

This booklet is a project of:  
Chapter Restoration Committee  
of the General Grand Chapter  
2009— 2012

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2012

For more information go to our web site:  
[www.iowaeasternstar.org](http://www.iowaeasternstar.org)

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Grand Chapter Office  
P.O. Box 72  
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# Order of the Eastern Star



## Iowa's New Member Guidebook

Date Presented: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_



## GLOSSARY

<b>ADMONISH:</b>	To warn or advise a person, in order that he may be guided to improve.
<b>ALLUDES:</b>	To refer to indirectly.
<b>ANNALS:</b>	A written account of events; historical records.
<b>BENEFICENT:</b>	Being kind, doing good, and producing good results.
<b>CONSTANCY:</b>	Firmness of mind or purpose, faithfulness in service and affection.
<b>CULM:</b>	The jointed stem of grasses or grains, usually hollow.
<b>DELINEATE:</b>	To depict in words, describe or portray.
<b>EDICT:</b>	An official public proclamation, a decree.
<b>EFFULGENT:</b>	Shining forth brilliantly, diffusing intense light.
<b>EXEMPLIFY:</b>	To show or instruct by example.
<b>EXPULSION:</b>	Being eliminated or ejected.
<b>FILIAL:</b>	Due from a son or daughter to a mother or father.
<b>INVIOLATE:</b>	Kept sacred or unbroken.
<b>LABYRINTH:</b>	An intricate maze of passages from which it is difficult to find one's way, or reach the exit.
<b>LYRE:</b>	A small stringed instrument of the harp family, used by the ancient Greeks to accompany singers and reciters.
<b>PROMULGATE:</b>	To make know, or proclaim in public.
<b>QUORUM:</b>	The number that must be present to constitute a valid meeting.

## WELCOME

Our Chapter and the Grand Chapter of Iowa, Order of the Eastern Star warmly welcomes you into an organization dedicated to making the world a better place through truth, charity, loyalty and loving kindness.

## YOUR FUTURE

In order to get the most from your membership, we encourage you to:

- ◆ Attend your Chapter meetings
- ◆ Participate in social events
- ◆ Assist with special projects
- ◆ Get to know your new Sisters and Brothers
- ◆ Stay involved

## What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

Someone may ask no matter who you are  
What is the Order of the Eastern Star?  
If you've been a member for awhile or so,  
There are just a few facts you may want to know.  
We belong to an Order, the largest of its kind.  
A fraternity in which men and women you will find.  
Its members are found in every corner of the globe  
And each is a part of the Masonic fold.  
Our purpose is to inspire good; it's that simple and plain.  
The tenets of truth, charity, loyalty, and kindred we train.  
Charitable and benevolent projects are the things we do,  
To help friends in need see their trouble through.  
Our principles are based on Biblical day,  
But in no way conflict with our religious ways,  
We have lots of fun, too, as everyone should,  
Meeting and travelling and working for good.  
And because of our goals we develop a bond,  
For each member, one to another, we become very fond.  
This is an Order like no other you will find,  
A chance to do good for your fellow mankind.

- Author Unknown -

## Common Abbreviations ~ Terms

AC.....	Associate Conductress
AM.....	Associate Matron
AP.....	Associate Patron
Cond.....	Conductress
DI.....	District Instructor
ESTARL.....	Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership
GC.....	Grand Chapter
GCCM.....	Grand Chapter Committee Member
GGC.....	General Grand Chapter
GR.....	Grand Representative
MWGM.....	Most Worthy Grand Matron
MWGP.....	Most Worthy Grand Patron
OES.....	Order of the Eastern Star
OV.....	Official Visit
PAGO.....	Past Appointed Grand Officer
PGM.....	Past Grand Matron
PGO.....	Past Grand Officer
PGP.....	Past Grand Patron
PM.....	Past Matron
PP.....	Past Patron
SECY.....	Secretary
TREAS.....	Treasurer
WGM.....	Worthy Grand Matron
WGP.....	Worthy Grand Patron
WM.....	Worthy Matron
WP.....	Worthy Patron

### **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 business meetings.

### **Participation in the affairs of the chapter is encouraged.**

Ask questions or request clarification on any point of business.

If you wish to address the chapter, stand and wait until you are acknowledged and start your comments with, "Worthy Matron, Sisters and Brothers" or the title of the presiding officer.

A motion can be made, by standing and being acknowledged by the Worthy Matron. Then begin with, "Worthy Matron, I move that....."

A vote is taken by raising the ***right hand***. The Worthy Matron declares a passed or failed vote.

In some circumstances a written ballot may be requested.

### **Farewell:**

At the close of each meeting the Worthy Matron or District Instructor address the Chapter with a farewell. Each member's response is ***Farewell***" with a slight bow.

