

**GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW MEXICO  
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR**



**MENTOR MANUAL**

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## **MENTOR MANUAL FOR GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW MEXICO ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR**

This manual has been prepared to assist you in your position as a Mentor and to answer general questions asked by your new member. If a conflict arises between these answers and the New Mexico Constitution and By-laws, the OES ritual, or the Chapter by-laws, these answers will take a secondary position.

### **A WORD TO THE MENTOR**

This manual has been prepared to provide helpful information for a Star who is willing to go the extra mile. If you are willing to go the extra mile – to do more than is required, thank you. If not, please let the Worthy Matron know so she may appoint another member.

The job of a Mentor is to help new members and newly initiated members understand and appreciate what Star is all about. The new member will receive a large amount of information at their initiation and then they will receive a ritual. Many times, they are left with more questions than answers and don't know who to turn to for answers.

The Mentor is commissioned to do something more. The Mentor should strive to arouse the interest of the candidate and new member, to stimulate, to encourage conversations and questions. A Chapter may either have a Star or just a new member. It takes time, patience and hard work to improve your own mind so that you may teach others.

Your job is to go the extra mile and make our new members Stars.

### **WHAT DO I DO?**

You are to provide the instruction to, we trust, a sufficiently interested new member.

This manual is designed to assist you in mastering subjects pertaining to Star so that you may answer the new member's questions and discuss our Order with him intelligently.

Here are the steps you should follow:

- After the candidate, has been elected to receive the degrees, arrange to meet with him/her privately in surroundings that will contribute to a relaxed and thoughtful attitude. Do your best to awaken their curiosity and interest.
- Continue to meet as often as may be deemed to be desirable. The more the new member asks for, the better.
- On the day of initiation, make sure you are in attendance. Offering a ride and introducing them to the members is encouraged. Make sure they understand you are available to answer questions and help them learn what we are all about.
- Arrange a meeting as shortly after their initiation, no more than a week later. Take this time to answer questions and to provide instruction on the basics they need to know when attending meetings.
- Be their friend and counselor. Meet with them. Take them to meetings and activities. The more you can encourage conversation and interest the more likely they will become a valuable Star member.

By following these steps, you may be sowing the seeds that in time will blossom and bring forth fruit. In doing this you will be discharging one of the most important assignments in the entire Order – one that has been sadly neglected in these days when everyone finds themselves too busy to help our new members become Stars in fact as well as name.

## **THE PREPARATION ROOM**

Prior to a candidate joining our Order they will want to know and you should help them understand:

### **1) What is the Order of the Eastern Star?**

Unlike Freemasonry, the Order has a clear definition and purpose. The Order exists to give the family; specifically, the wives, mothers, daughters, widows, sisters, half-sisters, granddaughters, stepmothers, stepdaughters, stepsisters, daughter-in-law's, grandmothers, great-granddaughter's, nieces, great nieces, mothers-in-law, sister-in-law's, aunts, and daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Mason's in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death, as well as to members-either active for three (3) years or majority of International Order of Rainbow for Girls or the International Order of Job's Daughters each who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years, the opportunity to be part of the Masonic family.

### **2) What is the purpose of the Order of the Eastern Star?**

The Order exists to allow us to work within the Masonic Fraternity to pursue charitable purposes and social enjoyments. It is intended to be an Order for women with Masonic ties to co-exist with our Masonic brothers in unity. It is believed that through the pursuit of charitable good we may influence good in others. It is believed that social enjoyments help to lighten the burden of everyday life.

To co-exist in unity, we emphasize the need to extol the principals of right doing, fidelity, loyalty, constancy, faith and love. These virtues inspire us to support each other and to go into the world prepared to give aid and goodwill to others.

### **3) Origin**

The Order of the Eastern Star is divided into three eras.

The First Era extended from 1850 to 1866, under the leadership of Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry.

The Second Era extended from 1866 to 1876, under the leadership of Robert Macoy of New York.

The Third Era extends from 1876, when the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was established to the present time.

Of these eras, the first is perhaps the most important as it prepared the way for the other two.

The real origin of the Order of the Eastern Star, like Masonry, will always be shrouded in mystery. Many researchers believe it had a French origin as early as 1703. By some, this is claimed to be the first inception of "Female Masonry" or "Androgynous Degrees" (degrees for both men and women).

