

Order of Eastern Star Membership Committee Proposal

An Additional and Special Meeting - "Membership or Mason Education Meeting"

Ceremony Document

(When the meeting is ready to start, the Chapter will be opened in the following manner:

The Organist will already be at his/her instrument. The Associate Patron, Associate Conductress, and the Worthy Patron will enter the Chapter and assume their stations in the usual manner. The Worthy Patron will ascend to the dais, give one-*rap* of the gavel, and address those in the Chapter room.)

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On behalf of _____ Chapter, #__, Order of the Eastern Star, I welcome each of you to this special meeting. I will now explain the raps of the gavel used to stand or be seated during this meeting. One rap calls the meeting to order or seats everyone. Two raps call the officers to stand. Three raps call all present to stand. (Give raps as explaining - seat everyone at end.)

Sis
Sister Associate Conductress

Associate Conductress: Worthy Patron.

Worthy Patron: You will invite the Worthy Matron and other officers into the Chapter Room.

(The Associate Conductress follows the marching lines to the West; and facing West addresses the Worthy Matron and Officers.)

Associate Conductress: By order of the Worthy Patron, I invite the Worthy Matron and other officers into the Chapter Room.

(The Associate Conductress returns with the officers, entering the Chapter Room informally and take their seats.manner).

Worthy Matron: Sister Conductress.
Conductress: Worthy Matron.
Worthy Matron Please open the bible.
Worthy Matron: (3 Raps to stand.)

(The Conductress will open the Bible informally and remain standing in the semi-circle between Ruth and Esther until after the Opening Song.)

Worthy Matron: Brother Chaplain.

Chaplain: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please unite us in prayer.

Chaplain will approach the Altar in the usual manner.

Chaplain: Please join with me in the Lord's Prayer. -----

(Chaplain will step back into the semi-circle between Esther and Martha)

Worthy Matron: Please join in singing Blest Be the Tie that Binds

(Conductress and Chaplain return to their stations)

Worthy Patron: Please join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, followed by our National Anthem.

(Worthy Matron seats everyone with one rap of the gavel).

Worthy Matron: Welcome to our guests and to the members of the Order of the Eastern Star. I am the Worthy Matron or Presiding Officer of this chapter. At this time we would like each of the participants to introduce themselves and what station they represent.

(Each officer introduces themselves starting with the Sentinel and ending with the Associate Matron. Following all introductions, the Worthy Matron proceeds).

Worthy Matron: We have prepared a special meeting for you so that you may come to know more about our beautiful Order, and benefits it provides to us and to our community. The Worthy Patron will share some information on the history of the Order of the Eastern Star. I will then ask each officer to give a brief explanation of her/his office and explain what they represent, we will share an overview of all the charities we support and the work that we do in the community. This evening, we will invite our guest speaker(s) to discuss their involvement with the Eastern Star, and then open the discussion for any questions that you may have. We will then close our Chapter and invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship which takes place at all of our regular meetings. I would now like to introduce our Worthy Patron., _____ _

Worthy Patron: The Order of the Eastern Star was created by Dr. Rob Morris in the early 1840's. He was never quite satisfied that all the good in Masonry should be confined to men. Dr. Morris felt that Masonry should be for the whole family, but by the laws of that Ancient Masonic Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing that he could not change Masonry, Dr. Morris looked for some way that the women could share with their Masonic Husband's, father's, son's, brothers, and by today's rules many levels of relation's - the same inspiration that "prompts man to noble deeds". Dr. Morris struggled with this concept for many years and it wasn't until 1850, while confined to his home after an accident, that Dr. Morris fully developed the Eastern Star Degrees in their present initiatory form.

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Worthy Patron. Our officers will now share a brief explanation of their offices. Where I am standing is called the "East" representing the presiding station of our Order. The Chapter room is set up with the altar located in the center of the room. The emblematic points of the star encircle the altar. There are eighteen officers and stations within the chapter, seventeen within the Chapter Room, and one outside the door.

Worthy Matron: Brother Sentinel.

Sentinel: Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron: What does your office represent?

Sentinel: My Station is outside the doors to the chapter. I am to protect the chapter from interruption while it is in session. It is also my duty to inform the Warder when visitors or members arrive late and desire to enter and participate in the meeting of the chapter.

Thank you Brother Sentinel. Sister Warder.

Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain the responsibilities of your office.

Warder: My office works in conjunction with the Sentinel whose station is outside the door of this Chapter Room. We are responsible to ensure that no one enters or leaves the Chapter Room before receiving proper permission from the presiding officer. My station works toward peace and harmony for the good of our Chapter.

