a further 12 months as well as the Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron of the Tasmania District Grand Committee.

The extension of 12 months will also apply to the State Delegates on the United Grand Committee and the United Grand Sub-Committees, e.g. Finance, Supplies, Bye-Laws and Petitions. This will mean that the Delegates for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia will remain until June 2022 and the Delegates for NSW & ACT, Victoria and Tasmania will remain until June 2024.

One of the highlights of our Biennial Session is the Grand Representatives' Lunch when we meet with the Overseas Grand Representatives and this event quite often sets the trend for our Session. This would certainly not happen in June 2021 as international travel will still be non-existent. Some Grand Representatives have already received notification that their Commissions have been extended because of the unlikelihood of Sessions and Installations not occurring when planned, and this is to give Grand Representatives still the opportunity to travel at a later date to meet up with their Counterpart. That being said, there will still be Grand Representative Commissions available for allocation in December 2020 and I would be pleased to receive applications from any Members who wish to become Grand Representatives.

I am sure you will all realise that this decision to re-schedule the Sydney Biennial Session has been made after taking into account the various directives from Federal and State Government Organisations and Health Departments and our main aim is to concentrate on reviving the confidence of our Members to attend our Chapter meetings once again and build up our Chapters.

While we all miss each other terribly, please stay safe and healthy and communicate with each other in the best way possible until we can all meet again safely with an easy mind.

Yours in Star Friendship,

Elizabeth Taylor

ELIZABETH TAYLOR PDGM
Worthy Grand Secretary