

New Mexico
Order
of the
Eastern Star



New Member
Booklet

Welcome
NEW MEMBER
To 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 composed of men who are Master Masons and women with specific Masonic relationships. It encircles the earth with over 10,000 Chapters where Masonry abounds.

Though its teachings are based on the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star espouses no religion and is neither secret or political. Our spiritual symbol is the “Star of Bethlehem.” Thus, the five-pointed Star is our accepted emblem. The initiation of our order is symbolic of the road of life and you have heard the words of our teaching and obligation. However, to thoroughly understand our ritualistic work, it will be to your benefit to hear it again with explanation.

Millions of dollars are raised annually within our membership for numerous projects which will benefit mankind and through this fraternal service our members strive to build a better, more fulfilling way of life.

Notes

How do I invite others to become members

1. Determine eligibility. (This is found in The Ritual page 161 General Regulations, Membership and Bylaws Governing Subordinate Chapters, Section 4. Petition for Degrees.
2. Ask the Chapter Secretary for an application. She can also help you determine eligibility. and assist you in filling out the application.
3. Return the application to the Secretary

Becoming a floor officer

1. Advise the Worthy Matron that you would like to take part in the ceremonies of the chapter. She can help you pick a station.
2. Memorize the part from the Ritual.
3. The Worthy Patron will help you with any secret work your part may require.

Remember everyone started where you are now and you are with your Sisters and Brothers who want you to succeed.

“A journey of a thousand miles starts with but one step.”

Welcome to Eastern Star

The Following is a guide to assist you, as a new and devoted member of The Order of the Eastern Star.

Organization

Your Chapter is _____
 The Officers: Worthy Matron _____
 Worthy Patron _____
 Your Grand Chapter is Grand Chapter of New Mexico
 The Grand Chapter Officers:
 Worthy Grand Matron _____
 Worthy Grand Patron _____
 All under the General Grand Chapter
 The General Grand Chapter Officers:
 Most Worthy Grand Matron _____
 Most Worthy Grand Matron _____

Suggestions and Guidelines

To better understand your order you would benefit by obtaining a copy of the following:

- The Ritual**
- The Grand Chapter Constitution and Bylaws**
- Chapter Bylaws and Standing Rules**
- Chapter Yearbook**

A mentor should be assigned to you to assist you in understanding our order. If not, ask for one

Your mentor is _____
 Phone No. _____
 Address _____

Dress Code-Sisters

1. Officers will wear Chapter dress unless directed otherwise by the Worthy Matron
2. It is preferred that sisters on the sidelines wear a street dress in chapter.
3. Nice pant suits are permissible for health reasons.
4. Pants suits are acceptable at casual Eastern Star social gatherings.

We want to dress in a manner of pride and respect for our order.

Dress Code - Brothers

1. Officers will wear tuxedos or dark suits unless directed otherwise by the Worthy Matron.
2. Brothers on the sidelines may wear a suit or sports jacket, slacks, tie, or bolo tie.

These are suggested dress codes. Should you be unable to conform, do not hesitate to attend meetings of your chapter. Your Chapter would prefer that you attend in your work clothes rather than stay away.

Eastern Star Jewelry

You are encouraged to wear your Eastern Star pin or ring at all times. Let the world know you are a member of this wonderful order. (This is a good way to meet other members.)

Chapter Dues Card

1. Sign your dues when received
2. Carry your dues card with you at all times. (Some chapters prove membership by showing dues cards in chapter room)

5. Drop your arms to your side and take one step backwards, turn left leaving the Labyrinth between Esther and Martha, returning to your seat along the marching lines.
6. Vote for the good of the order; White balls elect; Black cubes reject.
7. A prospective member should be rejected if she or he is not of good moral character or would be a destructive source in the Chapter. If a member has such knowledge, they should inform the Worthy Matron before the petition is read in the chapter.

Illness and Distress

1. Report any illness or distress of any member to the Worthy Matron or the sunshine committee.

Farewell

1. At the close of the meeting, respond to the Worthy Matron's "Farewell" by answering back "Farewell" followed by a slight bow.

