

# CONSTITUTION

## **Article I**

### *Name*

This organization shall be known and designated by the name of the Grand Chapter of New Mexico, Order of the Eastern Star.

## **Article II**

### *Seal*

#### **SECTION 1. GRAND CHAPTER SEAL**

It shall have a seal in the form of a pentagon bearing the words, “Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, organized April 11, 1902.” In the center shall be a five-pointed star and the letters “N. M.”. The official seal of the Grand Chapter of New Mexico may be an embossed or engraved seal or an electronic seal.

*Adopted 2025*

#### **SECTION 2. WORTHY GRAND MATRON’S SEAL**

The Worthy Grand Matron shall have a seal in every respect the same as the above, except that it shall bear the words, “*Worthy Grand Matron*”. The official seal of the Worthy Grand Matron may be an embossed or engraved seal or an electronic seal.

*Adopted 2025*

#### **SECTION 3. USE OF THE SEAL**

The official seal, an embossed or engraved seal or an electronic seal, shall be affixed to all official correspondence, reports and documents issued by or under the authority of the Grand Chapter and an electrotype of the same shall be used in all printed proceedings.

*Adopted 2025*

**Article III**

*Powers*

This Grand Chapter has original and exclusive jurisdiction over all subjects of Eastern Star legislation and administration, appellate, judicial, administrative and jurisdiction from and over decisions of Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons and from the acts and decisions of chapter. It has original jurisdiction over its officers, members, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons and all members of the Order within this Grand Jurisdiction. Its enactments and decisions upon all questions shall be the supreme law of the Order in the state of New Mexico, subject only to the Landmarks of the Order.

**Article IV**

*Ritual*

This Grand Chapter shall use the ritual approved by the General Grand Chapter, which shall be supreme.

**Article V**

*Membership, Representation and Proxies*

**SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

This Grand Chapter shall consist of all members in good standing of any chartered chapter of this Grand Jurisdiction, and the proxies of Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons and Associate Patrons as shall be legally appointed and duly certified to this Grand Chapter by the secretaries of their respective chapter.

*Adopted 2022*

## **SECTION 2. PROXIES**

Only the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons and Associate Patrons are entitled to be represented by proxy in this Grand Chapter.

## **SECTION 3. NUMBER OF VOTES**

Members of the Grand Chapter, who are present, shall be entitled to one (1) vote each and one (1) vote for each proxy held by them.

## **SECTION 4. DELINQUENT CHAPTERS NOT ENTITLED TO REPRESENTATION**

No chapter shall be entitled to representation until its annual dues are paid and its annual returns are made to the Grand Secretary as required by the Bylaws Governing the Grand Chapter.

## **Article VI**

### *Quorum*

Representatives of majority of the subordinate chapters under jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **Article VII**

### *Officers*

## **SECTION 1. TITLE AND RANK**

The title and order of rank of the officers of this Grand Chapter shall be as follows: Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand

Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Trustees, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist, Grand Adah, Grand Ruth, Grand Esther, Grand Martha, Grand Electa, Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel.

## **SECTION 2. FORM OF SELECTION**

(a) The Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron and Grand Conductress, having been nominated in the following manner, “Worthy Grand Patron (or presiding officer) I nominate Sister \_\_\_\_\_ or Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for the ensuing year and move that the Grand Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for her/him on behalf of the Grand Chapter.” Unless there has been an objection filed previous to the time set for election, the Grand Secretary shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Should there be an objection to any officer advancing, then each shall receive a separate written ballot.

(b) The Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Trustees, Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Sentinel shall be elected by separate written ballot from among those having filed a Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) When there is not more than one nominee per office, election may be had by acclamation.