There appeared at this time, to be a demand for "Side Degrees" or Degrees conferred on ladies, and quite a list sprang up — "Heroines of Jericho", "Danger in the Dark", "Tall Cedars of Lebanon", etc. These were extensively used but soon fell into decay for lack of lasting worth.

As to the real origin of the Eastern Star degrees in its Initiatory form, there is not the least shadow of doubt that the honor belongs to Dr. Rob Morris and its real origin comes under the First Era.

### **The First Era**

Dr. Morris had traveled many years. He had written many books on Masonry which are valued references in many Masonic Libraries.

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 Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, Dr. Morris sought some method by which women could share with the Masonic Brother the same inspiration that “prompts man to noble deeds.”

Although he harbored these feelings for years, 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.

During this time, he carefully thought out the symbolism and significance of the floor plan and the corps of officers. He conferred the degrees upon his wife and daughters, and some neighbors, presumably having an idea to clothe the ladies with certain words or signs whereby they might make themselves known to Master Masons.

Dr. Morris and his wife Charlotte worked on this idea of a Masonic Fraternal Order for Master Masons and their female relatives for many years. In 1850, Dr. Morris selected the Biblical heroines and the lessons and values of the Order. He established the signs and passes, colors and emblems of the Order and defined the fundamental principles which have remained unchanged throughout the years. The first ceremony book for the Order was compiled and published under the title of “The Rosary of the Eastern Star.”

These signs and so-called mysteries of the Order were communicated freely to all Master Masons and their relatives. Dr. Morris and other prominent Master Masons gave many lectures and conferred the degrees on many ladies throughout the nation.

### **The Second Era**

In 1866, Dr. Morris became associated with Mr. Robert Macoy, who took over the planning and organization of the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1867 and 1868, Mr. Macoy compiled and published a Ritual, using Dr. Morris' Rosary as a guide. This was the beginning of the organization of Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in the United States as well as internationally. He immediately attempted to make the work more systematic and succeeded in adapting it to organized Chapters in such a way as to assure their success.

### **The Third Era**

The first Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Michigan in 1867. When the General Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was organized in 1876 the third era began and it continues to present day.

## **4) Secrecy**

Like Freemasonry in the United States, the only secret is the manner by which we may recognize each other.

The Order makes no attempt to conceal its existence, its principles, or its aim. Its members proudly declare their affiliation. The location and times of our meetings are often public, with announcements made both digitally and published in the press. The Constitution and Bylaws are available to those that desire to see them.

Specifically, that which our Order reserves for members only are as follows:

- The means of recognition
- The methods of the initiation
- The obligation of the initiation
- The ballot of every member

To the above should be added the normal private business of any organized society, particularly that which affects the status of an individual person's membership or rejection.

**5) Prohibited Discussion**

It is discouraged to discuss any subject that might cause friction or contention between our members. This is an Order meant to unite, not to divide.

**6) Religion**

Though religious in character, the Order is neither a religion nor a substitute for one. A religion is any system of belief, worship, conduct, often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy. The Order is nonsectarian, only requiring a belief in a Supreme Being. Our lessons are founded in the Holy Bible but are meant to instill an understanding of the importance of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love. We believe these values should unite us regardless of our country, sect and opinions.

**7) Atheism**

An atheist is one who denies the existence of, or profess a disbelief in Deity. Belief in a Supreme Being is one of our primary requisites for membership as well as membership in Freemasonry. Such belief is professed on the petition for degrees, which every applicant signs. It is made known to the members of the Order when the candidate is first admitted to the Chapter.

Belief in the Supreme Being is required of every initiate but his conception of the Supreme Being is left to each members' own interpretation.

We are not concerned with theological distinctions. This is the basis of our universality.

**8) Catholics**

Can a Catholic become a member of the Order of Eastern Star?

As far as Freemasonry and Eastern Star are concerned, the answer is yes.

Thousands of devout Catholics have been Freemasons and Eastern Star, maintaining continuous communion with their Church throughout their life.

There is nothing in any of the regulations of the Order to prohibit a member of the Catholic Church from becoming a member of the Order merely because they are Catholic.

For a century or more, a series of Papal Bulls (edicts) were issued by the Vatican from time to time to denounce Freemasonry and to prohibit Catholics from holding membership therein.

