

# WELCOME!

The Grand Chapter of Indiana 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.

# YOUR NEW MEMBER GUIDEBOOK

Presented to:

## INDIANA GRAND CHAPTER VISION STATEMENT

“Where there is no vision the people perish”

Proverbs 29:18

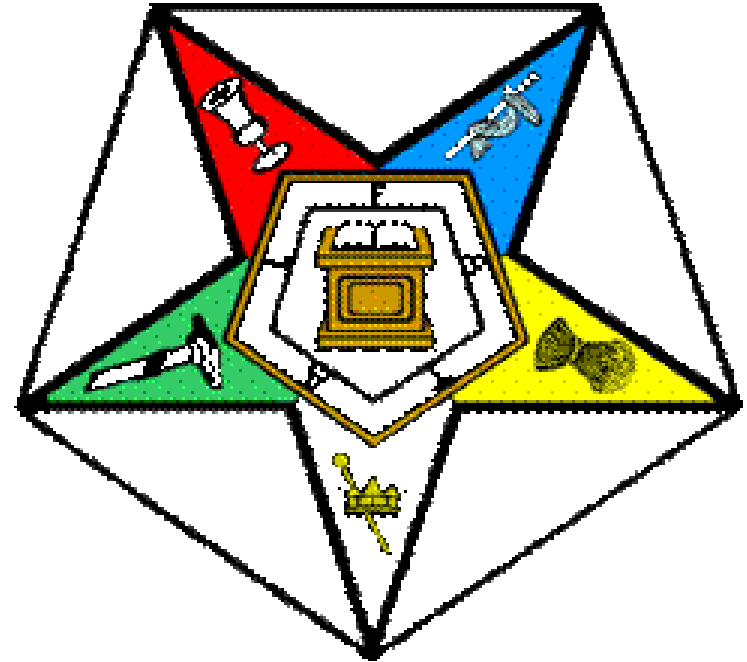
Where there is no vision, our chapters will perish.

Your Big Sister/Brother is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



Date:

Chapter Meetings Held at:

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Meeting Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Worthy Matron	
Worthy Patron	
Associate Matron	
Associate Patron	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Conductress	
Associate Conductress	
Chaplain	
Marshal	
Organist	
Adah	
Ruth	
Esther	
Martha	
Electa	
Warder	
Sentinel	

## GLOSSARY

**ADMONISH:** To warn or advise a person, in order that 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.

**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 forth brilliantly; diffusing intense light.

**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.

**LABYRINTH:** 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 the ancient Greeks to accompany singers and reciters.

**PROMULGATE:** To make known, or proclaim in public.

**QUORUM:** The number of members that must be present to constitute a valid meeting.

**Additional Information**

After attending several meetings, you may wish to look into the following resources. The chapter secretary should make these items available to you

- Ritual
- Chapter By-laws
- Grand Chapter Constitutions, Rules, and Regulations (Red Book)
- Roster of the Chapter Members

**Common Abbreviations:**

- OES.....Order of the Eastern Star
- WGM or WGP.....Worthy Grand Matron or Patron
- PGM or PGP.....Past Grand Matron or Patron
- WM or WP.....Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron
- PM or PP.....Past Matron or Past Patron
- GGC.....General Grand Chapter

**Your Future**

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

- Attend Meetings
- Enjoy Social Events
- Assist with Projects
- Get to know your Sisters & Brothers
- Stay Involved

YOU CAN GET OUT OF STAR MORE THAT YOU PUT INTO IT.  
GIVE TO THE ORDER THE BEST YOU HAVE, AND THE BEST WILL COME BACK TO YOU!

**Typical Chapter Room**



## **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 men and women. Those eligible for membership are Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, legally adopted daughters, mothers, widows, sisters, half sisters, granddaughters, step-mothers, step-daughters, step-sisters, daughters-in-law, grandmothers, great granddaughters, nieces, great-nieces, mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Masons in good standing or if deceased, were in good standing at the time of their death, as well as members-either active for 3 years or majority-of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, or the International Order of Job's Daughters, each of whom having attained the age of eighteen (18) years, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

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 called a Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapters are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

Though the teachings are based on the 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". 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. It is helpful to hear them again, with explanation, in order to thoroughly understand our ritualistic work.

Millions of dollars are raised annually within our membership for numerous projects which benefit mankind. Many national and local charities are among the projects supported by our members. Through this fraternal service to humanity, our members strive to build a better, more fulfilling way of life.

As you read and study your New Member Guidebook, you may have a number of questions. You have been assigned a Big Sister or Big Brother to assist you in discovering the world of Eastern Star. This person will be contacting you to discuss your initiation experience and your chapter, and help you find answers to your questions. It would also be helpful for you to obtain a copy of your chapter's by-laws, yearbook and a ritual.

## **Visiting Another Chapter**

Show your dues card.

Have a Sister or Brother, who has attended a chapter meeting with you, vouch for you, OR

Be examined by the examining committee:

- A. Give the Signs and Passes of the Star Points
- B. Give the required Secret Work

Sign the registration book under the heading of "Visitor".