(c) All members seeking elective office shall file a Declaration of Candidacy (DOC). The (DOC) shall be on the form available from the Grand Secretary who will have the file available on the New Mexico OES website. The original signed document must be received by the Grand Secretary no later than 45 days prior to Grand Chapter. The Grand Secretary shall promptly provide an electronic copy of each form to the webmaster to be posted on the website. All properly filed forms shall be posted no later than 30 days prior to Grand Chapter. The Grand Secretary shall insure

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each voting delegate at Grand Chapter is provided a copy of the properly filed forms.

(d) Those filing a Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) and those nominated from the floor shall proceed directly to the east, state their name and chapter, along with the spelling of their name. All other officers shall be appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron.

(e) If no DOC has been filed for an office, nomination(s) from the floor will be accepted. A nomination must be made by a member of the nominee's primary chapter. The nominee's name and number of his/her chapter shall be given at this time. The nominee(s) will then proceed to the east and give a brief answer to each of the areas on the DOC regarding their qualification and desire to hold the position being voted on. All other officers shall be appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron.

### **SECTION 3. SEX OF OFFICERS**

The Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist and Grand Warder may be a sister or a brother. All other Grand Officers except Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Patron, one Grand Trustee and Grand Sentinel shall be sisters.

### **SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY**

(a) With the exception of those appointed to Grand Organist, only a Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Past Matron or Past Patron of this Grand Chapter, Past Matrons or Past Patrons who have been duly installed in some chapter of a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the General Grand Chapter and who are in good standing in a chapter of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to an elective grand office or appointive grand office or be a member of any

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standing committees: Jurisprudence, Fraternal Correspondents, Grievance and Appeals, or elected or appointed to a Standing Board: Benevolent, ESTARL, Education, Membership.

*Adopted 2022*

(b) Any member of this Grand Chapter shall be eligible to assist at a Grand Chapter Session and be a member of any session committee, fundraising committee, or the following standing committees: Credentials, Registering and Examining Visiting Members, Registering and Examining Visitors from Other Grand Jurisdictions, Necrology, and appointment to Membership.

*Adopted 2022*

(c) No one shall be elected or appointed to office in this Grand Chapter unless she/he be present at the meeting of the Grand Chapter at which such election is held; except that a member who is eligible to office and who is prevented from attending Grand Chapter through sickness or other unavoidable occurrence may be elected or appointed to office provided she/he shall have signified her/his willingness to accept such office.

**Article VIII**

*Election and Installation*

**SECTION 1. TIME OF ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT**

All Grand Officers shall be elected or appointed at each annual session of this Grand Chapter. The election of officers shall be started not later than 10:00 a.m. on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) day.

## **SECTION 2. INSTALLATION**

(a) The elective and appointive Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter shall be installed before the close of its annual session and installation shall be the last order of business transacted at such session.

(b) The Grand Officers shall perform the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly installed.

(c) Any Grand Officer, who may be absent at the time of installation, shall be installed as soon thereafter as practicable in some subordinate chapter by the Worthy Grand Matron or her appointed Deputy, who must be a Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Past Matron or Past Patron, as per the Ritual page 94, and the Grand Secretary notified thereof.

(d) No Grand Officer shall be installed by proxy.

## **SECTION 3. OBJECTION TO INSTALLATION**

An objection to the installation of a Grand Officer of this Grand Chapter shall be invalid unless the objection is accompanied by a copy of the charges the objector has filed or is about to file with the subordinate chapter having jurisdiction or of which the Grand Officer objected to is a member. In such event, the installation of such Grand Officer shall be deferred until after proper disposition of said charges.

### **Article IX**

#### *Duties of Grand Officers*

The duties of Grand Officers shall be such as to conform to the Ritual and are provided in the Bylaws Governing Grand Chapter.

**Article X**

*Vacancies*

**SECTION 1.**

Grand Officers shall not resign nor be demitted.

**SECTION 2.**

In case of the death, absence or disability of the Worthy Grand Matron and the Associate Grand Matron, the Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress in order of their rank shall assume their duties and act in their stead. In case of the death, absence or disability of all the said Grand Officers, the Junior Past Grand Matron, who shall be a member in good standing in some subordinate chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall succeed to all the powers and duties of the Worthy Grand Matron.

