

***WELCOME***

The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Inc. (“**Grand Chapter**”) 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.

**For more information, log on to**

**[www.floridaoes.org](http://www.floridaoes.org)**

Grand Chapter is 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 our Order.

***YOUR WORTHY MATRON IS:***

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***TELEPHONE NUMBER***

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**CHAPTER NO. \_\_\_ OFFICERS**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
<i>Worthy Matron</i>		
<i>Worthy Patron</i>		
<i>Associate Matron</i>		
<i>Associate Patron</i>		
<i>Secretary</i>		
<i>Treasurer</i>		
<i>Conductress</i>		
<i>Associate Conductress</i>		
<i>Chaplain</i>		
<i>Marshal</i>		
<i>Organist</i>		
<i>Adah</i>		
<i>Ruth</i>		
<i>Esther</i>		
<i>Martha</i>		
<i>Electa</i>		
<i>Warder</i>		
<i>Sentinel</i>		

***OUR CHAPTER ROOM***

- **A diagram of the Chapter Room is on page 169 of the Ritual.**
- **The Chapter Furniture and the position of the Chairs is also described in the Ritual on page 168.**

**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 for both women and men. Our members are comprised of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships as well as certain former members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or Job's Daughters International.

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 or a Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapters are under the General Grand Chapter.

The Chapter that you are now a member of is in the jurisdiction of Florida, therefore commonly known as the Grand Chapter of Florida.

Though our teachings are based on the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star is not a religious organization and is neither secret nor political. Our spiritual symbol is the "Star of Bethlehem." Thus, the five-pointed Star is our accepted emblem. Your initiation was symbolic of the road of life. This guidebook may help you better understand the teachings, obligation and lessons of our Order.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a fraternal service organization that strives to build a better, more fulfilling way of life. Many of our members dedicate themselves to supporting a variety of local and national charities. Millions of dollars are raised annually in support of humanitarian causes. The flagship charity of General Grand Chapter is Service Dogs.

As you read and study this Guidebook, our Ritual, and the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of Grand Chapter and its Floor Work, Uniform Code of Bylaws and other information (the "**Green Book**"), you may have a number of questions.

It would be helpful to sit with or near another member of the Chapter at Chapter meetings whenever possible. You may also want to contact the Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron over your District with questions, her/his name and telephone number are: \_\_\_\_\_

...

**Where do I start? What will be expected of me?**

**What is the meeting all about?**

**DUES CARD**

Sign your dues card when it is received. Carry your dues card with you to Chapter meetings and when visiting other Chapters

**YOUR FIRST CHAPTER MEETING**

The Chapter may have a guest book to sign, as well as the membership and visitor's book. Those books are located outside the door of the Chapter Room. Always sign the Chapter membership and visitor book at your home Chapter and when visiting another Chapter.

Your Chapter may have a printed program, calendar or yearbook. Ask for a copy. Check for special events in the yearbook under Chapter meetings or on a calendar. The Chapter may hold social events, special project meetings, and honoring for certain or special people who may be one person or a group of people.

Your Chapter has an opening and closing ode (songs). These are found in the Chapter yearbook or program.

If an officer needs assistance with the Ritual memory work, she/he will be prompted from the East by the Worthy Patron or the Worthy Matron. The only Ritual that can be open during a meeting is the one in the East that is being used by the Worthy Patron or Worthy Matron for prompting.

Other Chapter members, can help you to better understand the meeting.

Please ask your Worthy Matron questions concerning appropriate attire at Chapter meetings.

## **ENTERING OR LEAVING THE CHAPTER ROOM WHILE THE CHAPTER IS IN SESSION**

- Proceed to a position in back of Esther's chair and face the East.
- Give the Salutation Sign. (*check with Chapter member or District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron for correct procedure*).
- If entering, take a seat on the sideline after the Worthy Matron responds.
- If leaving, wait for the Warder to open the door of the Chapter Room.
- Leaving due to illness or an emergency may be done by departing through the preparation door without giving the sign, but you must return as stated above.

## **RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE AND RITUALISTIC WORK**

- When the Bible is open on the Altar, no one should walk between the open Bible and the East, except during initiation and installation.
- The taking of pictures during any ritualistic ceremony where Secret work is given is strictly forbidden. Pictures and/or videos may be taken at any "open" meeting to include Installation and/or Memorial Services. No camera shall be permitted within the Labyrinth or between the Bible or the East at any time the Bible is open. Members and guest are always to remember to be courteous and refrain from blocking the view of others.
- It is not customary to applaud ritualistic work or religious music.

**THE REVERENT ATTITUDE AND  
ATTITUDE OF PRAYER**

- **Reverent Attitude:** Page 16 of Ritual.
- **Attitude of Prayer:** Page 16 of Ritual.
- **Response after Prayer:** Page 42 of Ritual.