Happily in recent years, a friendly climate between Catholicism and Freemasonry, and thus Eastern Star, has developed. We hope that this continues.

**9) Charity**

We believe that women and men are both drawn to acts of charity. We believe that both women and men have a desire to help others and to improve our community. If a member is serious about charity, there are many opportunities every day to keep them busy for the rest of their lives. There are no limits to charity except those we impose upon ourselves.



## 10) **Petitioner**

a) What are the qualifications of a petitioner for membership?

Membership in the Order requires membership in a Lodge or have specific relationship to a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Also, majority members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or International Order of Job's Daughters are eligible for membership. Petitioners must be at least 18 years old and have lived in the jurisdiction for at least 6 months.

Petitioners are to be of good character and reputation.

No religious test is required except a belief in a Supreme Being. A petitioner need not be a Christian or American citizen. There are no exclusions because of race, color or national background.

b) Are there certain situations or conditions under which a petitioner would be excluded?

Yes. The Order is not allowed to permit the initiation of any candidate –

- Who has not made a declaration of their belief in a Supreme Being
- Who is not of age as defined by the General Grand Chapter of Eastern Star
- Who is not properly recommended by at least two members of the Chapter being petitioned.
- Who, because of conscientious scruples, cannot take an oath or is unwilling to affirm in the name of the Supreme Being.
- Who is not related to a Mason, a member of a Masonic Lodge, or is not a Majority member of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or International Order of Job's Daughters
- Who has been elected to receive the degrees, but later is disqualified because an objection has been made prior to initiation.

## 11) **Symbolism**

What is symbolism? Why is it important to the Order?

The late Oliver Day Street, one of the foremost authorities on the subject, says that “a symbol is visible representation of an object or thing, real or imagined, employed to convey a certain idea.”

Thus, we see in the Stars and Stripes a symbol of our country. The Canadian recognizes the maple leaf as a symbol of deep meaning; the Christian, the cross; the Jew, the Star of David. Symbolism, then, is the use and interpretation of symbols. Literally, a symbol is a comparison. Symbols constitute the oldest, most common and effective method of teaching. Words themselves are symbols. A great Masonic scholar, Albert Pike, wrote that “the symbol of Masonry is the soul of Masonry.” And indeed, it is as it is also with the Order of Eastern Star. Any member can look back at their initiation and will associate the many symbols we have with their experiences.

## 12) **The ‘Goat’**

Is there any “rough stuff” or “horseplay” during the initiation?

The ritual of the Order is serious in all aspects, from beginning to end. At no time, does it call for or permit foolishness or “horseplay” of any kind.

Anything to the contrary that may be told to a candidate, jokingly or otherwise, is false.

Further, it desecrates the honorable purposes of our Order. As a candidate, there should be no need of apprehension as to the manner of their reception or treatment.

### **13) Preliminary Declarations**

Are any preliminary declarations required from a candidate before initiation?

Yes. They are found in the ritual of the Order. They are simple and direct, going to the heart of the candidate's motives. Assuming that the candidate has not seen the questions in advance or otherwise prompted, a favorable response at this point indicates that they are 'prepared in their heart' and not merely persuaded by others.

### **14) Time to the Degrees**

How long does it take to be a member of the Order?

After a petition is received, it is read in Chapter, a committee is appointed to meet with the petitioner, once the committee reports their findings to the Chapter, a day and time is set to perform the degrees. In our Order the entire initiation is completed in one meeting, unlike Freemasonry which divides their work into 3 degrees.

### **15) Free will and Accord**

One of the fundamental concepts of the Order is that application for membership must be wholly a voluntary act. A person must seek for themselves and join of their own free will and accord. Under no other formula may people from many religious and political beliefs unite. Those who become members of the Order for any other reason than their own desires can neither receive nor give to others the advantages of a wholly voluntary association.

### **16) Approaching the Degrees**

How may I receive the most benefit from the degrees of the Order?

By approaching your degrees with a humble and serene attitude. With mind and heart attuned to those things which elevate us to the position of dignity and responsibility which the Creator intended us to occupy.

Before you enter the Chapter room, dismiss from your mind all worldly matters that detract from the seriousness and solemnity of that which you will see and hear.

