



WELCOME TO O.E.S.

New Member Welcome Packet

2019-2020

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Grand Chapter of Michigan

NEW MEMBER WELCOME PACKET



Officers for your Initiation

Your Initiation

As a new member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Michigan, everything will seem new and strange if you've never seen ritual work before tonight. Your mind is full of questions after walking in circles and being guided through the labyrinth of our Star. You will always remember your obligation and the lessons taught to you tonight, but some of the finer details may fade with time.

You should have a copy of the ritual to review the lectures of the Star Points and Worthy Patron, but the names of the sisters and brothers who helped guide you may escape you in the years to come. For that reason, as the years go by, you will be pleased you took the time to get the name of each of the officers who were proud to be part of your Initiation tonight.

Date Initiated:

Assigned Mentor:

Phone:

Email:

Initiating Officers:

Worthy Matron

Worthy Patron

Associate Matron

Associate Patron

Secretary

Treasurer

Conductress

Associate Conductress

Chaplain

Marshal

Organist

Adah

Ruth

Esther

Martha

Electa

Warder

Sentinel

We are pleased to welcome you to our chapter as a new member of the Order of the Eastern Star!



NEW MEMBER WELCOME PACKET



Officers of our Chapter

Taking part

Do people hold the same office year after year?

Do I have to serve as an officer?

What is required to become an officer of the Chapter?

Will I be assigned a part to take in the Chapter?

How do I choose which will suit me best?

Does the ritual tell me everything I need to know about how to do a part?

There are 18 main officers in a full chapter:

Worthy Matron - presiding officer

Worthy Patron - a Master Mason who provides general supervision

Associate Matron - assumes the duties of the Worthy Matron in the absence of that officer

Associate Patron - assumes the duties of the Worthy Patron in the absence of that officer

Secretary- takes care of all correspondence and minutes, receives all funds of the chapter.

Treasurer- takes care of monies of the Chapter

Conductress - Conducts Escort

Associate Conductress - Assists with Escort

Chaplain - leads the Chapter in prayer

Marshal - presents the Flag and leads in all ceremonies

Organist- provides music for the meetings

The emblem of the Order is a five-pointed star with the white ray of the star pointing downwards towards the West. The character-building lessons taught in the Order are stories inspired by Biblical figures:

Adah- (tells the story of Jephthah's daughter, from Judges)

Ruth- the widow's story, Book of Ruth

Esther- the wife's story, Book of Esther

Martha - (sister of Lazarus, from the Gospel of John)

Electa - (the "elect lady", from II John), the mother

Warder – Answers and controls the door to the chapter

Sentinel – Guards the outer door of the chapter room



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Officers of our Chapter continued...

Traditionally, a woman who is elected Associate Conductress will the following year be elected to Conductress, then the next year Associate Matron, and the next year Worthy Matron. A man elected Associate Patron will usually the next year be elected Worthy Patron. Usually the woman who is elected to become Associate Matron will let it be known who she wishes to be her Associate Patron, so the next year they will both go to the East together as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

There is no male counterpart to the Conductress and Associate Conductress.

Only women are allowed to be Matrons, Conductresses, and the Star Points (Adah, Ruth, etc.) and only men can be Patrons.

Annual elections are held for the following offices:

Worthy Matron
Worthy Patron
Associate Matron
Associate Patron
Secretary
Treasurer
Conductress
Associate Conductress

Great Internet Resources

Michigan Grand Chapter website can be found at: www.mioes.org

Facebook Group for closed events, general member and chapter news, and youth fundraisers can be found by invitation only to *Eastern Stars in Motion*.

Facebook Page for Public Events, good news, and great ideas can be found publicly at *OES Today and Beyond*.

General Grand Chapter can be found at: <http://www.easternstar.org/>



NEW MEMBER WELCOME PACKET



GLOSSARY

As a new member of Eastern Star, you will find many elements of our ritual work feel foreign, including some of the terminology used within the chapter room. This is a short list of some of the terms which may be new to you. Keep a list here below of other terms you don't understand and share them with your mentor.

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, and 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 know, or proclaim in public.

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



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WHAT TO EXPECT AT A MEETING

Tips for Meetings

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

Your chapter may have a printed program and monthly notice, ask for a copy.

Your Chapter must 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.

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 the WM indicates it is your turn and then say "Worthy Matron ..."

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

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.

OPENING

A process of opening a Chapter must first be performed before any business may be conducted. The opening of a Chapter is overseen by the Worthy Matron asking each officer to describe their duties and badge of their office. The Star Points also give their sign. An opening maybe performed in short form which eliminates the officer giving a description of their duties and badge.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER'S GAVEL

One Rap:

- Calls the Chapter to order
- Seats Chapter
- Completes Opening and Closing
- Completes each order of business

Two Raps calls up the Officers only.

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

(Exception: remain standing after the chapter is declared open or closed 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 led 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".



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MORE HELPFUL TIPS!

How to get the most out of membership

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 Michigan or other Jurisdictions
- Stay involved!

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".

ENTERING OR LEAVING A CHAPTER MEETING WHILE IN SESSION

1. Place your purse or other items down in the West.
2. Proceed to a position in front of the Associate Matron and Associate Patron 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, and do not ask to be readmitted.

REVERENT ATTITUDE

Assumed during devotionals in Opening and Closing, all Obligations and when Conductress or Chaplain enter the Labyrinth and continue holding until they leave it.

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

Place your hand over your heart as it is removed from where the flag is placed in the East or West, and keep it in place while the flag is in motion.

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 nod.



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MASONIC FAMILY TRADITIONS

Masonic Tradition

As a new member of Eastern Star, you will find many elements of our ritual work feel like those of other organizations. This is a short list of some of the terms which may be new to you. Keep a list here below of other things you see during a meeting which you don't understand and share them with your mentor.

Masonic Family - The Masonic Family is general term referring to all the various branches of Masonry which include Blue Lodge, Shriners, Grotto, Eastern Star, Job's Daughters International, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, DeMolay International, York Rite and Scottish Rite. These are just **SOME** of the members of the Masonic Family. Masonic bodies follow Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline for legislation and debate during our regular business meetings.

Each body has one leader, elected by the majority vote of the members. He or she presides in the East with a gavel as an emblem of authority and a tool which calls the meeting to order.

3 raps of the Gavel - Everyone Stand

2 raps of the Gavel - Officers only stand

1 rap of the Gavel - Everyone may be seated or ends an order or business

East is the head of the room (no matter which direction it is actually facing). **West** is the back of the room.

Dress Code: The Worthy Matron determines the dress code for your chapter officers for regular business meetings, which generally calls for formals or long skirts.

In OES, Formal means exactly that, formal attire. Business Casual includes suits, dresses, and skirts. If you are attending an Eastern Star event, more than likely there will be people there in formal-wear. This **DOESN'T** mean you need to get a new wardrobe just to attend the event. Wear what you would to a nice wedding and you will fit in fine.

