The membership committee of the Grand Chapter Of North Dakota, Order of Eastern Star Greatly expresses their thanks to the Grand Chapter of South Dakota And especially Hazel Schaunaman, PGM SD General Grand Chapter Committee member On Membership (2006-2009) Who initially compiled and prepared a new member booklet.

This booklet is a revised version of that booklet And is subject to approval by the membership committee. And the Grand Chapter of North Dakota, Order of Eastern Star.

Revised: August 22, 2018
We are pleased to welcome you to our chapter as a new member of the Order of the Eastern Star!
YOU HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE IN STAR

In order to get the most of your membership, we recommend that you:

✓ Attend your Chapter meetings
✓ Participate in social events
✓ Assist with special projects
✓ Get to know your new sisters and brothers around the state
✓ Attend a Grand Chapter Session in ND or other Jurisdictions
✓ Stay involved!

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR ORDER

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 International who are age 18 or over. It encircles the earth with over 10,000 Chapters in the United States, Canada, and other countries. Several Chapters form a state organization as a Grand Chapter. The 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.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF 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 traveling and working for good.

And because of our goals we develop a bond For each member, one to another, we become verytong This an Order like no other you will find A chance to do good for your fellow mankind.

-Author Unknown-
GETTING STARTED IN STAR

You may have been assigned a “mentor” to assist you in discovering the world of Eastern Star. Your mentor or other members will be contacting you to make a visit to discuss your Initiation experience and welcome you. It would be helpful to sit with your mentor at the chapter meetings whenever possible. You would also benefit from obtaining a copy of the following:

- **Ritual** - Our main handbook. You will find all of the words to rituals like opening, closing, and initiation except for the secret work.

- **Chapter By-Laws** - The rules by which your local chapter operates and which abide by the Grand Chapter By-Laws.

- **Grand Chapter Constitution and Bylaws (available online)** - The rules and procedures by which the Grand Chapter operates. These also provide guidelines for local chapters.

- **Book of Instruction (available online)** - An additional handbook of procedures for things like proving a chapter and introducing guests.

- **Chapter Yearbook or Term Calendar** - A list of when meetings and special events are happening for your chapter. An events listing is also made available on www.ndeasternstar.org, but your individual chapter events may or may not be listed.

If you were not presented with this information at the time of initiation, please request these from the secretary of your chapter.

It would be helpful to look over this information before attending the first meeting after your initiation. Begin your proficiency class as soon as possible if your Chapter has one.

**Official Visit (OV)** - Once per year the Worthy Grand Matron (WGM) & Worthy Grand Patron (WGP) visit the local chapters. This provides an opportunity for them to meet additional members who may not be able to make it to other Grand Chapter events.

**School of Instruction** - Usually presented in conjunction with an OV, these provide an opportunity to educate members on how our rituals are done & the background and meaning behind them. These are usually organized by the Deputy Grand Matron of that area.

**Grand Representative** - A member of the ND Jurisdiction who was selected by our WGM to be an ambassador to another Jurisdiction.

**Deputy Grand Matron** - The assistants to the WGM. They visit the local chapters within their area, oversee the chapter records, and organize the Schools of Instruction.

**Jewels** - The emblems of the various officers worn during official functions.

**Labryinth** - The area between the chairs of the star points and the altar.

**Grand Honors** - A salute given to Worthy Grand Matrons/Patrons (past or present), GCC Officers (past or present) & Committee members, Worthy Matrons/Patrons at installation, & Grand Representatives on receiving their commission.

**Secret Work** - The signs, passes, and other modes of recognition that are shared with members during their initiation.

**ESTARL** - The Order of Eastern Star is known for their support of various charities within their community, State or National but more especially a program known as ESTARL. ESTARL is an acronym for Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. In short, it is a program providing financial grants to students preparing for full-time Christian service.

**Dues Card** - Proves that you are a member when visiting another chapter and is required as proof of membership when attending Grand Chapter. Sign your dues card when it is received.
BALKETING

1. After the star Points ballot, members on the South Ballot led by the Secretary, followed by the Marshal, the members fall in line, each one marching to the east, on a line with the Marshal’s chair, turn to move west until they reach the halfway line, then they enter the Labyrinth diagonally. Members on the North ballot in the same manner, led by the Treasurer, followed by the Chaplain, then the members fall in line.

2. Do not carry a purse or anything in your hand to the Altar.

3. In approaching the Altar to ballot, each member must pause at the edge of the Labyrinth while the preceding member is casting a ballot. Make the Salutation Sign to the open Bible, drop your hands, then ballot with either hand.