*(Check with Chapter member or District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron for correct procedure).*

**YOUR RESPONSE TO  
THE PRESIDING OFFICER'S GAVEL**

Page 16 of the Ritual.

*(Check with Chapter member or District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron for correct procedure).*

## **FLAG CEREMONY**

When directed by the Worthy Patron to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, face the Flag and place your right hand over your heart, or if you are active duty or retired from the military service, you may salute the flag in the military manner. This is held until after the singing of the “*National Anthem*.”

## **PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG**

Most Chapters do not do the pledge to the Christian Flag; however, one day you may visit a Chapter that does and you will need to know what to do.

When directed by the Worthy Patron to salute the Christian Flag, face the flag and assume the Reverent Attitude (*check with Chapter member or District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron for correct procedure*). This is held until the singing of one verse of “*Onward Christian Soldiers*.”

**Pledge to the Christian Flag:** I Pledge Allegiance to the Christian Flag and the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love.

## **GRAND HONORS**

See Ritual, page 17. Also, ask another Chapter member or District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron for instruction on giving Grand Honors.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Any organization has a certain amount of business that must be transacted. The Order of the Business conducted is found in the Floor Work section of the Green Book and also in the Rules and Regulations on page 115.

Participation in the affairs of the Chapter is strongly encouraged.

If you wish to address the Chapter, stand and wait until you are acknowledged by the Worthy Matron (or other presiding officer) and start your comments with “Worthy Matron” (or title of the presiding officer).

A motion can be made by standing and being acknowledged by the Worthy Matron (or another presiding officer) and begin with “Worthy Matron (or other presiding officer), “I move that. . .”

A vote is taken by raising the right hand. The Worthy Matron (or other presiding officer) declares a passed or failed vote.

In some circumstances you will be asked to vote by written ballot if a written secret ballot is required or requested.

## **BALLOTING ON PETITIONS**

Ask member of your Chapter, or the District Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron to explain the proper procedure for balloting on Petitions.

## **MIZPEH BENEDICTION**

May the Lord watch between me and thee  
While we are absent, one from the other.

## **VISITING ANOTHER CHAPTER**

Show your dues card; or

Have another member vouch for you; or

Meet with the Examining Committee (see Ritual, page 17)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

After attending a meeting or two, you may want to explore the following resources, all of which can be ordered for you by your Chapter Secretary:

Ritual

Chapter Bylaws

Green Book

(which contains

Constitution, Rules and Regulations, Floor Work, Bylaws)

## **WEBSITES**

**Grand Chapter:** [www.floridaoes.org](http://www.floridaoes.org)

**General Grand Chapter:** [www.easternstar.org](http://www.easternstar.org)

**Your Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **FACEBOOK PAGES**

**Grand Chapter:** Florida Eastern Star <https://www.floridaoes.org/>

**Your Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GIVE TO THE ORDER THE BEST YOU HAVE AND  
THE BEST WILL COME B ACK TO YOU!!**

**COMMON ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>Abbreviation with or without Periods</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
OES	Order of the Eastern Star
GC	Grand Chapter
GGC	General Grand Chapter
ESTARL	Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership
R.E.S.T.	Resident Eastern Stars Today
S.H.E.A.F.	Student Higher Education Assistance Fund
<b>GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA</b>	
W.G.M.	Worthy Grand Matron
W.G.P.	Worthy Grand Patron
A.G.M.	Associate Grand Matron
A.G.P.	Associate Grand Patron
GSec.	Grand Secretary
GTreas.	Grand Treasurer
G.C.	Grand Conductress
A.G.C.	Associate Grand Conductress
GChap	Grand Chaplain
GMar	Grand Marshal
GOrg	Grand Organist
GWar	Grand Warder
GSen	Grand Sentinel
P.G.M.	Past Grand Matron
P.G.P.	Past Grand Patron
GO	Grand Officer
PGO	Past Grand Officer
GI or Ginst	Grand Instructor
Grep	Grand Representative
WGMSP	Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project
GCCM	Grand Chapter Committee Member

<b>Abbreviation with or without Periods</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER</b>	
GGC	General Grand Chapter
M.W.G.M.	Most Worthy Grand Matron
M.W.G.P.	Most Worthy Grand Patron
R.W.A.G.M.	Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron
R.W.A.G.P.	Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron
R.W.GSec.	Right Worthy Grand Secretary
R.W.GTreas.	Right Worthy Grand Treasurer
R.W.G.C.	Right Worthy Grand Conductress
R.W.A.G.C.	Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress
R.W.G.T.	Right Worthy Grand Trustee
W.G.C	Worthy Grand Chaplain
W.G.Mar	Worthy Grand Marshal
W.G.Org	Worthy Grand Organist
W.G.Adah	Worthy Grand Adah
W.G.Ruth	Worthy Grand Ruth
W.G.Esther	Worthy Grand Esther
W.G.Martha	Worthy Grand Martha
W.G.Electa	Worthy Grand Electa
W.G.Warder	Worthy Grand Warder
R.W.G.Sen	Right Worthy Grand Sentinel
P.M.W.G.M.	Past Most Worthy Grand Matron
P.M.W.G.P.	Past Most Worthy Grand Patron
G.G.C.C.M.	General Grand Chapter Committee Member