Be keenly alert to all that is said and done, for in this manner only can you receive and assimilate the time-honored teachings of the Order.

Our methods will be new to you for our lessons are taught by allegory and symbolism.

However, our methods are effective as you will discover if your mind and heart are receptive to the degrees. Remember, too, that many members are ready to teach if you are ready to learn.

## **The Degrees**

### **17) Instruction**

What arrangements are made for the proper instruction of a new member?

The Worthy Matron and Patron of the Chapter bears the responsibility for making the arrangements for instruction. Under a Mentor Plan used by your Chapter, they will designate a Sister or a Brother to act as the new member's special advisor and instructor (called a mentor) who will provide insight into the Order and advise the fundamentals of the Order.

### **18) Being Prepared**

How is a candidate prepared to become a member of the Order?

A candidate is prepared to become a member of the Order if they are prepared to receive the lessons and commit them to their heart.

**19) Entering or Leaving a Chapter room**

How do I properly enter or leave a Chapter room while it is open or at labor?

The Sentinel should give the alarm to the Warder and announce that you wish to enter the Chapter room. You should then await the will of the Worthy Matron and upon receiving permission to enter, you should advance to a position behind Esther's chair facing East, salute the Matron with the proper sign and await her invitation to be seated. Upon retiring from the Chapter room, while open, you should again walk behind Esther's chair facing East, salute the Worthy Matron with the proper sign and await her permission to retire.

**20) Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa**

We honor these five ladies as the heroines of our Order. We acknowledge that there are women that espouse the values of our Order but we use these 5 to convey our lessons. The history of each woman teaches an important lesson that we wish our members to espouse in their everyday life.

**21) Worthy Matron/Patron**

Are there any special courtesies due the Worthy Matron and Patron from the Sisters and Brothers?

Yes, there are a number of such courtesies. They will become apparent as the new member becomes familiar with the practices of the Chapter. One practice of traditional importance is this: never pass between the East and the Alter while Chapter is in session, except when it is necessary during the degree work or other ceremonies. The Worthy Matron and Patron are in charge of everything essential to a just and lawfully constituted Chapter. Their view of the Book from which we draw inspiration should never be obstructed. Symbolically, this signifies that, in their conduct of Chapter affairs, the Worthy Matron and Patron should never lose sight of the basic principles of the Order.

**22) Altar**

Why do Chapters have an altar? What is the symbolism?

First of all it is important to note that the alter in an Easter Star Chapter room is not an altar for religious worship. From it no sacrifices are offered up, no sacraments are celebrated. In American Chapters the altar occupies a central position in the Chapter room.

The altar is one of the most ancient symbols of mankind. To the Order it is a symbol of faith. On it rests the Holy Bible and to it comes the candidate to offer themselves, symbolically, to the service of our Supreme Being and to our fellow man. Here the candidate takes their obligations.

The altar is the most important article of furniture in the Chapter room, a place at the center, around which all else revolves.

**23) Obligation**

The word obligation means a promise; that which enjoins obedience. It comes from the Latin word *obligare*, meaning to bind.

The obligation and the manner in which it is taken constitute visible and audible evidence of the candidate's sincerity of purpose. Without it nothing said or done can be considered binding. By giving it the candidate gives irrevocable evidence of their intentions.

Thus the Order not only binds them to certain responsibilities, but also protects itself against a revelation of the secrets of the Order, which have to do chiefly with the methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

Obligation must not be confused with the word oath, which is the binding clause at the end of any formal, legal, or promise. In a court of law a witness takes an obligation to “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.” Then he ends by saying “So help me, God” which is the oath. The oath is thus symbolic of man’s fear of God; obligation signifies the promises and agreements made preceding the oath.

#### **24) Penalties**

What actual penalties will I incur if I violate my obligation?

The violation of the obligation is a serious offense however, the only kinds of penalties a member will face are:

- 1) Reprimand
- 2) Definite suspension from membership
- 3) Indefinite suspension and
- 4) Expulsion from the Order.

#### **25) Emblems**

An emblem is the visible representation of an idea often carrying allegorical significance and suggesting some truth or fact. For example, the American flag, as an emblem to our country speaks to us in a broad language that is at once more vivid and understandable than mere words.

