

BYLAWS
of
THE GRAND CHAPTER
OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
(Revised and Adopted as of Grand Chapter 2013)

ARTICLE I

Annual Session

Section 1. The Annual Session of this Grand Chapter shall be held the second Tuesday in June, beginning at eight-thirty in the morning and continuing in session from day to day until the business presented for consideration shall have been duly disposed of and at such place as may be determined by a majority vote of the Grand Chapter (GC 2003).

In case of national or state emergency that would prevent the regular Annual Session of this Grand Chapter, the Worthy Grand Matron shall become empowered to consult with the other elective Grand Officers with the purpose in view of determining the method by which customary business of the Grand Chapter shall be conducted.

Change of Place

Section 2. In case of epidemic or other cause dangerous to the health and comfort of the members of the Grand Chapter, the Worthy Grand Matron, with the consent and approval of the next four highest officers in the Grand Chapter, by suitable proclamation, duly published to or served upon the members of the Grand Chapter, may change the place of holding an annual or special session.

Quorum

Section 3. Representatives from not less than seven Chapters must be present to form a quorum for the transaction of business at any annual or special session of the Grand Chapter.

Absence of First Four Grand Officers

Section 4. At any session of the Grand Chapter, should all of the first four elective Grand Officers be absent, the Junior Past Grand Matron present shall be empowered to open the Grand Chapter Session and preside; and in the event that no one be present thus qualified to preside, the Worthy Matron of the senior Chapter whose Worthy Matron is present shall take the Chair as acting Worthy Grand Matron.

Fiscal Year

Section 5. The fiscal year of the Grand Chapter shall end on the thirtieth day of April each year, and the books and accounts of the Grand Chapter shall be closed and balanced as of that date.

ARTICLE II

Elections

Section 6. (a) The election of officers of this Grand Chapter shall be at ten o'clock a.m. on the last day of each annual session.

(b) All ballots counted in each election shall be sealed immediately by the Chief Teller at each table in suitable containers (possibly a paper bag, stapled closed) and properly marked. The sealed container shall be taken to the Grand Secretary's desk after the announcement of the ballot. If no objection as to the result of the ballot is voiced by the closing of election process, the presiding officer shall instruct the Grand Secretary to destroy the ballots.

(c) Any past or present Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron, in good standing in a Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to election or appointment to any office, committee, or board in this Grand Chapter subject to those restrictions imposed by the Ritual.

Elective Officers

Section 7. The elective officers of this Grand Chapter shall be:

Worthy Grand Matron	Grand Treasurer
Worthy Grand Patron	Grand Conductress
Associate Grand Matron	Associate Grand Conductress
Associate Grand Patron	Grand Trustees
Grand Secretary	

Appointive Officers

Section 8. The appointive officers of this Grand Chapter shall be:

Grand Chaplain	Grand Esther
Grand Marshal	Grand Martha
Grand Organist	Grand Electa
Grand Adah	Grand Warder
Grand Ruth	Grand Sentinel

Installation

Section 9. The officers of this Grand Chapter shall be installed after all other business before the Grand Chapter has been entirely disposed of.

Reports of Grand Officers

Section 10. (a) The reports of Grand Officers must be printed and in the hands of the Grand Secretary by the time of the opening of this Grand Chapter Session, and when these reports are called for the printed reports shall be distributed and only excerpts of the more important facts read.

(b) The reports of the Appointive Committees with the exception of the Registration, Necrology and Book of Instruction Committee must be typed in triplicate and in the hands of the Grand Secretary prior to the closing of each Grand Chapter Session. To expedite business, these reports shall be filed for printing in the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter Session.

ARTICLE III

The Worthy Grand Matron Duties

Section 11. (a) The Worthy Grand Matron, by virtue of her office, has a watchful care and general supervision over the Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction, except Chapters working under Dispensation, and it is her duty to see that the Constitution, Bylaws and edicts of this Grand Chapter are strictly and properly obeyed. She shall perform such other duties as the nature of her station may require or the ceremonies and ritual of the Order may impose.

(b) Upon the demise, resignation and/or removal from the state or otherwise incapable of performing the duties of the Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress and/or Associate Grand Conductress, the Worthy Grand Matron shall appoint within thirty days some qualified member of the Order of the Eastern Star to fill the unexpired term of said officer(s), which officer(s) shall serve until that time when the Grand Chapter shall convene, elect and install someone to fill the position(s).

Convene Chapters

Section 12. She may convene Chapters at pleasure, preside therein, inspect their books, records and work, and give such instruction relative to same as may be necessary to insure strict adherence to the Constitution, Bylaws and instructions to Chapters of this Grand Chapter.

School for Deputies

Section 13. She shall call a School of Instruction immediately following the Grand Chapter Session for the benefit of the Grand Officers, District Deputy Grand Matrons and District Deputy Grand Patrons in order to promote uniformity and effectiveness in the work.

Exemplification of Degree Work at The Grand Chapter Sessions

Section 14. The exemplifications of ritualistic work at the Grand Chapter Sessions shall be optional with the Worthy Grand Matron.

Official Decisions

Section 15. The Worthy Grand Matron has the authority to render official decisions, which shall be binding only until next session of the Grand Chapter.