## **Introductions and Grand Honors**

When introduced, Grand Honors are given to Worthy Grand Matrons, Worthy Grand Patrons, General Grand Chapter Elected and Appointed Officers, General Grand Chapter Committee Members, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons at the time of their installation, Grand Representatives when introduced at Grand Chapter, and to 50 year members when they receive their pins.

Grand Honors are given with one motion by crossing the arms over the breast, the left over the right, with hands open, and giving a slight bow.

## **Ritual**

No part of the Ritual Secret Work, or Diagram of the Labyrinth shall be copied.

## **Business Meeting**

Any organization has a certain amount of business that must be transacted. The chapter will use Roberts Rules of Order as a guide for conducting the business meetings.

Participate in the business of the chapter by asking questions or requesting clarification on any point which is not clear to you.

Stand if you wish to speak, wait until acknowledged, and say, “Worthy Matron.....”

Make motions by saying “Worthy Matron, I move that .....

Voting is done “by the usual sign of the Order,” which is the raising of the right hand.

## **Sickness and Distress**

During the business meeting the Worthy Matron will ask if anyone knows of any sickness or distress. Report any illness or distress of any member or yourself.

## **Farewell**

At the close of each meeting, all join hands and the Worthy Matron addresses the Chapter with a farewell. Each member’s response, in unison, is “Farewell” with a slight bow.

*The Mizpah Benediction is not a prayer, you should look  
at each other while saying it.*

### ***MIZPAH BENEDICTION***

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

## **Where do I start? What will be expected of me? What is the Meeting all about?**

### **Suggested Appropriate Dress:**

Ladies should wear dresses or skirt and blouse. Officers are usually in long dresses. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis. For a fun night in the dining room, slacks may be worn. Men may wear a suit or sport jacket, slacks and tie. No hats, coats or gloves may be worn in the chapter room.

These are suggested attire. Should you be unable to conform, do not hesitate to attend the meetings of your chapter. Perhaps after work, time will not permit you to go home and change. Your chapter would prefer that you attend in your “work clothes” rather than stay away because of suggestions about attire.

### **Dues Card:**

Sign your dues card when you receive it. 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 along with a registration book.

Your chapter has an Opening and Closing Ode (songs). These are found in the chapter program book or a song sheet.

If an officer needs assistance with the memory work during a meeting, the prompter will help.

Your Big Sister/Big Brother or other chapter members can help you better understand the meetings.

## **Respect for the Bible**

Stand, with the Reverent Attitude, when the Bible is being moved -to be placed on the Altar, on the secretary's desk, in and out of the chapter room.

Face the Altar as the Bible is carried into the Labyrinth to be placed on the Altar.

When the Bible is open on the Altar, it creates a holy area between it and the East, and no one should walk between them except during the initiatory ceremony or installation.

No pictures should be taken while the Bible is open.

We do not applaud ritualistic work.

## **Reverent Attitude**

Clasp your hands loosely, the left palm up, the right palm down and laid over the left, and hold at waist level.

Assume the reverent attitude during devotionals in the Opening and Closing ceremonies, during all Obligations, and when the Conductress or Chaplain enters the Labyrinth and continue holding until they leave the labyrinth. The Labyrinth is the pentagon shaped area around the Star Points with the Altar in the center.

The Attitude of Prayer is the Reverent Attitude with head bowed.

Bow your head as the Chaplain kneels.

After the "Amen" concluding a prayer, the prayer response is "So may it ever be."

## **Raps of the Gavel**

Three raps calls up the entire Chapter.

Two raps calls up the Officers.

One rap:   calls the Chapter to order  
              seats the Chapter when standing  
              completes the Opening and Closing  
              completes each order of business

After the chapter is declared open by one rap of the gavel, remain standing for the pledge to the flags and the National Anthem.

## **Entering or Leaving a Chapter Meeting while in Session:**

Place your purse and/or other items down in the West or on the sideline.

Proceed to a position in front of the Associate Matron and Associate Patron and face the East.

Give the Salutation Sign. (ask your Big Sister/Brother to help you with this). Wait on the presiding officer's response.

If entering, take a seat on the sidelines. If retiring, wait for the Warder to open the door of the chapter room.

If ill or in an emergency, you may leave through the preparation room door, without giving the Salutation Sign.

## **Balloting on Petitions**

Each member is given the opportunity to ballot on petitions of individuals requesting to become new members of the chapter.

The Associate Conductress is in charge of the ballot box. She will carry the ballot box around the room to each member and officer, stopping at each member of the chapter so that they may vote.

The ballot box contains white balls and black cubes used for voting. Each member will select a white ball or a black cube, and place it through the opening in the back of the ballot box.

Selecting a white ball means that you approve of the individual becoming a member of the chapter. Selecting a black cube means that you disapprove of the individual becoming a member.

A prospective member should be rejected if she/he is not of good moral character or would be a destructive source in the chapter.

If a member has such knowledge, that member should tell the Worthy Matron after the petition is read in the chapter.