The Order of the Eastern Star has many lessons to convey; hence, many emblems. Looking about the Chapter room you will see a Star in the East, a sword and veil, a sheaf of wheat (grain), a crown and scepter, a broken column, a chalice and others.

All of the Orders emblems are important; each should be understood by the new member. The best way to review their meaning is through the explanations given in the ritual.

#### **26) Gavel**

When should I stand or be seated while in Chapter?

The gavel is the symbol of power and authority by which the Worthy Matron and Patron govern the Chapter. One rap of the gavel calls the membership to order; two raps cause the officers of the Chapter to rise; three raps cause all members to rise; one rap seats the Chapter or any member therein.

#### **27) Repetition**

Repetition is used to solidify in the new members’ mind the many lessons of the Order. Our ritual was written by a Mason and repetition is used in our teachings for many reasons. One of which is because Masonic ritual was written during the Middle Ages and they used repetition to avoid misunderstanding of the language.

#### **28) So May It Ever Be**

These words are used at the end of prayer. It is our version of the Masonic “So Mote It Be”. And those words have been used by Masons as a response to prayer since the beginning of the written history of the Craft.

‘Amen’ is not a substitute for ‘So may it ever be’.

## **29) The Ritual**

Man, has always devised ceremonies of initiation for his organizations. The Indians had them. So did savage tribes and ancient religions. Crafts and guilds in all ages have had preparatory rites. Many modern churches have set forms for religious worship.

The Order's ritual binds us to our Sisters and Brothers as it binds us to our mothers and fathers and their mothers and fathers. It also binds us to our sons and daughters and to their sons and daughters.

Truth may be taught without ritual but truth taught by ritual is always taught as the original teachers desired and makes a lasting impression upon the mind.

## **30) Prince Hall Masonry**

As far as Freemasonry in New Mexico is concerned, there is no such thing as "Black Masonry" or "Black Lodges", or "White Masonry" or "White Lodges". There are only regular Lodges or clandestine Lodges. Clandestine Lodges are illegal. It should be noted that not all Grand Lodges in other states recognize Prince Hall Masons, a member should be aware of the stance of Grand Lodge of the state in which they reside.

## **31) Rights of a member of the Eastern Star**

a) Any member in good standing of the Order at the time of their death, may receive an Eastern Star service at their burial if requested by the family.

b) Relief

We offer aid to our members in need should the member ask and the Chapter of which they are a member feel that aid is necessary. It should be known that aid does not always mean monetary. There are many ways of aiding our Sisters and Brothers. And should the aid be monetary, this aid is provided by the generosity of our members and comes as a direct result of donations from the membership.

c) Visitation

To visit a Chapter, a member must be able to exhibit a current dues card and if they cannot be vouched for by another member, they must pass a satisfactory examination before an examining committee.

## **32) Responsibilities of a Member of the Order**

a) Attendance

There is no minimum attendance requirements nor any penalty for absence. A member should feel an obligation to be loyal to their Chapter which permits them to enjoy the benefits of the Order and this includes at least occasional attendance at the meeting of the Order. If they have accepted or been elected and installed in an office, there is an obligation to be present at meetings as much as possible.

No matter how small a Chapter is a member never outgrows it nor should ever fancy that they have.

b) Investigation

To whom should the investigation of a petitioner for Eastern Star be entrusted?

Only to those members who, in the opinion of the Worthy Matron, are most likely to make a prompt, completed, and impartial inquiry into all the phases of a petitioner's character which will determine whether she/he is worthy to be a member of the Order.

c) Balloting on Petitioners

Under what circumstances should I use the black ball (cube) in balloting?

A member should not hesitate to use the black cube in balloting on a petitioner for

membership if they are convinced in their heart, after due inquiry into their own motives, that the petitioner is unworthy. Personal likes, dislikes, misunderstandings, or grudges should be put aside in that solemn moment. The only standard which should govern a member's action in balloting should be; Will this petitioner uphold or injure the good name of the Order of the Eastern Star should she/he become a member, i.e. is the person morally fit to become a member?

If possible, a gentler way to block a petitioner who is not worthy is to file an objection with the Worthy Matron or Patron of the Chapter. This compels the Worthy Matron/Patron to consider pulling the petition before it is rejected in Chapter.

**d) Secrecy**

Has a member the right to declare how she/he voted or inquire of others how they voted on a ballot?

