

YOUR NEW MEMBER GUIDEBOOK

MINNESOTA GRAND CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

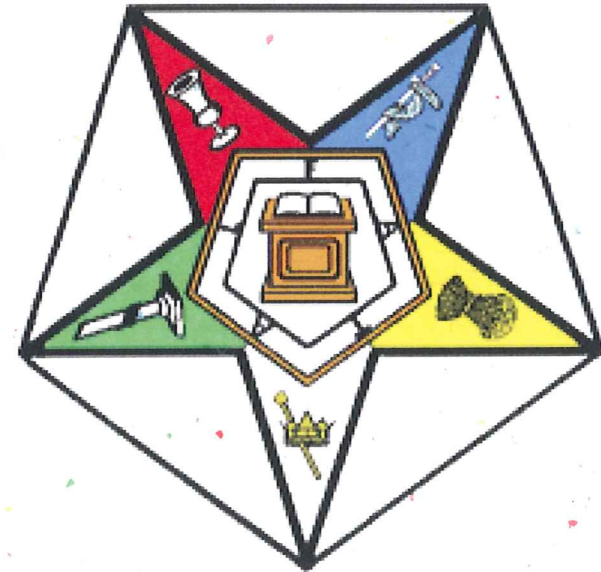
The Grand Chapter of Minnesota, Order of the Eastern Star, is a growing fraternal organization of women and men within the Fraternal Family of Masonry, whose members are dedicated to charity, truth, and loving-kindness; working together in harmony to share with and care for each other; making a difference in their communities through their charitable and social activities; and benefiting all humankind.

For more information, please contact the
Minnesota Grand Chapter business office
at www.mnoes.com

Minnesota Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star
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**Order of the Eastern Star
Minnesota Grand Chapter**

Your Name: _____

Date Initiated: _____

Your Mentor is:

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Meeting Held: _____ Time: _____

Officers Taking Part in Your Initiation

Worthy Matron: _____

Worthy Patron: _____

Associate Matron: _____

Associate Patron: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Conductress: _____

Associate Conductress: _____

Chaplain: _____

Marshal: _____

Organist: _____

Adah: _____

Ruth: _____

Esther: _____

Martha: _____

Electa: _____

Warder: _____

Sentinel: _____

Balloting on Petitions

Ask your mentor, or any officer, to explain the proper procedure for balloting.

Farewell

At the close of each meeting, the Worthy Matron addresses the Chapter with a farewell. The members' response is "Farewell" with a slight bow.

Visiting Another Chapter

You may be asked to:

1. Show your dues card.
2. Have a member vouch for you.
3. Be examined by the Examining Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

After attending several meetings, you may wish to explore the following resources.

The Chapter Secretary should make these items available to you:

- Ritual (if you do not already have one)
- Chapter By-Laws
- The Grand Chapter Code Book
- Roster of the Chapter Members (if available)

YOUR FUTURE

In order to get the most out of your membership as a successful and dedicated member, you will want to:

- Attend meetings
- Enjoy social events
- Assist with projects
- Get to know your sisters and brothers
- Stay involved

**Give to the Order the best you have,
and the best will come back to you!**

WELCOME!

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

We are pleased to welcome you to our Chapter as a new member!

You are now a member of the largest fraternal organization in the world for both men and women. Its members are comprised of both men – who are Master Masons – and women with specific Masonic relationships. 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 international jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

Although the lessons we teach are based on the Christian Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion and is neither secret nor political. Our spiritual symbol is the Star of Bethlehem and the five-pointed star is our accepted emblem. We welcome all who believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. Your initiation was symbolic of the road of life.

Eastern Star, as a fraternal service organization, strives to build a better, more fulfilling way of life. Many of our members dedicate themselves to work for and support a variety of local and national charities. Millions of dollars are raised annually in support of humanitarian causes benefitting humankind.

This guidebook may help you better understand the teachings, obligations, and lessons of our Order.