Visiting Another Chapter

1. Show a dues card.
2. Have a member who has attended a Chapter meeting with you, vouch for you., OR
3. Be examined by the Examining Committee:
 - a. Take the Test Oath (found in the Ritual)
 - b. Give the Signs and Passes of the Star Points
(secret work)
4. Sign the OES Register under the heading of " Visitors ".

Flag Presentation

1. Salute the flag of our Country, when it is taken out of the stand and is in motion.
2. Hold the salute for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Grand Honors

1. Face the East—when the Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron says, “ Sisters and Brothers.....”
2. Give Grand Honors in one motion by crossing the arms over the breast, the left over the right, with hands open, with a slight bow.
3. 3. Applause is given after leaving the Labyrinth and before Grand Honors are given in the East. No applause is given after Grand Honors in the Grand Chapter of New Mexico.

Business

1. It is your right to participate in the business of your Chapter by asking questions or requesting clarification on any point which is not clear to you.
2. If you wish to speak, stand: wait until acknowledged by the Worthy Matron and say “Worthy Matron”
3. Voting is done “by the usual sign” which is raising the right hand.

Balloting

1. The Officers ballot first, then the Members on the South followed by the Members on the North.
2. Do not carry a purse or loosely draped wrap over your arms.
3. Wait between Ruth and Esther until the member ahead of you has balloted. Then approach the Altar.
4. At the Altar make the Salutation Sign to the open Bible, drop your hands to your side, then ballot with either hand.

Chapter Yearbook and Term Calendar

1. Chapter yearbook usually contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all the members along with other member information
2. Chapter Yearbook may also contain the Bylaws and Standing Rules, which addresses meeting times and requirements along with other information.
3. Check for calendar and special events for that year, such as: Chapter social events, projects, etc.
4. The Opening and closing Odes (songs) are in the Chapter year book or on the special Ode Cards

First Arrival at a Chapter

1. Sign the register as a member or visitor.
2. If a visitor to another chapter for the first time you need to be vouched for, or you will need to be examined by visitors committee.

During the Chapter Meeting

To enter or leave while in session —

1. Put purses and wraps down on the sidelines or in the West;
2. Advance to the West line with hands empty, in front of the Associate Matron and the Associate Patron, face the East.
3. Give the Salutation Sign.
4. Wait for the response from the presiding officer.
5. If entering, you then take your seat.
6. If retiring, wait for the Warder to open the door and then you may leave.
7. If ill, or an emergency, you may leave without giving the Salutation Sign.

Prompting

In most chapters the Worthy Matron will appoint a prompter, whose job it is, to assist the memory of members working on the floor. The member needing assistance will look at the prompter for the word needed and continue on. It is very difficult to hear when several people are talking from the sidelines so allow the prompter to do his job.

Reverent Attitude

1. Clasp the hand loosely, one hand palm up, with the other palm down over it. Hands held at waist level.
2. The Reverent Attitude is assumed during all devotionals and when Conductress or Chaplain enter the labyrinth during the opening and closing of the chapter. It is held until they leave the Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is the pentagon shaped area around the Star Points with the altar in the center.

Attitude of Prayer

1. Assume the Reverent Attitude and face the Altar bow your head during the prayer.
2. After Prayer, the response is “ So May it Ever Be “.
3. Drop hands to side.

Respect for the Bible

1. When the Bible Bearer, with the Bible, enters the chapter room before opening, stand and assume the Reverent Attitude always facing the Bible.
2. When the Bible is open on the Altar, it creates a holy area between it and the East, and no one should walk between the Altar and the East except during initiation or installation.
3. No pictures are to be taken during the ritualistic work

The Gavel

1. Three raps call up the entire Chapter
2. Two raps call up the officers.
3. One rap —
calls the Chapter to order.
seats the Chapter when standing. *
completes Opening and Closing.
completes each order of business.

* Remain standing after the chapter is declared open even though the gavel is rapped once.

Signs of the Star Points

1. Listen to the Star Points as they give portions of the secret work.
2. Respond by giving the Pass of each star point when requested to do so by the Worthy Matron.