

Follow the Star



New Member Guide

Date Initiated: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Assigned Mentor: _____

Initiating Officers:

Worthy Matron: _____

Worthy Patron: _____

Associate Matron.: _____

Associate Patron.: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Conductress: _____

Associate Conductress: _____

Chaplain.: _____

Marshal: _____

Organist.: _____

Adah.: _____

Ruth.: _____

Esther.: _____

Martha.: _____

Electa.: _____

Warder.: _____

Sentinel.: _____

**WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU
TO OUR
CHAPTER AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE
ORDER
OF THE EASTERN STAR**

WELCOME

**Our Chapter and the Grand Chapter of
North Dakota Order of the Eastern Star
warmly welcomes you into an Organization
dedicated to making the world a better place.**

YOUR FUTURE

In order to get the most of your membership,

We recommend that you:

Attend your Chapter meetings

Participate in social events

Assist with special projects

Get to know your new sisters and brothers

Stay involved!

You are now a member of the largest fraternal organization in the world for both women and men. Its members are comprised of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships, as well as members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters International who are age 18 or over. It encircles the earth with over 10,000 Chapters in the United States, Canada, and other countries.

Though its teachings are based on the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star espouses no religion and is neither secret nor political. Our spiritual symbol is the "Star of Bethlehem". Thus, the five pointed Star is our accepted emblem. Our Initiation is symbolic of the road of life. You have heard the words of our teachings, obligation and laws. However, it will be beneficial to hear them again, with explanation, in order to thoroughly understand our ritualistic work.

Millions of dollars are raised annually within our membership for numerous projects which benefit mankind. Many national and local charities are among the projects supported by our members. Through this fraternal service to humanity, our members strive to build a better, more fulfilling way of life for all.

Hierarchy of the Order Of Eastern Star

Chapters are known as Subordinate Chapter which form a state organization known as a Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapters are then under the Jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

As you read and study your New Member Guidebook, you may have a number of questions:

WHERE DO I START?

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

WHAT IS A CHAPTER MEETING ALL ABOUT?

You may have been assigned a “mentor” to assist you in discovering the world of Eastern Star. Your mentor or other members will be contacting you to make a visit to discuss your Initiation experience and welcome you. It would be helpful to sit with your mentor at the chapter meetings whenever possible. You would also benefit from obtaining a copy of the following:

Ritual

Chapter By-Laws

Grand Chapter Constitution and Bylaws

Book of Instruction

Chapter Yearbook or Term Calendar

If you were not presented with this information at the time of initiation, make your request to the secretary of your chapter who you should already have met.

It would be helpful to study this information before attending the first meeting after your initiation. Begin your proficiency class as soon as possible if your Chapter has one.

DUES CARD

Sign your dues card when it is received. Carry your dues card with you at all times. Proving that you are a member of a Chapter when visiting another Chapter is sometimes done by presenting your dues card and possibly further examination.

OPENING A CHAPTER MEETING

A process of opening a Chapter must first be performed before any business may be conducted. Opening a Chapter is overseen by the Worthy Matron asking each officer to describe their duties and badge of office except in the case of the Star Points who are to give the sign afterwards members are to give the pass. An opening maybe performed in short form which eliminates the officer giving a description of their duties and badge. Star Points are asked to give the sign with members giving the pass.