As you read and study your New Member Guidebook, you will have a number of questions. You have been assigned a 'mentor' to assist you in discovering the work of Eastern Star. Your mentor will be contacting you to just visit about your initiation experience and welcome you personally.

It would be helpful to sit with your mentor at Chapter meetings, whenever possible.

Where Do I Start? What Will Be Expected of Me? What is the Meeting All About?

Dues Card

1. Sign your dues card.
2. Carry your dues card with you at Chapter meetings or when visiting other Chapters.

Your First Chapter Meetings

1. The Chapter may have a guest book to sign.
2. Your Chapter may have a printed program and calendar. Ask for a copy. Check for special events on the Chapter calendar. The Chapter may hold social events, special project meetings, honors for Grand Officers, etc.
3. Your Chapter will have an Opening and Closing Ode. These are often found in the Chapter program or on a special handout.
4. Only one Ritual may be open during a meeting. If an officer needs assistance with the Ritual memory work, the assigned prompter will help.
5. Your mentor or other Chapter members can help you better understand the meetings.
6. Please ask your mentor or Worthy Matron concerning appropriate attire at Chapter meetings.

Entering or Leaving a Chapter Meeting While in Session

1. Place your purse or other items down in the West.
2. Proceed to a position in front of the Associate Matron and Associate Patron and face the East.
3. Give the Salutation Sign – which is placing your hands on a level with your elbow in the same position as holding the Bible at the Altar during initiation. (Your mentor will discuss and practice this with you.)
4. If entering, take a seat on the sidelines.
5. If retiring, wait for the Warder to open the door of the Chapter room.
6. Leaving due to illness or an emergency may be done without giving the Salutation Sign.

Respect for the Bible and Ritual Work

1. When the Bible is open on the Altar, no one should walk between the open Bible and the East, except during initiation and installation.
2. No pictures should be taken when the Bible is open.
3. It is not acceptable to applaud the Ritualistic work.

Reverent Attitude

1. Ask a member to demonstrate the Reverent Attitude – which is clasping your hands loosely at waist level.

2. The Reverent Attitude is assumed during all Altar ceremonies, when the Conductress or Chaplain enters the Labyrinth (the pentagon-shaped area formed by the Star Point chairs), and is held until they leave this area.
3. The Attitude of Prayer is the Reverent Attitude with head bowed.
4. Bow your head as the Chaplain kneels.
5. At the end of the prayer, join in the prayer response: “So may it ever be”.

Your Response to the Presiding Officer’s Gavel

1. Three raps calls up the entire Chapter to stand at their seats.
2. Two raps calls up the Officers only.
3. One rap:
 - Calls the Chapter to order
 - Completes Opening and Closing of the Chapter
 - Seats the Chapter when standing (exception: after the Chapter is declared open, please remain standing for the Flag presentation)
 - Completes each order of business
 - Affirms each declaration of the Presiding Officer

Introductions and Grand Honors

Grand Honors are given to Worthy Grand Matrons, Worthy Grand Patrons, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons.

1. Those entitled to Grand Honors are introduced at the Altar and then escorted to the East.
2. Please applaud as they are escorted to the East.
3. Turn to the East when the Worthy Matron says: “Sisters and Brothers . . . ”
4. Grand Honors are given with one motion: by crossing the arms over the breast, the left over the right, with hands open, and with a slight bow.

Business Meeting

Any organization has a certain amount of business that must be transacted. The Chapter follows Roberts Rules of Order while conducting its business meeting.

1. Participation in the affairs of the Chapter is encouraged. Ask questions or request clarification on any point of business.
2. If you wish to address the Chapter, stand and wait until you are acknowledged, and start your comments with “Worthy Matron . . . ”.
3. A motion can be made by standing and being acknowledged by the Worthy Matron. Then begin with “Worthy Matron, I move that . . . ”.
4. A vote is taken by raising the right hand. The Worthy Matron declares a passed or failed vote.
5. In some circumstances, a paper ballot is called for. You will be asked to log your vote on a paper ballot.