No. We require that our ballot be free and secret. Any violation of this is considered a serious offense.

**e) Examination of a Visitor.**

If I am appointed to examine a visitor to my Chapter, what should I do?

Proceed according to the procedures specified in the ritual and in the Bylaws and Constitution.

**33) Discussion in the Chapter**

What rules govern a member while speaking in a Chapter?

A member who desires to speak should rise, address the Worthy Matron and await recognition. She/he should observe due order and decorum and should not discuss subjects which disrupts the peace and harmony of the Chapter.

A member should bear in mind always that the Sisters and Brothers assembled in the Chapter are entitled to be addressed in a kindly and fraternal manner.

It is important to remember that the Worthy Matron and Patron are the only judges of order and debate. They may declare any discussion out of order if it pertains to subjects contrary to our Constitution and Bylaws or if they feel that such discussion would be controversial or divisive.

**34) Worthy Matron**

**a) Who can be elected Worthy Matron?**

Any female member of the Chapter who is in good standing is eligible to be elected to the office of Worthy Matron. It is expected for a member to start at Associate Conductress and advance through the line in order to be well prepared to serve as Worthy Matron.

**b) What are the powers of the Worthy Matron?**

The powers of the Worthy Matron are defined in the Constitution and Bylaws and include

- Preside during the meetings of the Chapter, except during conferring of degrees
- See that the business is properly conducted
- Ensure that the laws, rules and regulations are strictly obeyed
- Appoint all committees, unless otherwise provided
- See that all officers perform their respective duties
- To fill vacancies as well as to make temporary appointments

### **35) Worthy Patron**

#### **a) Who can be elected Worthy Patron?**

Any male member of the Chapter who is in good standing is eligible to be elected to the office of Worthy Patron. It is expected for a member to advance from the station of Sentinel or Associate Patron in order to be well prepared to serve as Worthy Patron

#### **b) What are the powers of the Worthy Patron?**

The powers of the Worthy Patron are defined in the Constitution and Bylaws and include

- Preside during the conferring of degrees and at other times requested to do so by the Worthy Matron
- To provide a general supervision over the affairs of the chapter
- Advise and assist the Worthy Matron in the performance of her duties
- See that all the officers are proficient in their work
- See that all officers perform their respective duties
- To act as custodian of the Secret Work and to make sure of proper use.
- To ensure all brothers are members in good standing of some regular Lodge at the beginning of each fiscal year.

### **36) Officers: Selection and Election**

#### **How often and at what time are the officers of the Chapter elected?**

In New Mexico officers of a Chapter are elected annually at a stated meeting in September. Special elections to fill vacancies may be held at other times subject to dispensation from the Worthy Grand Matron.

### **37) Making a Motion**

#### **If I want to propose something for the good of the Chapter, how do I go about it?**

Any proper motion may be presented to the Chapter by any member at a stated meeting. If the proposition involves an amendment to the By-laws of the Chapter, it should be submitted in writing, signed by the movant. The proper form for a bylaw change is found in the Constitution and By-Laws.

### **38) Voting**

#### **What is the usual method of voting on questions proposed in Chapter?**

By the upheld right hand. Any member may at any time request a written ballot instead. When petitions for membership are under consideration, the white ball and black cube ballot must be used.

### **39) Dues**

#### **a) When are Chapter dues payable?**

Annual dues are payable in every Chapter in New Mexico on or before October 1 of every year. This date is fixed by law.

#### **b) What happens if I fail to pay my dues on time?**

In open Chapter, no later than the first regular communication in September, the Secretary shall report the names of members who are in arrears. If payment is not received prior to September 30 of each year, the member shall be suspended for non-payment.

#### **c) If I am financially unable to pay my dues, what should I do?**

One who is financially unable to pay their dues should notify their Chapter. The membership then has the option of voting to remit the members' dues for that year.

#### **40) Learning the Ritual**

Each member of the Order is entitled to a ritual upon completing the degrees. Everything except the Secret Work is included in the ritual. If a member desires to also learn the Secret Work, the member should make arrangements with the Worthy Patron.

#### **41) Eastern Star Ring and other Jewelry**

Any accepted Eastern Star jewelry may be worn at any time desired by a member of the Order. The proper way to wear the jewelry is in a way that seems proper to you as long as you wear it honorably.

