

## WELCOME!

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina Order of the Eastern Star warmly welcomes you into an organization dedicated to making the world a better place. We hope that you will embrace your new membership with enthusiasm and enjoy getting to know your new worldwide family of Sisters and Brothers.

For more information log on to  
[www.oes-nc.org](http://www.oes-nc.org).

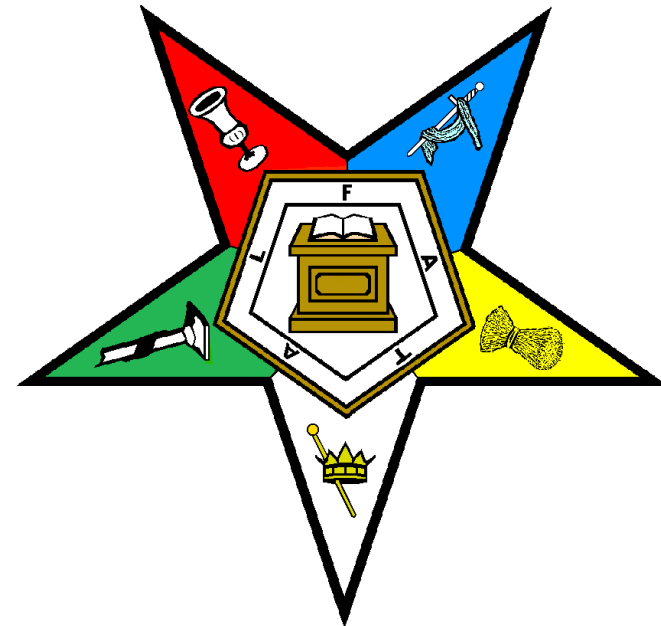
### NORTH CAROLINA GRAND CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina will be recognized as a premier fraternal and social organization renowned for its charitable activities and positive involvement in our communities. We will strengthen our relationship with the Masonic Family and raise community awareness of The Order of the Eastern Star.

## YOUR NEW MEMBER GUIDEBOOK

Presented to:

### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



Date:

Chapter Meetings Held at:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meeting time: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES**

Worthy Matron	
Worthy Patron	
Associate Matron	
Associate Patron	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Conductress	
Associate Conductress	
Chaplain	
Marshal	
Organist	
Adah	
Ruth	
Esther	
Martha	
Electa	
Warder	
Sentinel	

## IN CONCLUSION

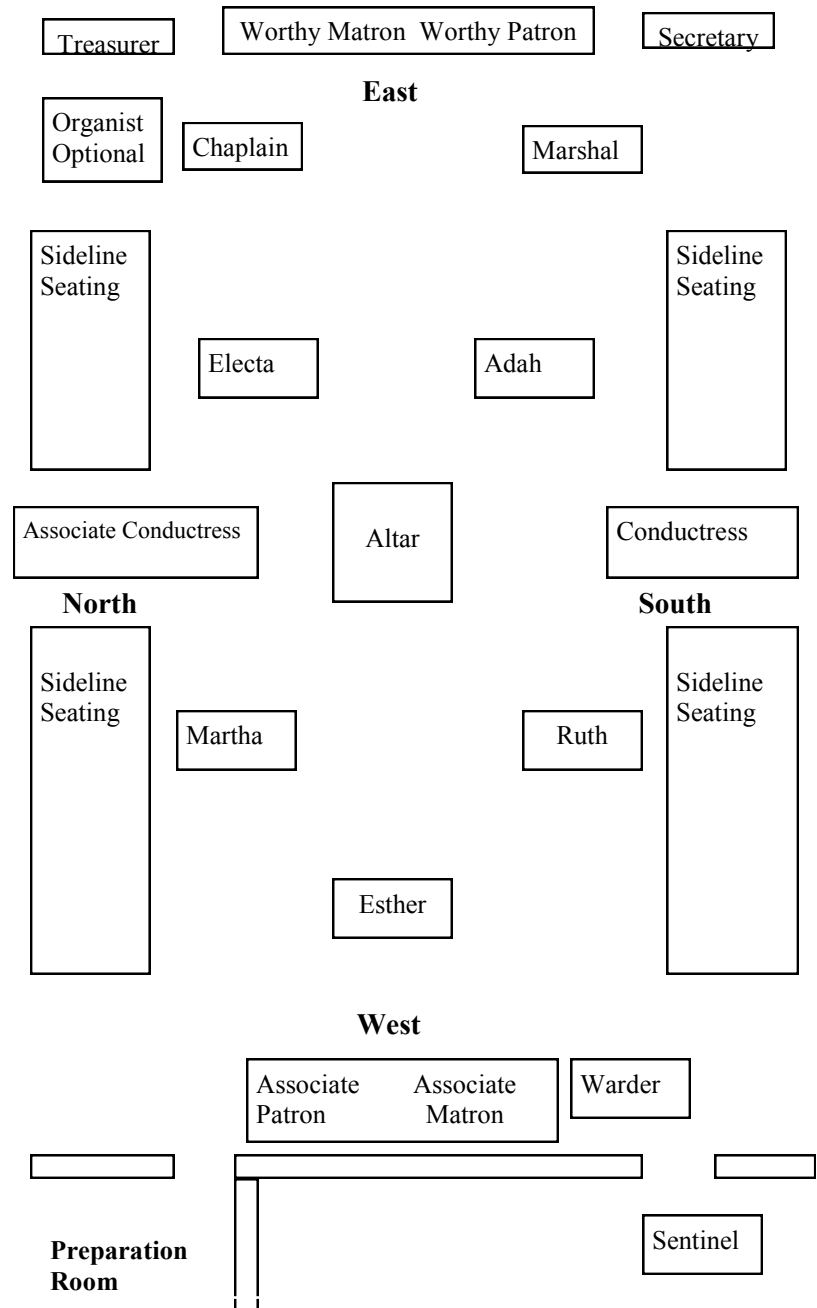
Your membership in the Order of the Eastern Star will bring you countless hours of enjoyment and fellowship with some of the very best people in the whole world. It is an organization where the members genuinely care for each other.