4. Vote for the Good of the Order: White balls elect; Black cubes reject.

5. Drop arms to your side, take one step backward, Turn left and leave the Labyrinth between Esther and Martha, return to your seat by the marching line.

WHEN VISITING ANOTHER CHAPTER

You may be asked to:
1. Show your dues receipt (dues card).
2. Have a member vouch for you.
3. Be examined by the Examining Committee. They may ask you to show that you know certain parts of the secret work. Ask your mentor or other chapter member to demonstrate.
4. Sign the Officers, Members, and Visitor Register under the heading of “Visitors”.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A MEETING

OPENING

A process of opening a Chapter must first be performed before any business may be conducted. Opening a Chapter is overseen by the Worthy Matron asking each officer to describe their duties and badge of office except in the case of the Star Points who are to give the sign afterwards members are to give the pass. An opening maybe performed in short form which eliminates the officer giving a description of their duties and badge. Star Points are asked to give the sign with members giving the pass.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER’S GAVEL

1. One Rap:
   - Calls the Chapter to order
   - Seats Chapter when standing
   - Completes Opening and Closing
   - Completes each order of business

2. Two Raps calls up the Officers only.

3. Three Raps calls up the entire Chapter, including those sitting on the sidelines.

Exception: remain standing after the chapter is declared open even though the gavel is rapped once. Be seated on the next single rap.

COIN MARCH

Following the retiring of the flag or singing of the closing ode it is customary for a Chapter to enter into a coin march. The coin march is lead by the Conductress and Associate Conductress where officers and sideliners traditionally place coins or bills in a basket. The proceeds from coin marches may then be used to support Charities or possibly support Chapter operation.

FAREWELL

At the close of each meeting the Worthy Matron addresses the Chapter with a farewell. Each member’s response is “Farewell” with a slight bow.

APPROVING A PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you recall, before you became a member you filled out a petition to become a member of the Order. The process that followed required first the reading of your petition during a stated meeting of the Chapter. Next a team of members visited with you to get to know you just a little. They then reported back to the Chapter at the next Chapter meeting and during that meeting you were balloted on or voted on by Chapter members to receive the degrees.

TERMS TO KNOW

General Grand Chapter (GGC) - The International level governing body of Grand Jurisdictions.

Grand Chapter - The state level governing body of a collection of local chapters.

(Grand) Jurisdictions - The geographical area (usually a state/provence) organized under a Grand Chapter.

Grand Officers - The Grand Chapter has a similar officer structure to local chapters. These Grand Officers are elected or appointed to serve in their positions on an annual basis at Grand Chapter.
TIPS FOR MEETINGS

Try to sit with your mentor or another chapter member. They can help you better understand the meetings.

The chapter may have a register book to sign in.

Your chapter may have a printed program and monthly notice, ask for a copy. The chapter may hold social events, special project meetings, or Honor Nights for Grand Officers.

Your Chapter may have an Opening and Closing Ode (songs). These are often found in the chapter program or on a special handout.

Only one ritual may be open during a meeting. If an Officer needs assistance with the ritual memory work, the assigned prompter will help.

Please ask your mentor or Worthy Matron questions concerning appropriate attire at chapter meetings.

Participate in the affairs 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, say “Worthy Matron …”

Voting is done “by the usual sign of the Order,” which is raising the right hand. Approving a petition for an individual to become a member is done by the Balloting process.

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.

SOME HELPFUL HOW TO’S

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 half way Line) and face the East.
3. Give the Salutation Sign (Your mentor 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.

REVERENT ATTITUDE

Assumed during devotions in Opening and Closing, all Obligations and when Conductress or Chaplain enter the Labyrinth and continue holding until they leave the Labyrinth (the pentagon shape formed by the Star point chairs).

1. Clasp hands loosely, one hand palm up, with other palm laid over it, and held at waist level.
2. The attitude of Prayer is the Reverent Attitude with head bowed.
3. Bow your head as the Chaplain kneels and at the end of the prayer give the prayer response “So may it ever be.”

FLAG PRESENTATION

1. Place your hand over your heart when the Marshal bows to the flag before it is removed from where it is placed.
2. Keep the arm close to the body with fingers pointing toward the left shoulder and the arm and hand in a straight line.
3. Hold this position until the Marshal bows to the posted flag and again for the Pledge and the National Anthem.

GIVING GRAND HONORS

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.