Arrest Charter or Suspend Labors

Section 16. She has the power, for good cause, to suspend the labors of a Chapter, and if she deems it necessary, to arrest its Charter until the next annual session of the Grand Chapter.

Committee and Deputy Appointments

Section 17. (a) She shall, with the approval of the Worthy Grand Patron, appoint all Standing Committees and all Special Committees, whose appointment is not otherwise provided for. She shall also appoint such number of District Deputy Grand Matrons to assist her in her work as the districting of the state shall render necessary. All appointments are made for one year unless otherwise provided for.

(b) The Worthy Grand Matron shall not appoint any project Committees until such project has been adopted by the Grand Chapter.

(c) The Associate Grand Matron shall provide the Grand Secretary with a list of names and membership numbers for all standing and special committees by May 1st prior to her installation as Worthy Grand Matron (GC 2002). All Committee chairmen shall be listed in the Tar Heel Star News and that the Worthy Grand Matron furnish each chairman with the name, address and phone number of each committee member (GC 2001).

Qualifications for Office of District Deputy Grand Matron-Expenses

Section 18. The District Deputy Grand Matrons shall be Worthy Matrons or Past Matrons who have passed the Proficiency Questionnaire (GC 1998) and each shall be allowed a sum for mileage for one visit by her to each Chapter in the District, provided mileage for a second or third visit to Chapters may be allowed when District Deputy Grand Matron is instructed in writing by the Worthy Grand Matron to make same. (GC 2010)

District School of Instruction

Section 19. Unless waived by the Worthy Grand Matron, a District School of Instruction shall be held annually in each District within the formally opened Subordinate Chapter which entertains the School. The District Deputy Grand Matron shall open, preside over and close the School. The minutes of the School shall be recorded in the record book of the hostess Chapter, and one copy each of such minutes shall be sent to the Grand Secretary and to the District Deputy Grand Matron.

District Schools shall be conducted as economically as possible, and the expense of each shall be borne by the Subordinate Chapters in the District upon the basis of the number of members of each Chapter as of the close of the Chapter year preceding the date of the School.

Only General Grand Officers, Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, District Deputy Grand Matron, and District Deputy Grand Patron of that District shall be guests of the District (corsages and meals) (GC 1998).

Grand Representatives

Section 20. The Worthy Grand Matron may recommend Representatives of this Grand Jurisdiction to Worthy Grand Matrons of other Grand Jurisdictions. She may appoint Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions as recommended by the Worthy Grand Matron of such Grand Jurisdiction, which appointments shall be effective for two years. A Grand

Representative must be a Worthy Matron, Past Matron, Worthy Patron or Past Patron. No present or Past Grand Matron or Grand Patron shall act in the capacity of Grand Representative of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Dispensations

Section 21. The Worthy Grand Matron may grant such Dispensations as are authorized by the laws of this Grand Chapter. The sum of one dollar shall be charged for each Special Dispensation granted by the Worthy Grand Matron, fee for same to accompany the request and all moneys received from this source shall be contributed to the Maintenance Fund of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. When a Dispensation is issued to elect or install officers out of time or for the temporary removal of a charter, it shall be for a definite time and the date of its expiration stated. (See Sections: Bylaws, 25, R&R 30, 88, 92.)

Examination and Approval of Bonds

Section 22. The Worthy Grand Matron, together with the Worthy Grand Patron and the Finance Committee, shall annually examine and approve the bonds of any officer or agent of this Grand Chapter of whom bond is required, and they may at any time, if deemed necessary, require either an additional bond or a new bond for any such officer or agent.

Suspension of Grand Officer

Section 23. She may, for good cause, and with the approval of the Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, or both, suspend from office any officer of the Grand Chapter until the next annual session.

Suspension of Subordinate Chapter Officer

Section 24. She may suspend from office any officer of a Subordinate Chapter, subject to the decision of the Grand Chapter at its next annual session to which she shall report her action, with the reason therefor and a detailed statement of the facts.

Dispensation to Fill Vacancies

Section25. Whenever the office of Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron or Associate Patron of a Subordinate Chapter shall become vacant from any cause, the Worthy Grand Matron, shall upon the request of the Chapter and payment of a fee of one dollar, grant a Dispensation to fill such vacancy.

Constitution of Chapters

Section 26. Within ninety days after the annual Grand Chapter Session, the Worthy Grand Matron, or her proxy duly Commissioned for that purpose shall, in person, deliver charters which were granted at that session and constitute all Chapters with a constitutional ceremony; that the officers shall be elected and installed, and such instruction given as may seem necessary. She, or her proxy, shall take up the Dispensation and deliver same to Grand Secretary.

If the charter be not granted, the Dispensation may be ordered continued by the Grand Chapter or renewed by the Worthy Grand Patron.

Worthy Grand Patron May Preside

Section27. She may call on the Worthy Grand Patron to preside at any time.

Annual Address

Section28. At the opening of each annual session of the Grand Chapter, she shall make a written report of her official acts and such other matters as she may deem necessary for the consideration of the Grand Chapter, and shall deliver same to the Grand Secretary sufficiently early so that it may be printed and delivered to the Grand Chapter at its annual session. The Grand Secretary shall furnish a copy of the Worthy Grand Matron's annual report to each member of the Jurisprudence Committee and the Finance Committee by May 10.