It is also an organization whose charitable giving is unsurpassed. Each year the Grand Chapter of North Carolina sponsors several fundraising programs. By working together, we are successful in raising large sums of money for several selected charities. For example, every year we raise funds for the Grand Chapter Scholarship program. The recipients of these scholarships are the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of our members, as well as girls and boys from the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. We also raise funds for another scholarship program known as ESTARL, Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. These awards go to students who are pursuing a degree in religious leadership. A Masonic affiliation is not required to receive this award.

As a member, you can be as active as you want to be. You may wish to consider becoming an officer in your chapter. The more actively involved you are, the more you will enjoy your membership.

**“Give the Order the best you have and  
the best will come back to you.”**

### Typical Chapter Room



## **We are pleased to welcome you to our chapter as a new member of The Order of the Eastern Star!**

You are now a member of the largest fraternal organization in the world where both men and women may become members. Our membership is comprised of men who are Master Masons, their female relatives, and eligible members of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. The Order of the Eastern Star encircles the world with members in the United States, Canada, and 18 other countries. Subordinate Chapters are grouped together to form a jurisdiction—a Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapters are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

Though our teachings are based on the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion and is neither secretive nor political. The “Star of Bethlehem” is the inspiration for our accepted emblem, the five-pointed Star. Your initiation was symbolic of the road of life. Hopefully, this guidebook will help you better understand the teachings, obligation, and lessons of our Order.

The Order of the Eastern Star, as a fraternal service organization, strives to build a better, more fulfilling way of life. We dedicate ourselves to supporting a variety of local and national charities. Millions of dollars are raised annually in support of humanitarian causes.

You will discover that the members of your chapter will become much like a family to you. If you will attend the meetings and become an active participant, you will enjoy the full benefits of being a member of the Eastern Star.

As you read and study this Guidebook, you may have a number of questions. Your Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Sometimes Worthy Matrons assign mentors to their new members. Do not hesitate to ask questions. Remember, every member in your chapter was once a new member just like you.

## **CLASS OF INSTRUCTION**

In the weeks following your initiation, the Worthy Patron of your chapter will make arrangements to meet with you for the purpose of reviewing the work of the Order. This is not a “test” or anything for you to be worried about. The Worthy Patron will simply go over the Ritualistic work and other pertinent information that will be helpful to you. He will use the standard Proficiency Questionnaire in the review process. This meeting with the Worthy Patron is an opportune time for you to ask any questions that you might have.

## **GRAND CHAPTER OF NORTH CAROLINA**

The Subordinate Chapters are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina. Each year at the annual session in June, the Grand Chapter elects and installs the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, along with a slate of other Grand Chapter Officers. These officers serve for one year. Sometime during the year, the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron may come to your chapter for an “official visit” or your chapter may be asked to co-host this visit with another chapter in your district.

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina is divided into districts, and a District Deputy Grand Matron and a District Deputy Grand Patron are assigned to each of those districts. The deputies will make what is called an “official inspection” of each chapter in their respective district. This inspection occurs at a stated meeting usually during the months of August, September, or October.

## **TAR HEEL STAR NEWS**

The Tar Heel Star News is the official publication of the Grand Chapter. Ten issues of this newspaper are published annually. If your chapter has a 100% household subscription to the Tar Heel Star News, you will receive the paper automatically. If not, the Chapter Secretary can assist you with your subscription.