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister/ Brother Warder.

Worthy Matron Sister Chaplain.

Chaplain: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain the responsibilities of your office.

Chaplain: I am responsible for leading the Chapter in its devotions. It should be my goal to exemplify a life void of offense toward God and man.

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister Chaplain

Worthy Matron Sister Marshal.

Marshal: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain the responsibilities of your office.

Marshal: I superintend and marshal our processions and assist in our ceremonies. My charge is to always remember that courtesy and promptness are essential when directing those depending upon leadership

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister/Brother Marshal.

Worthy Matron Sister Organist.

Organist: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain the importance of your office.

Organist: I am responsible for providing appropriate music for our ceremonies. We hope that by adding music to our ritualistic work, the impressions of our ceremonies will be more memorable

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister Organist. Sister Associate Conductress.

Associate Conductress: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain the duties of your office.

Associate Conductress: I am responsible for getting candidates prepared for initiation and assisting the Conductress when needed. My office teaches leadership and discipline, ensuring that we always look to these two components for our success.

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister Associate Conductress. Sister Conductress.

Conductress: Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron: Please explain

Conductress	I am responsible for assisting the Associate Matron, and to guide candidates through their initiation. My office exemplifies the importance of planning and leadership. It is my duty to care for the altar and the when placed upon the altar. While we utilize the altar and bible within our ceremonies, Eastern Star is not a religion. Our requirements for membership is that we believe in a Supreme Being. The order consists of people with Christian beliefs. As we continue you will hear several references to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. We look to these historical people as our examples of the virtues we wish to portray in our lives. Our founder Dr. Rob Morris was most familiar of the Holy Bible, and wrote these examples for us to follow
Worthy Matron	Thank-you Sister Conductress
Worthy Matron:	Sister/Brother Treasurer Please explain the importance of your office.
Brother Treasurer	I am responsible = for receiving all money from the Secretary and recording it properly in our ledgers. It is my responsibility to ensure confidentiality and in our financial matters so that our Chapter is never embarrassed in its efforts to relieve the distressed and to meet our expenses.
Worthy Matron	Thank you,/Sister/Brother Treasurer.
Worthy Matron	Sister Secretary
Secretary	Worthy Matron
Worthy Matron:	Please explain the importance of your office. :
Secretary	I am responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, managing all correspondence and receiving all money due to the Chapter, paying it to the Treasurer. The significance of this office is to demonstrate the best of intelligence and trust that the good deeds of my fellow sisters and brothers may be faithfully recorded.
Worthy Matron:	Thank you, Sister Secretary.
Worthy Matron	Sister Adah.
Adah	Worthy Matron
Worthy Matron.	Please explain what your office represents and the lesson taught by Adah. :
Adah	My station is at the first point of our star. Adah is the daughter of Jephthah in the Old Testament Book of Judges. The important lesson taught at this station is that of fidelity. Adah sacrificed her life to save her father's honor. Without the virtue of Fidelity, our entire social structure of the world would collapse, and utter chaos would result.

Worthy Matron: Thank you, Sister Adah.

Worthy Matron Sister Ruth:

Ruth Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron: Please explain what your office represents and the lesson taught by Ruth.

Ruth: Worthy My station is at the second point of our star,. Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi, in the Old Testament Book of Ruth. Ruth placed the needs of Naomi over her own needs. The lesson of my office is "constancy" or the quality of being faithful and dependable. With this lesson, we realize the joy of taking responsibility when it is the right, not convenient thing to do.

Worthy Matron Thank you, Sister Ruth. Sister Esther.

Worthy Matron: Sister Esther

Esther Worthy Matron

Sister Esther: Please explain what your office represents and the lesson taught by Esther

Esther: My station is the third point of our star Esther is a Jewish damsel, who rose to power as the Queen of Persia in the Old Testament Book of Esther. Esther was willing to give up her life and crown to save her own people. The lesson of my office is to always live a life of loyalty and purity. With these virtues, we can find pleasure in being true to ourselves and therefore to others.

Worthy Matron Thank you, Sister Esther. Sister Martha.

Worthy Matron: Sister Martha

Martha Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron: Please explain what your office represents and the lesson taught by Martha.

Martha: My station is at the fourth point of our star. Martha was the sister of Lazarus, as depicted in the New Testament in the Gospel of John. This station teaches us that through faith we can find eternal life. The answers to the greatest and most important questions of our lives can be found in faith.

Worthy Matron Thank you, Sister Martha.

Worthy Matron Sister Electa.

Sister Electa Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron Please explain what your office represents and the lesson taught by Electa.