#### **42) Transfer of Membership**

##### **a) How do I proceed if I desire to transfer my membership to another Chapter?**

Proceed according to the following outline:

- Petition the Chapter of your choice for affiliation. A Certificate of Good Standing is available through the secretary or can be located on the Grand Chapter website. The Certificate of Good Standing that has the seal of the chapter you belong to should accompany your petition
- If you are elected to affiliate, the Chapter which has elected you will notify your former Chapter. You should at this time submit a letter to the Secretary of your former Chapter asking for demit.
- Your former Chapter will then grant a demit and thereby complete the transfer. Should you fail to be elected to affiliate with the new Chapter, your membership will remain unimpaired in the first Chapter.

In transferring membership between Chapters, it is suggested that you affiliate with the new Chapter and then withdraw from the old one.

##### **b) How may I re-affiliate, either with my own Chapter or with another Chapter?**

If you possess a demit and are therefore an unaffiliated member, you may petition either the Chapter which granted the demit or the Chapter located where you reside. If your petition receives favorable action, you then will resume active membership.

##### **c) To what Chapter or Chapters may a member apply for affiliation?**

A member in good standing in a Chapter or holding a demit may petition for affiliation to any Chapter which will receive her/his petition, regardless of location. A suspended member may only petition the Chapter that issued the suspension.

#### **43) Dual or Plural Membership**

**May a NM Eastern Star member lawfully belong to more than one Chapter at the same time?**

Yes.

#### **44) Life Membership**

A life membership may be awarded to a member if provided for in the Chapter bylaws. The terms of the life membership are at the discretion of the Chapter. Life memberships are not transferable to another chapter. Should a Chapter close, affiliate, or consolidate life memberships will not transfer to the member's new chapter.

#### **45) Honorary Membership**

An honorary membership may be awarded to any member of the Order in good standing who is not a member of the Chapter awarding the membership. Honorary memberships are



granted by a vote of the Chapter. Such membership shall not entitle the member to make motions, enter into discussion (unless called upon by the presiding officer), to vote, to hold office, or be counted toward a quorum for a chapter meeting.

#### **46) Perpetual Membership**

Any member in good standing is eligible to apply for a perpetual membership. A perpetual membership is a prepaid membership and is only applicable in the state obtained. If a member desires to purchase a perpetual membership they should fill out the proper form, have their Chapter secretary sign and seal the statement of good standing and submit the form with proper payment to the Grand Secretary. A perpetual membership may be transferred to another Chapter provided the Chapter is in the same state as the membership was obtained.

#### **47) Demitting from a Chapter**

##### **If I desire to terminate my membership, how may I do so honorably?**

You may direct a request in writing to your Chapter asking for a demit, which is a document certifying that you have withdrawn and that at the time of your withdrawal you were in good standing. In other words, a demit is an “honorable discharge.”

A demit should be guarded carefully because should you wish to re-affiliate with a Chapter it will be necessary that you submit your demit with your petition for re-affiliation.

Certain regulations and restrictions govern the issuance of demits and you should be familiar with them before making a request for demit.

It should be further emphasized that a demitted member is subject to the same rules of conduct as a member who is affiliated.

**NO ELECTED OFFICER MAY RESIGN OR DEMIT WHILE IN OFFICE.**

#### **48) Grand Chapter**

##### **a) What is Grand Chapter? What are its powers and from whence are they derived?**

The powers of the Grand Chapter of New Mexico, like those of all other Grand Jurisdictions, are derived from the General Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star.

The Grand Chapter is:

- The highest source of authority in the Order in New Mexico
- The only authority in the state of New Mexico that may charter a Chapter
- The original and exclusive jurisdiction over the subjects of the Order’s legislation in New Mexico. Its enactments and decisions upon all questions are the supreme law of the state.
- Responsible for adopting, altering, or repealing general laws and regulation for the government of the Chapters under its jurisdiction.
- Responsible for the state and condition of its own finances and the adoption of such measures in relation thereto, as may be good for the Order
- Responsible for doing whatever may be regarded as necessary, appertaining to the wellbeing and perpetuity of the Order in New Mexico.
- A source of help and encouragement to Chapters and a unifying influence for the Order in the State.
- Responsible, between annual meetings, for the administration of the Order’s affairs through its duly constituted officers.