### **Good of the Order**

This order of business comes near the end of the meeting. This is the time for special programs, announcements, etc. During “Good of the Order,” your chapter will also receive an offering which is used to help meet chapter expenses or some other special project.

The Worthy Patron is often asked to speak during the Good of the Order. One of his many responsibilities is to promote the projects of the Grand Chapter.

### **Closing of the Chapter**

The Chapter is closed in accordance with pages 45-47 of the Ritual.

### **Benediction**

Most Chapters dismiss with the Mizpah Benediction:

*“May the Lord watch between me and thee  
while we are absent one from the other.”*

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### **Visiting other Chapters**

Visiting other chapters is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and enjoy the fellowship. When you visit another chapter, you may be asked to :

- Show your dues card;
- Have a member vouch for you; or
- Meet with the Examining Committee (See page 17 of the Ritual)

### **A GOOD BEGINNING!**

Ask your Chapter Secretary to procure a Ritual for you, as well as a copy of the Grand Chapter Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and Book of Instruction. There will be a small charge for these materials. These books will help you tremendously in understanding the work of the Order. Carry your Ritual with you to the meetings and follow along during the Opening and Closing of the Chapter.

You should have received a copy of the Chapter Bylaws on the night of your Initiation. If not, ask the Chapter Secretary for a copy of the Bylaws. Your Chapter may also have a Chapter Yearbook which lists the members and other pertinent information.

### **DUES CARD**

You received your dues card on the night of your Initiation. You should sign the card and carry it with you to chapter meetings. If you visit another chapter, you may be asked to show your dues card.

Dues to the Chapter are due and payable on April 1st of each year. Failure to pay your dues will result in suspension of membership.

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

Most chapters hold stated meetings twice a month and carry on the regular business of the chapter. Special meetings are held on days or nights other than the regular stated meetings. Special meetings are sometimes held for Initiations and the Official Visit of the Worthy Grand Matron. The regular business of the chapter is not transacted at a special meeting.

Female officers of the chapter always wear white dresses at the meetings. The male officers usually wear dark suits or tuxedos. Officers dress formally for special meetings such as official visits, inspections, initiations and installation of officers. Female members who are not officers are permitted to wear pantsuits.

## **YOUR FIRST CHAPTER MEETING**

There will be a Members' Register located near the entrance to the chapter room. All members and guests are to sign in.

At the designated hour, the Worthy Patron will signal the beginning of the meeting. The Officers will march into the chapter room together. The "opening" of the chapter can be found on page 23 of the Ritual.

During the Opening of the Chapter, pay close attention to the signs and passes of the Star Point Officers. You will need to learn these. In time, they will become familiar to you.

The Reverent Attitude is assumed during all altar services. The Reverent Attitude and the Attitude of Prayer are explained under Altar Services on page 16 of the Ritual. Pay close attention to what the other members do. At the end of the prayers, the members respond in unison. This response is found on pages 42 and 46 of the Ritual.

The chapter will have an opening and a closing ode. These are usually well-known songs that are easy to sing.

### **The Flag Ceremony**

When the Flag of our Country enters the chapter room, everyone should salute the flag by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute is dropped when the Flag is placed in its stand. Place your right hand over your heart during the Pledge of Allegiance and during the singing of the National Anthem.

### **Introductions**

The Worthy Matron will formally introduce the distinguished guests present. She will be assisted by the Conductress and Associate Conductress, when needed.

Those entitled to Grand Honors are introduced at the altar and escorted to the East. "Grand Honors" are explained on page 17 of the Ritual.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Worthy Matron will follow a set Order of Business at the stated meetings of the chapter. This is set forth in Article XXII, Section 291, of the Rules and Regulations. The chapter uses Robert's Rules of Order as a guide for conducting its business.

A member who wishes to speak should rise, address the presiding officer, and be recognized by the presiding officer before proceeding to speak. Likewise, a member should not leave her/his seat while the chapter is in session without the permission of the presiding officer.

The voting sign of the Order is the uplifted right hand.

Members should observe square corners when walking about the chapter room. No one shall cross between the East and the Altar when the Bible is open, except as provided in the Ritual.

You will notice that the presiding officer uses the gavel throughout the meeting. The raps of the gavel are fully explained on page 16 of the Ritual.

If a member desires to enter or leave the chapter room while the chapter is in session, she or he must advance to a position in the West, face towards the East, give the Salutation Sign, and wait for the response from the Worthy Matron. Except for an extreme emergency, members are not to enter or leave the chapter room without being acknowledged by the presiding officer.

### **Balloting**

All Petitions for Membership must be balloted upon, and all members of the chapter who are present must vote. The proper procedure for balloting is found on pages 32-37 of the Book of Instruction. Study this section carefully and then request someone in your chapter to demonstrate balloting at the altar for you. If you need assistance during the actual balloting, the Associate Conductress will help you.