**SECTION 3.**

In case of the death, absence or disability of the Worthy Grand Patron and the Associate Grand Patron, the Junior Past Grand

Patron, who shall be a member in good standing in some subordinate chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall succeed to all the powers of the Worthy Grand Patron.

**SECTION 4.**

All other vacancies in office in the Grand Chapter shall be filled by appointment by the Worthy Grand Matron.

**Article XI**

*Revenue and Expenditures*

The revenue and expenditures of this Grand Chapter shall be such as are provided for in the Bylaws Governing Grand Chapter.

**Article XII**

*Official Bonds*

**SECTION 1. AMOUNT OF BOND**

The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be required to give bond within fifteen (15) days after their installation. The surety company shall be approved, and the amount of the bond shall be designated annually by the Board of Grand Trustees. The bond shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Grand Trustees.

**SECTION 2. FAILURE TO GIVE BOND VACATES OFFICE**

Should either Grand Officer fail to give bond within the time required, then said Grand Officer shall become vacant.

It shall be the duty of the Worthy Grand Matron, immediately, to appoint an eligible person to fill such vacancy, the appointee to give bond as required in this article.

**SECTION 3. PREMIUM ON BONDS**

The premiums on the bonds of any Grand Officer of this Grand Chapter shall be paid from its treasury.

**Article XIII**

*Time and Place of Meeting*

**SECTION 1. TIME AND PLACE**

The Grand Chapter shall meet at least once each year at the time and in the geographical location as provided by the Bylaws. Should it become imperative to hold a session at some other time and/or geographical location than that selected at the last Grand Chapter session, then the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron and the Grand Secretary shall act as a board, of which the Worthy Grand Matron shall be ex-officio chairman, for the purpose of making said change. The Grand Secretary shall immediately notify all chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction of any change.

**SECTION 2. SPECIAL**

Special sessions may be ordered by the Worthy Grand Matron or in her absence or disability by the Associate Grand Matron, at such time and place as in her opinion the interests of the Order require. Each subordinate chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be notified, at least thirty (30) days previous, to such called

session. No business shall be transacted except as is named in the call.

**Article XIV**

*Rules of the Order*

The deliberations of this Grand Chapter shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. On all questions of law not specially provided for by the CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS of the Grand Chapter, the Masonic law shall be the rule of decision, so far as the same is applicable to

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this Order, and so far as the same is not in conflict with the CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS or with the Ritual of the Order.

### **Article XV**

#### *Amendment*

### **SECTION 1. HOUSE CLEANING AMENDMENT**

The Jurisprudence Committee shall have the authority to correct or clarify a provision of the Constitution by deleting, adding or substituting words (with the exception of correcting errors in typing, spelling or grammar), providing the proposed change is made by motion and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at the Grand Chapter session. It then immediately becomes law.

### **SECTION 2**

No other amendment to the Constitution, either by alteration or addition, shall be made unless in the following manner. The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by three (3) or more members from three (3) separate primary chapters and referred to the Jurisprudence Committee. The committee, after making its report, shall submit same to the Grand Chapter for its consideration. Such resolutions shall be submitted to each member of the Jurisprudence Committee at least sixty (60) days before the convening of Grand Chapter, which committee, after making its report shall submit the same to Grand Chapter for consideration and decision.

The Jurisprudence Committee shall publish proposed amendments to the New Mexico OES Website at least thirty (30) days before the convening of Grand Chapter. If the website is unavailable, the proposed amendments shall be provided

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electronically to each subordinate chapter at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of Grand Chapter. After being discussed, and if necessary amended, if approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, it becomes law. The Jurisprudence Committee shall publish the outcome of Grand Chapter voting to the New Mexico OES Website no more than thirty (30) days after Grand Chapter closes.

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