<b>Abbreviation with or without Periods</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS</b>	
W.M.	Worthy Matron
W.P.	Worthy Patron
A.M.	Associate Matron
A.P.	Associate Patron
Sec.	Secretary
Treas.	Treasurer
Cond.	Conductress
A.C.	Associate Conductress
Chap.	Chaplain
Mar.	Marshal
Org.	Organist
War.	Warder
Sent.	Sentinel
P.M.	Past Matron
P.P.	Past Patron

### **YOUR FUTURE**

In order to get the most out of your membership, you will want to:

Attend the Meetings

Enjoy Social Events

Assist with Projects

Get to know your Sisters and Brothers

Stay involved

## GLOSSARY

**Admonish**: to warn or advise a person, in order that she/he may be guided to improve.

**Alludes**: to refer to indirectly.

**Annals**: a written account of events; historical records.

**Beneficent**: being kind, doing good, producing good results.

**Cabalistic**: many centuries before the Christian time, there was a Great Temple at a place called Caba or Kaaba. It was as important to those people as the Temple of Solomon was to the Jews. The philosophy or doctrine thought that the Temple of Caba was called the Cabaa or Kabala. The word came from the word Kabal meaning to receive a doctrine from the elders. So in our Ritualistic Ceremony cabalistic takes a symbolic meaning, signifying that the new members are receiving from the elder (our Worthy Patron and Conductress) our special teaching, our basic principles and truth for which we stand.

**Constancy**: firmness of mind or purpose; faithfulness in service and affection.

**Culm**: the jointed stem of grasses or grains, usually hollow.

**Delineate**: to depict in words; describe or portray.

**Edict**: an official public proclamation, a decree.

**Effulgent**: shining brilliantly, resplendent.

**Exemplify**: to show or instruct by example.

**Expulsion**: being eliminated or ejected.

**Filial**: due from a son or daughter to a mother or father.

**Inviolate**: kept sacred or unbroken.

**Labyrinths**: an intricate maze of passages from which it is difficult to find one's way, or reach the exit

**Lyre**: a small stringed instrument of the harp family, used by ancient Greeks to accompany singers and reciters.

**Promulgate**: to make known, or to proclaim in public.

4/9/2020

**Quorum**: the number of officers that must be present to constitute a valid meeting.

**WORDS FREQUENTLY MISPRONOUNCED**

Actuate	ak' chû at
Admonish	ad mon' ish
Aged	a' jed
Ammon	am' on
Annals	an' alz
Bade	bad
Beneficent	be nef I sent
Boaz	bō' az
Cabalistic	Kab a lis' tik
Chaos	ka' os
Column	kol' um
Compasses	kum' pa ses
Culm	kulm
Degradation	Deg ra dâ' shun
Delineates	dê' lin' ê ats
Demit	dê' mit
Discretion	Dis kresh' un
Edit	ê' dikt
Effulgent	E ful' jent
Elimeleck	E lim' e leck
Era	Ê ra
Fidelity	Fî del' 'I ti
Filial	fil' I al
Heroine	her' ō in
Inquirer	in kwir' er
Inquiry	in kwîr' I or in' Kwir I
Jephthah	jef' tha
Maintenance	mân' te nans
Minute	mi nute' or mî nute'
Mizpeh	miz' pah
Naomi	Na ō me or Na o mi
Orphah	Or' fa
Promulgate	Prō mul' gât
Superfluous	Su per' flus us
Timbrels	tim' brels
Vashti	vash' ti

## **DO YOU JUST BELONG?**

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed, or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you affect the meetings and mingle with the flock; or do you stay home and criticize?

Do you ever go and visit a member that is sick, or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Come to the meeting often and help with hand and heart. Don't just be a member, but take an active part.

Think this over member, you know right from wrong, are you an active member or do you just belong?

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The Ritual and the Secret Work of the Order are copyrighted by General Grand Chapter. Therefore, no part of the Ritual or the Secret Work can be copied in any manner whatsoever.
- Some Districts have Proficiency Groups that meet periodically for social purposes as well as learning more about the Order, Grand Chapter and the work of the Order.
- The Past Grand Matron or Past Grand Patron over your District will lead at least one study class each year, usually during the summer months. This is an excellent time for you to learn and ask questions. These study classes are informal, although they are held at one of the Chapters in the District.