

CONSTITUTION

... of..

THE GRAND CHAPTER OF NORTH CAROLINA ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

On Saturday, May 20, 1905, in the Masonic Hall at Asheville, N.C., a Convention of Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star assembled and was organized into the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star, by Mrs. Madeline B. Conklin, Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter, and set to work under the Seal and Jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

PREAMBLE

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star, does hereby adopt, establish and promulgate the following Constitution and Bylaws for its government and does make and ordain the following Rules and General Regulations for the Government of Subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE I

Title

Section 1. This Grand Chapter shall be known by the name and style of "The Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star."

ARTICLE II

Officers and Members

Section 1. The Grand Chapter shall consist of a Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, three (3) Grand Trustees, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist, Grand Adah, Grand Ruth, Grand Esther, Grand Martha, Grand Electa, Grand Warder, Grand Sentinel, together with the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons, Associate Patrons (or their

proxies regularly appointed) of all the Subordinate Chapters of this Jurisdiction whose official character shall be duly certified by the secretaries of their respective Chapters and such Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons, Past Matrons, Past Patrons and members of a subordinate Chapter as shall remain in good standing in some Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction; also Past Matrons and Past Patrons from other jurisdictions who have properly affiliated with a Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction. (Grand Chapter* 2006)

(* Hereafter referred to as GC)

Section 2. All of the above named officers shall be sisters, except the Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Patron who shall be brothers; the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Trustee, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Organist, Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel may be either a sister or a brother.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. The Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron and Grand Conductress shall be nominated and elected by the usual voting sign of the order, and a majority vote shall be necessary for election at the annual session of this Grand Chapter. The Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Trustees shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot; provided that when there is only one nominee Grand Chapter may order otherwise. A majority vote shall be necessary for election at the annual session of this Grand Chapter (GC 2004).

Section 2. The appointive Officers of this Grand Chapter shall be appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron elect immediately preceding her installation

ARTICLE IV

Qualifications for Office

Section 1. Any past or present Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron in good standing in a Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Chapter, subject to the restrictions contained in Article II, Section 2.

ARTICLE V

Time of Meeting

Section 1. This Grand Chapter shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as shall be provided by the Bylaws.

Section 2. Special sessions may be ordered by the Worthy Grand Matron, or in her absence or disability, by the Worthy Grand Patron or Associate Grand Matron in the absence or disability of the Worthy Grand Patron, at such a time and place as in his or her opinion the interests of the Order require; **provided** that each Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be notified at least thirty days previous to such called session and no business except that specified in the call be transacted at such special session, and **provided**, that the Worthy Grand Patron may call a session of the Grand Chapter without these formalities for the purpose of instituting new chapters.

ARTICLE VI

Voting

Section 1. In the decision of legislation and questions that may come before Grand Chapter, as well as the election of Grand Chapter Officers, and the Grand Chapter Committee members the vote shall be taken by Chapters, each to be allowed four representative votes by the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron and Associate Patron or their legally appointed proxies, and one vote each for Past Matrons and Past Patrons, and Subordinate Chapter Members present. If only one delegate be present, he or she casts the four votes of the Chapter, if he or she is a legally appointed proxy.

ARTICLE VII

Proxies

Section 1. The Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron or Associate Patron of any Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction may appoint any member of his or her Chapter as his or her proxy to represent him or her at the Grand Chapter Session. Such proxy shall be duly certified by the appointing officer.

ARTICLE VIII

Powers of the Grand Chapter

Section 1. The Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star, is the highest source of authority in the Eastern Star in the State of North Carolina. It claims, and of right enjoys, the sole government and superintendency of all Chapters within said Jurisdiction. (See Rit.)

(a) It may grant charters and dispensations for holding regular Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star with the rights to confer therein the several degrees of the Order, and when deemed expedient, and for cause, may annul, revoke and amend such charter or dispensation (1992).

(b) It may assign the limits of each Chapter under its jurisdiction and settle all controversies that may arise between them; and it has the final decision and determination of all matters of controversy that may be brought up by appeal or otherwise.

(c) It may reprimand, suspend or expel from its own body any member for a violation of this Constitution or the Bylaws or Regulations of the Grand Chapter.

(d) It may assess and collect from the several Chapters under its jurisdiction such sums of money annually as may from time to time be found necessary for the support and maintenance of this Grand Chapter or its charities.

(e) It may supervise the state and condition of its own finances and adopt such means in relation thereto as may be for the good of the Order.

(f) It may make and adopt laws and general regulations for the government of the Chapters under its jurisdiction and at pleasure alter or repeal them.

(g) It shall, at each annual session, consider and review the reports and activities of the Grand Officers for the preceding year, as well as those of the several Chapters under its jurisdiction.

(h) And, finally, it may consider and do all whatsoever it may regard as necessary or appertaining to the well-being and perpetuity of the Order of the Eastern Star in the State of North Carolina, subject only to such laws and regulations of the General Grand Chapter of the Order as are reserved to it.

(i) The Grand Jurisdiction of North Carolina shall conform to the Ritual and to the Ritualistic Work in the General Grand Chapter

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Book of Instructions. When changes are made in Ritualistic Work, Decisions or Resolutions pertaining to Ritualistic Work are adopted in General Grand Chapter, they shall immediately be in force in this Grand Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. Any alteration or amendment of this Constitution shall be proposed in writing at an annual session, shall lie over until the next annual session, when, if adopted by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present, the same shall become part of this Constitution--and not otherwise.

(* Hereafter referred to as GGC)

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