

NOTE: These minutes were approved as corrected at the January 11, 2021, Board of Directors meeting held by video conference.

GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2020
MEETING HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

The Regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:14 a.m. via video conference by Chairman Bob Royall. The Chairman welcomed all present. He shared thoughts and information on the current coronavirus situation. Hopefully, the vaccines being created will be available at the beginning of the new year. The Chairman shared a quote by Lyndon B. Johnson:

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose.”

Lyndon B. Johnson.

All were wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

Board Members present by video conference were: Chairman, Bob Royall, District Four; Secretary, Phyllis Wilson, District Five; Joe Gilmore, District One; Cindy Echols, District Two; Tamela Henington, District Two; Darrell Albrecht, District Three; Donna Noe, District Three; Bill Henry, District Four; and, Randy Martin, District Five.

Board Members Absent: Vice Chairman, James Parker, District One who was participating in a Lodge funeral.

Others present by video conference for the meeting were: Worthy Grand Matron, Linda Winn-Christenson; Worthy Grand Patron, Paul Garner; Associate Grand Matron, Terri Rozell; Associate Grand Patron, Tom Brisko; Grand Secretary, Dr. Ellen Pickrell; Grand Treasurer, Greta Spradling; Grand Conductress, Phyllis Macon; Barbara Martin, Cheryl Royall, Judith Wilson, Oscar Hairell, Shelly Walker, Beverly Plante, Susan Martin, Jane Pyle and Gary Isham.

Phyllis Wilson presented a devotional on Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Historical facts concerning Veterans Day and Thanksgiving were presented. A prayer was presented by Phyllis Wilson at the end of the devotional.

The Chairman recognized all the Veterans that were attending the meeting and thanked them for their service.

Worthy Grand Patron Update:

Thanks were given to the Board for continuing the work of Grand Chapter and attending the meeting. He shared thoughts and information on the current coronavirus situation

Concerns were presented of our members gathering and keeping the OES fellowship strong.

Worthy Grand Matron Update:

Thanks were given to the Board for continuing the work of Grand Chapter and attending the meeting. Members need to be reminded of the purpose of OES and our benevolent nature. It's the little things that matter in our lives.

The Chairman thanked the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for the kind remarks given about the Board of Directors at Fraternal Visits and Workshops.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

- The following December and January birthdays were recognized: Darrell Albrecht, Cheryl Albrecht, Victor Christenson, Bill Henry and Wayne Henington.
- The December Anniversaries of Paul and Regina Garner and Joe and Kay Gilmore were recognized.

Minutes:

The minutes of the October 17, 2020, Regular Board of Directors meeting held by video conference were presented.

Phyllis Wilson moved that the minutes of the October 17, 2020, Regular Board of Directors Meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Cindy Echols and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board. One member was not present. One member abstained as he was not at the meeting.

Email Vote Ratification:

The next item of business was ratification of email votes conducted in October and November:

October 23rd – Vote on the Board of Directors Contract Committee's recommendation to accept Sister Phyllis Macon's updated Grand Chapter Session Hotel Contract with the applicable revised dates.

November 14th – Vote to authorize repairs to the bearings on the Grand Chapter Van.

November 18th – Vote to approve the Board of Directors Contract Committee's recommendation to accept the updated 2021 Grand Chapter Session Hotel Contracts.

Randy Martin moved to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Joe Gilmore and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board.

Correspondence:

Cards sent by the Secretary included: 5 Birthday Cards, 1 Anniversary Card, 1 Sympathy Card, and 1 Thinking of You Card.

Grand Secretary's Report:

The Grand Chapter Office received a Covid-19 Insurance refund check for \$3,790.68.

Funds have been received from Amazon Smiles in amount of \$251.45.

Enable Labs testing of the new database will start this week. Twelve (12) secretaries will be trained on the new database this week and start testing.

Annual Audit Report was presented by Gary Isham.

The overview was given with details on specific parts of the audit – balance sheet, investment revenues, case flow, etc..

There are no major issues for the Grand Chapter reported.

Donna Noe moved for the approval of the Preliminary Audit pending the Final Audit. The motion was seconded by Darrell Albrecht and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board.

Thanks, were given to the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Jane Pyle and Gary Isham for the preparation of the Audit.

Grand Treasurer's Report:

The Board has been provided with the Financial Reports as requested.

The Grand Treasurer thanked the Grand Secretary, Jane Pyle and Gary Isham for working on the Audit.

TMRC (Our Precious Ladies):

Information on our OES Ladies was presented by Barbara Martin.

The three (3) ladies are doing well.

~~All have been tested for Covid-19 and the results were negative.~~

A letter was received from Suzanne Walters which was shared with the Board.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary's Database Update:

Information on ENABLE Labs was presented by the Grand Secretary, Dr. Ellen Pickrell. Enable Labs testing of the new database will start this week. Twelve (12) secretaries

will be trained on the new database this week and start testing.
Betty Hancock has been instrumental in the beta testing and working out the bugs.

2019-2021 Budget:

Information was presented by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. The Worthy Grand Matron presented information why the continuance budget was needed. Thanks, was given to Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and James Parker for working on the Budget.

The Worthy Grand Patron presented an overview of the Budget that was presented in the Executive Session of the Board. The budget is a two-year spread starting in 2019. There was a surplus at the start of the 2020-2021 year of approximately \$200,000.00. However, at the end of this time period there will be a projected deficit of approximately \$60,000.00.