Electa: My station is at the fifth point of our star ray. Electa was a well meaning and kind benefactor to the poor, and the faithful follower of the Christ. Electa's story is found in the 2nd Epistle of John. The lesson of this office is to be loving and charitable, and to always remember to love thy neighbor as thyself. Through these virtues we will understand the importance of loving one and another.

Thank you Sister Electa..

Worthy Matron. Brother Associate Patron

Associate Patron Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron Please summarize the significance of the five points of our emblematic star

Associate Patron: It is by the virtues of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love that we strive to enhance our daily lives, and build an Order truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

Worthy Matron Please explain the duties of your office.

Associate Patron Worthy Matron my station is in the West. I am responsible to assist the Worthy Patron. I am to become familiar with our ritualistic work and in the absence of the Worthy Patron, assume all of his responsibilities

Worthy Matron Thank you, Brother Associate Patron.

Worthy Matron Sister Associate Matron

Associate Matron Worthy Matron

Associate Matron Please explain the duties of your office.

Worthy Matron My station is also in the West. I am responsible to assist the Worthy Matron and in her absence, assume all of her responsibilities. It is my responsibility to demonstrate the principles of our Order in my leadership of this Chapter

Worthy Matron Associate Matron:

Associate Matron Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron Please explain the significance of the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron's stations

Associate Matron The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron sit in the East of the Chapter Room. The Worthy Matron is the presiding officer of the Chapter. The Worthy Patron directs the work and oversees the government of the Chapter. It is their duty to provide leadership for our Chapter, preside over the meetings of our Chapter, and act as a liaison with the Community we serve

Worthy Matron Thank you, Brother Associate Matron

Worthy Matron Worthy Patron do you have any closing remarks?

Worthy Matron: The Order of the Eastern Star is a charitable organization. We help support several charities through our state-wide Grand Chapter, such as the Breast Cancer, Alzheimer's, Paw's & Stripes, local humane facilities and our members extremely supportive. This year, some of the charities we are supporting are _____ Our Order is a wonderful way of contributing too many worthy charities and it is a way for all of us to help our communities.

Worthy Patron The Order of the Eastern Star also believes in supporting our young people. Every year the Grand Chapter of Nevada gives financial support to our youth organizations. Chapter along with other Subordinate Chapters around the state are always pleased to also be an active participant in their activities

Freemasonry is generally accepted as having begun with the traditions of the stonemason's guilds in England and Europe in the middle Ages. In 1717, a "union" of four "guilds" (or Lodges) took place in London, which formed the start of modern day Freemasonry.

As time went on, Freemasonry spread over the face of the earth - in early American history, some noted Freemasons were George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Warren, John Paul Jones, John Hancock, and others.

Masons have been leaders in public education, being among the first supporters of a public school system in America as well as in Europe. Masonic support of education continues still today. As a fraternity, Freemasonry emphasizes self-improvement, personal study, and the betterment of society through both self-enrichment and philanthropy. Freemasons today contribute about two million dollars per day (yes, per DAY!) to charitable causes ranging from funding medical research to operating children's hospitals.

Men do not become famous by becoming a Mason, just as the fraternity is not a stepping stone to stardom. Our fraternity does attract men of greatness and inspiration which helps them accomplish great acts. Freemasonry is an inspiring subject whose philosophy has been employed to promote Progress, Democracy, Responsibility, Motivation, and Education. These ideas contribute to the hallmarks of great men.

Worthy Matron: Worthy Patron, Do you have any closing remarks?

Worthy Patron Thank you Worthy Matron. We hope you have enjoyed our special meeting this afternoon/evening. We have some information about our Order which we would like to share with you. I will now ask those who are not members of our Order to raise your hand. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress will you please distribute the packets to our guests

Worthy Matron: (Have Marshal count those with their hand up & report quietly report to Secretary. Music-if this takes a while.)

Worthy Matron In the hope that you would like to become a member of our fraternal Order, you will find a petition for membership in your packet. Anyone of our officers will be glad to answer any questions and assist you in completing the petition.
_____ Chapter looks forward to receiving it.

We invite you to the outer hall for fellowship and refreshments. Thank you for being with us.

Sister Associate Matron.

Worthy Matron. Do you know of any further business to come before this Chapter?

Sister Associate Matron There is none within my knowledge, Worthy Matron.

Worthy Matron (3 raps of gavel) Let us unite in the Mizpah benediction.

Sister Conductress, you will attend at the Altar informally.

(Conductress closes Bible informally and returns to her seat)

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will escort the officers from the Chapter Room.