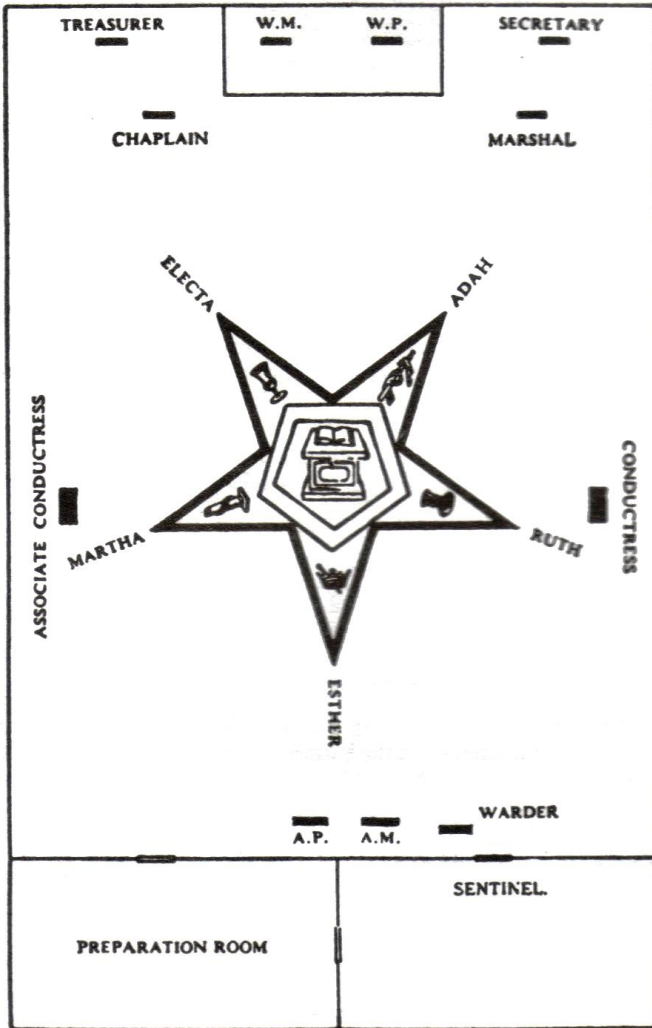
Chapter Officers

A Chapter consists of 18 officers, Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Warder and Sentinel.

As a member progresses from the level of Subordinate Chapter to Grand Chapter followed by General Grand Chapter, the title name changes at each level which will become familiar to you as you become more familiar with the Order.

Each Officer has a designated seat within a Chapter room which is illustrated by the following diagram of a Chapter room. Keep in mind, that the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron is always in what is referred to as “the East”.

CHAPTER ROOM



The station of the Organist is at the instrument, which will stand in the most appropriate place in the Chapter room.

In a Grand Chapter room the station of the Grand Trustees is at the left of the Worthy Grand Patron.

The station of the Grand Lecturer is at the right of the Grand Conductress.

YOUR FIRST CHAPTER MEETING

1. The chapter may have a register book to sign in.
2. Your chapter may have a printed program and monthly notice. Ask for a copy. Check for special events in the chapter notice or with members. The chapter may hold social events, special project meetings, or Honor nights for Grand Officers.
3. Your Chapter may have an Opening and Closing Ode (songs). These are often found in the chapter program or on a special handout.
4. Only one ritual may be open during a meeting. If an Officer needs assistance with the ritual memory work, the assigned prompter will help.
5. Your mentor or other Chapter members can help you better understand the meetings.
6. Please ask your mentor or Worthy Matron questions concerning appropriate attire at chapter meetings.

ENTERING OR LEAVING A CHAPTER MEETING WHILE IN SESSION

1. Place your purse and/or other items down in the West.
2. Proceed to a position in front of the Associate Matron and Associate Patron (referred to half way Line) and face the East.
3. Give the Salutation Sign (Your mentor will discuss and practice this with you). The Worthy Matron should give a response sign.
4. If entering, take a seat on the sidelines.
5. If retiring, the Warder will have the door of the Chapter room open for you to leave.
6. Leaving due to illness or an emergency may be done without giving the Salutation Sign.

RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE AND RITUAL WORK

1. When the Bible is open on the Altar, no one should walk between the open Bible and the East, except during initiation and installation.
2. No pictures should be taken while the Bible is open.
3. It is not customary to applaud the ritualistic work.

REVERENT ATTITUDE

1. Clasp hands loosely, one hand palm up, with other palm laid over it, and held at waist level.
2. Assumed during devotionals in Opening and Closing, all Obligations and when Conductress or Chaplain enter the Labyrinth and continue holding until they leave the Labyrinth (the pentagon shape formed by the Star point chairs).
3. The attitude of Prayer is the Reverent Attitude with head bowed.
4. Bow your head as the Chaplain kneels and at the end of the prayer give the prayer response' "So may it ever be."

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER'S GAVEL

1. One Rap:
Calls the Chapter to order
Seats Chapter when standing
Completes Opening and Closing
Completes each order of business
2. Two Raps calls up the Officers only.
3. Three Raps calls up the entire Chapter, including those sitting on the sidelines.

Exception: remain standing after the chapter is declared open

even though the gavel is rapped once. Be seated on the next rap.