Cindy Echols moved to support the Continuance Budget as presented to the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Darrell Albrecht and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board.

New Business:

138th Grand Chapter Session Update:

Information was presented by Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, and Oscar Hairell.

The Grand Chapter Session will be held in Waco – August 9th – August 15th, 2021, at the Waco Convention Center.

It is estimated that the attendance will be between 1,150 and 1,280.

Contracts have been renegotiated with the two main hotels and the rooms will be at a lower cost. These contracts were approved by the Board by email vote on November 18th.

Updates will be provided on the expenses for the Grand Chapter Session.

A cash bar will be provided at the end of the evening banquets.

Oscar Harrell is in the process of “unwinding” the previous contracts for the Grand Chapter Session to be held in 2020.

8101 Valcasi Drive Lease Renewal:

Information was presented by Dr. Ellen Pickrell.

Jane Pyle worked with the building management and the lease was renegotiated with no increase in rent for 36 months. The Board of Directors Contract Committee has the negotiated lease for review.

Committee Reports:

Benevolent Aid: Phyllis Wilson reported on Benevolent Aid for October 2020 and November 2020.

October 2020

Long Term Aid was paid to the following Chapters in October:

Kerrville #24	Alvarado #656	South Fort Worth #835
Duncanville #1014	New Caney #1093	Amarillo #787
Winnie #160	Aldine #1088	Burnet #425
Haltom City #982	Cockrell-Hill-Delta-Flora #794	
Grand Prairie #219		

Emergency Aid: Copperas Cove #1070

Temporary Aid: None

The totals for Benevolent Aid in October were:

Long Term Aid	\$ 6,000.00
Emergency Aid	\$ 1,500.00
Temporary Aid	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 7,500.00

November 2020

Long Term Aid was paid to the following Chapters in October:

Kerrville #24	Alvarado #656	South Fort Worth #835
Duncanville #1014	New Caney #1093	Amarillo #787
Winnie #160	Aldine #1088	Burnet #425
Haltom City #982	Cockrell Hill Delta Flora #794	

Grand Prairie #219

Emergency Aid: None

Temporary Aid: None

The totals for Benevolent Aid in October were:

Long Term Aid	\$ 6,000.00
Emergency Aid	\$ 0.00
Temporary Aid	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 6,000.00

Two Emergency Aid applications and one Long Term Aid applications have been approved in November.

Museum and Facilities: Darrell Albrecht reported on the Museum.

No new information is available at this time.

Titles, Deeds, & Properties: Bill Henry reported on the Titles, Deeds and Properties.

Rick Taylor and Justin Warlich have started on Phase 2 of the project.

Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects: Tamela Henington reported on the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects.

There has been no change to the special projects since last month. It was amazing how much money was made in the few months the projects were active.

Scholarships:

Information on Education and ESTRAL scholarships was presented by Donna Noe. Not a lot going on right now. Chapters need to understand that contributions are needed to the Humanitarian Fund to keep these programs going.

Retirement Banquet: Information on the retirement banquet was presented by Bill Henry, Randy Martin, Joe Gilmore and Donna Noe.

The Board of Directors Retirement Banquet is coming soon.

Miscellaneous:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2021. The location will be determined.

- The January devotional will be given by Donna Noe.

District Reports:

District 1: Joe Gilmore reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have initiated new members.
Some members have had the Covid-19 virus.
One member passed away and one member has had knee surgery.

District 2: Cindy Echols and Tamela Henington reported on the following happenings:

Brook Spears, the husband of deceased Past Grand Matron Beulah Spears has passed away.

District 3: Darrell Albrecht and Donna Noe reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have initiated new members.
Two members have passed away.
Crescent Chapter moved to South Fort Worth Lodge.
Crescent Chapter is working with a radio station to send Christmas Cards to the military.
Member of Crescent Chapter receiving Benevolent Aid very grateful as family overwhelmed with medical expenses.

District 4: Bob Royall and Bill Henry reported on the following happenings:

Chapters are committed to keep meeting.
Several chapters have initiated new members and obtained plural members.
Huffman Chapter cancelled its Fraternal Visit due to the rise in Covid-19 cases.
Wisteria Chapter has demised.
Prayers are needed for James and Linda Roy.

District 5: Phyllis Wilson and Randy Martin reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have initiated new members.
Garvid Wilson is doing well after surgery.
Karen Gregory, daughter of Past Grand Patron Kenneth Gregory, is having major health issues.
Several members have passed away.

The Chairman reported on items discussed in the Executive Session: Benevolent Aid, Long Term Aid application was approved, and the 2019-2021 Budget.

Good of the Order:

Terri Rozell, Associate Grand Matron and Tom Brisko, Associate Patron are renegotiating contracts for their Grand Chapter Session.

Linda Winn-Christenson, Worthy Grand Matron reminded everyone that the membership needs to be informed that all monies received for Benevolent Aid and Scholarships for 2019-2020 has been spent and additional monies are needed to support these programs for 2020-2021.

We need to promote how Benevolent Aid granted to members has benefited these members.

Tom Brisko, Associate Grand Patron asked that his family be kept in their prayers as his sister has passed away.

There being no further business, the Mizpah Benediction was repeated in unison.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Travers
Recording Secretary