#### **49) Worthy Grand Matron**

##### **What are the powers of the Worthy Grand Matron?**

- The Worthy Grand Matron shall possess all powers and prerogatives conferred by the Landmarks and usages of the Order
- She shall preside at all sessions of the Grand Chapter
- Appoint all committees not otherwise provided for
- See that the rules and regulations of the Order are enforced
- See that the officers faithfully perform their respective duties
- Give such instruction and directions as the good of the Order may require
- Convene any subordinate chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction, to preside therein, to inspect the proceedings and require conformity to the laws of the Order.
- To suspend, for good cause, the charter of any subordinate chapter for a limited period or until the next session of Grand Chapter
- She shall decide all questions of law and usage submitted to her by Grand Officers or under the seal of the subordinate chapters; subject to an appeal to the Grand Chapter.
- During the vacation of the Grand Chapter, she shall exercise all its executive powers
- She may grant special dispensation for all lawful purposes, except for the purpose of organizing chapters
- Other duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws

#### **50) Worthy Grand Patron**

##### **What are the duties of the Worthy Grand Patron?**

- The Worthy Grand Patron shall preside whenever called upon by the Worthy Grand Matron and shall assist and advise her in the discharge of her duties
- Upon proper application, to grant a dispensation for a new chapter??
- Institute all new chapters organized under his administration
- Deliver the Charter and install the first Board of Officers of a newly constituted chapter
- When requested, he shall inform, advise, and/or assist chartered chapters to consolidate or affiliate one chapter with another.
- Other duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **51) Grand Honors**

##### **What are Grand Honors? Why and how are they given and to whom are they due?**

Grand Honors may be described as a salute, given to distinguished members in authority or on specified ceremonial occasions.

The prescribed method is done by crossing the arms over the chest and giving a slight bow.

Those that are entitled to Grand Honors are: The Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Past Grand Matrons and Patrons and fifty-year award recipients.

#### **52) Eastern Star Burial or Memorial**

##### **What should I do to insure myself the privilege of Eastern Star burial or the memorial service, either at home or away from home?**

The last rites for a deceased member conducted by Chapters are for both members in good standing or members that have taken a demit. It may be performed at either the grave side

or at the memorial service. Any Chapter in New Mexico is permitted to conduct the memorial service at the funeral of a member when requested to do so by the deceased, immediate relatives or friends. To ensure the privilege of a Star service, a member should make her/his wishes known to family, friends and the Chapter. If the member no longer resides in close proximity to her/his Chapter, arrangements may be made for another Chapter to conduct the ceremonies. It is one of the most touching acts for a Chapter to gather and bestow the honors on a member who has passed. A member in good standing desiring an Eastern Star service should instruct members of her/his family to notify her/his Chapter, a nearby Chapter, of the Grand Chapter immediately after death.

### **53) Meetings**

#### **a) Quorum**

No Chapter shall be opened unless there are seven members present of which at least one needs to be one of the top 4 elected officers or a Past Matron/Patron, and the offices prescribed for in the laws of the Order.

#### **b) Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the Worthy Matron with a special dispensation from the Worthy Grand Matron. Special meetings must be announced to the membership prior to the day of the meeting.

### **54) Code of Discipline**

Full details shall be found at the back of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Each Chapter has the power of and shall exercise penal jurisdiction over every member of the Order, affiliated or non-affiliated, residing in or being within its jurisdiction and over its members except the Worthy Matron and Patron. The Worthy Matrons and Patrons shall be under the jurisdiction of the Worthy Grand Matron.

#### **a) Offences**

Any breach of good morals, or a violation of the laws of the State of the United States or of the Grand Chapter or of the Subordinate Chapter to which the member belongs shall be deemed an offense against the Order of the Eastern Star. Officers and members who violate their obligation, disclose the Secret Work of the Order or willfully malign or slander members shall be liable to discipline. Any member who disobeys the order of the presiding officer or in any manner disrupts the harmony of a Chapter, must be held strictly accountable therefore, and, upon the repetition of the offense, dealt with in such a manner as the Chapter may determine.

#### **b) Penalties**

The only penalties recognized are:

- Expulsion
- Suspension for an indefinite time
- Suspension for a definite time
- Reprimand by the Chapter