SIGNS OF STAR POINT OFFICERS

1. Listen to the Secret Work.
2. Respond by giving the Pass of the Degree, when requested by the Worthy Matron.

FLAG PRESENTATION

1. Place your hand over your heart when the Marshal has removed the flag from where it is placed.
2. Keep the arm close to the body with fingers pointing toward the left shoulder and the arm and hand in a straight line. Military personnel and veterans may salute the flag in place of placing the hand over the heart.
3. Hold this position until the Marshal bows to the posted flag and again for the Pledge and the National Anthem.

GRAND HONORS

1. Grand Honors are given with one motion, by crossing the arms over the breast, the left over the right, with hands open, and with a slight bow.

BUSINESS

1. Participate in the affairs of the Chapter by asking questions or requesting clarification on any point which is not clear to you.
2. Stand if you wish to speak, wait until acknowledged, Say “Worthy Matron...”

3. Voting is done “by the usual sign of the Order,” which is raising the right hand. Approving a petition for an individual to become a member is done by the Balloting process.

FAREWELL

At the close of each meeting the Worthy Matron addresses the Chapter with a farewell. Each member’s response is “Farewell” with a slight bow.

COIN MARCH

Following the retiring of the flag or singing of the closing ode it is customary for a Chapter to enter into a coin march. The coin march is lead by the Conductress and Associate Conductress where officers and sideliners traditionally place coins or bills in a basket. The proceeds from coin marches may then be used to support Charities or possibly support Chapter operation.

APPROVING A PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you recall, before you became a member you filled out a petition to become a member of the Order. The process that followed required first the reading of your petition during a stated meeting of the Chapter. Next a team of members visited with you to get to know you just a little. They then reported back to the Chapter at the next Chapter meeting and during that meeting you were balloted on or voted on by Chapter members to receive the degrees.

BALLOTING

1. After the star Points ballot, members on the South Ballot led by the Secretary, followed by the Marshal, the members

fall in line, each one marching to the east, on a line with the Marshal's chair, turn to move west until they reach the halfway line, then they enter the Labyrinth diagonally. Members on the North ballot in the same manner, led by the Treasurer, followed by the Chaplain, then the members fall in line.

2. Do not carry a purse or anything in your hand to the Altar.
3. In approaching the Altar to ballot, each member must pause at the edge of the Labyrinth while the preceding member is casting a ballot. Make the Salutation Sign to the open Bible, drop your hands, then ballot with either hand.
4. Vote for the Good of the Order: White balls elect; Black cubes reject.
5. Drop arms to your side, take one step backward, Turn left and leave the Labyrinth between Esther and Martha, return to your seat by the marching line.

VISITING ANOTHER CHAPTER

You may be asked to:

1. Show your dues receipt (dues card)
2. Have a member vouch for you.
3. Be examined by the Examining Committee.
4. Sign the Officers, Members, and Visitor Register under the heading of "Visitors" if present otherwise sign the register present.

ESTARL AND CHARITIES

The Order of Eastern Star is known for their support of various charities within their community, State or National but more especially a program known as ESTARL. ESTARL is an acronym for Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. In short, it is a program providing

financial grants to students preparing for full-time Christian service.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR?

Someone may ask, no matter who you are, “What is the Order of the Eastern Star?”

If you’ve been a member for awhile or so, there are just a few facts you may want to know.

We belong to an Order, the largest of its kind.
A fraternity in which men and women you will find.
Its members are found in every corner of the globe
And each is a part of the Masonic fold.

Our purpose is to inspire good; it’s that simple
and plain. The tenets of truth, charity, loyalty, and
kindred we train. Charitable and benevolent projects
are the things we do, To help friends in need see their
trouble through.

Our principles are based on Biblical day, But in
no way conflict with our religious ways, We have
lots of fun, too, as everyone should, Meeting and
traveling and working for good.

And because of our goals we develop a bond
For each member, one to another, we become very
fond This an Order like no other you will find
A chance to do good for your fellow mankind.

-Author Unknown-

Notes

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Notes

The membership committee of the Grand Chapter
Of North Dakota. Order of Eastern Star
Greatly expresses their thanks to the Grand Chapter
of South Dakota
And especially Hazel Schaunaman, PGM
SD General Grand Chapter Committee member
On Membership (2006-2009)
Who initially compiled and prepared a new member booklet.

This booklet is a revised version of that booklet
And is approved by the membership committee
And the Grand Chapter of North Dakota,
Order of Eastern Star.

Revised: October 12, 2009