### **Visiting another Chapter you may be asked to:**

- ◆ Show your dues card
- ◆ Have a member vouch for you
- ◆ Meet with the Examining Committee—See page 17 of the Ritual

## **MEMBERSHIP Eligibility for the Degrees**

**Who may join:** Only men who are Masons are eligible and only women with specific Masonic affiliation may be members. These affiliations include:

- Affiliated Master Masons in good standing
- the wives
- daughters
- legally adopted daughters
- mothers
- widows
- sisters
- half sisters
- granddaughters
- Stepmothers
- stepdaughters
- stepsisters
- daughters-in-law
- grandmothers
- great granddaughters
- nieces
- great nieces
- mothers-in-law
- sisters-in-law
- aunts

And first and second female cousins of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased in good standing at the time of their death; as well as members - either active for three (3) years or majority - of the International Order of Job's Daughters or of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, each of whom having attained at least the age of eighteen (18) years, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

## **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. Its members are comprised of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships, as well as members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters. There are over 10,000 Eastern Star Chapters in the United States, Canada and other countries. The chapters in some states are under a state organization called a Grand Chapter. Many of these Grand Chapters are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

Though its teachings are based on the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star espouses no religion and is neither secret nor political. Our spiritual symbol is the "Star of Bethlehem". Thus, the five pointed Star is our accepted emblem. Our initiation is symbolic of the road of life. You have heard the words of our teachings, obligation and laws. However, it will be beneficial 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 for all.

## **RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE AND RITUAL 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
- ◆ No pictures should be taken while the Bible is open.
- ◆ It is not customary to applaud the ritualistic work or religious music. Look to the Worthy Matron for example.

## **SIGNS OF THE STAR POINT OFFICERS**

- ◆ Listen to the Secret Work
- ◆ Respond by giving the Pass of the Degree, when requested by the Worthy Matron.

## **MIZPAH BENEDICTION**

May be used at the closing of informal chapter meetings.

**"May the Lord watch between me and Thee while we are absent one from the other"**

## Flag Presentation and National Anthem

### *If your Chapter presents the American Flag:*

- ◆ When the flag is removed from the standard, place your right hand over your heart.
- ◆ As the flag is being presented, do not follow the flag with your eyes or body. Drop salute when the flag is placed in the standard.
- ◆ When directed to recite the Pledge, face the flag and place your right hand over our heart. This is held until after the singing of the **National Anthem**.

### *If your Chapter posts the American Flag in the East:*

- ◆ When directed by the Worthy Patron to pledge allegiance to the flag, face the flag and place your right hand over your heart. This is held until after the singing of the **National Anthem**.

## Pledge to the Christian Flag

In Iowa, it is a **request not a command** that the membership pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag. When the Worthy Patron asks that the pledge to the Christian Flag be given, it is at the discretion of each individual member whether they participate or not.

***"I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands. One brotherhood, uniting all mankind, in service and love."***

Chapter Meetings Held at:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Officers:**

Worthy Matron: \_\_\_\_\_

Worthy Patron: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Matron: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Patron: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Conductress: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Conductress: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaplain: \_\_\_\_\_

Marshal: \_\_\_\_\_

Organist: \_\_\_\_\_

Adah: \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth: \_\_\_\_\_

Esther: \_\_\_\_\_

Martha: \_\_\_\_\_

Electa: \_\_\_\_\_

Warder: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentinel: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Member/Friend: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***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 recent initiation into \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Order of the Eastern Star** has entitled you to all functions both here and in chapters around the world. You received a lot of information during your initiation, which you may only vaguely remember. **Don't Worry.** We have all been in this same situation. By attending chapter meetings, things will become more familiar.

**Your First Chapter Meeting:**

1. The Chapter may have a guest book to sign.
2. Try to arrive 15 minutes early.
3. Your Chapter may have a printed program or calendar. Ask for a copy and check for special events. The Chapter may hold social project meetings, Grand Officer Parties etc.
4. Your Chapter has an Opening and Closing Ode (songs).
5. If an officer needs assistance with the Ritual memory work, the assigned prompter will help.
6. There is a specific manner to enter or leave a chapter when it is in session. Ask for assistance in understanding how this is done. In an emergency, leave through either door.
7. Refreshments may be served at each meeting. Check with the members—this is a good time to get to know everyone.

**What to Wear:** No hats or gloves. We want members to be comfortable. Ladies: dress/skirt appropriate for church or office. Men: suit, or slacks & shirt/sweater

On special meetings or visits by dignitaries, the Worthy Matron may designate more formal attire for officers. Sideliners may still adhere to the above guidelines remembering that impressions are made by the image you portray.

Jeans are not considered acceptable for any stated or called meetings, but may be considered acceptable for fun nights or work events. Check with the Worthy Matron/or the invitation.

**ENTERING OR LEAVING A CHAPTER MEETING WHILE IN SESSION**

1. Place your purse and/or other items down in the West.
2. Proceed to a position in front of the Associate Matron and Associate Patron (referred to as the West Marching Line) and face the East.
3. Give the Salutation Sign (A member will discuss and practice this with you). The Worthy Matron should give a response sign.
4. If entering, take a seat on the sidelines.
5. If retiring, the Warder will have the door of the Chapter room open for you to leave.
6. Leaving due to illness or an emergency may be done without giving the Salutation Sign. You may leave from either door.

**Your Response to the Presiding Officer's Gavel**

- ◆ Three raps calls the entire Chapter to stand at their seats.
- ◆ Two raps calls up the Officers only.
- ◆ 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 remain standing for the US Flag presentation).
  - \* Completes each order of business.
  - \* Affirms each declaration of the Presiding Officer.