

# Order of Eastern Star Membership Committee Proposal

## An Additional and Special Meeting – “Membership Meeting”

### Ceremony Document

**When the meeting is ready to start, the Chapter will be opened in the following manner:**

The Organist will already be at his/her instrument. The Associate Patron, Associate Conductress, and the Worthy Patron will enter the Chapter and assume their stations in the usual manner. The Worthy Patron will ascend to the dais, give one rap of the gavel, and address those in the Chapter room.

**Worthy Patron:** On behalf of Signet Chapter, #21, Order of the Eastern Star, I welcome each of you to this special meeting.

I will now explain the raps of the gavel used to stand or be seated during this meeting. One rap calls the meeting to order or seats everyone. Two raps call the officers to stand. Three raps call all present to stand. (Give raps as explaining – seat everyone at end.)

Sister Associate Conductress.

**Associate Conductress:** Worthy Patron.

**Worthy Patron:** You will invite the Worthy Matron and the officers to enter the Chapter Room.

The Associate Conductress follows the marching lines to the West; and facing West addresses the Worthy Matron and Officers.

**Associate Conductress:** By order of the Worthy Patron, I invite the Worthy Matron and other officers to enter the Chapter Room.

The Associate Conductress returns with the officers, entering the Chapter Room in the usual manner.

**Worthy Patron:** Sister Conductress, you will escort the Worthy Matron to the East.

The Conductress escorts the Worthy Matron to the East in the usual manner.

**Worthy Matron:** The officers will take their respective stations and prepare for the active duties of this Chapter.

The officers assume their stations in the usual manner.

**Worthy Matron:** Sister Conductress.

**Conductress:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will attend the Altar informally. (3 Raps to stand.)

The Conductress will open the Bible in the usual manner, **without benefit of sign**; and remain standing in the semi-circle between Ruth and Esther until after the Opening Song.

**Worthy Matron:** Brother Chaplain.

**Chaplain:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will unite us in prayer.

Chaplain will approach the Altar in the usual manner.

**Chaplain:** Please join with me in the Lord's Prayer. -----

Chaplain will step back into the semi-circle between Esther and Martha until after the Opening Song.

**Worthy Matron:** Please join in singing Blest Be the Tie that Binds

(After Conductress and Chaplain return to their stations)

**Worthy Patron:** Please join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, followed by our National Anthem.

Worthy Matron seats everyone with one rap of the gavel.

**Worthy Matron:** Welcome to our guests and to the members of the Order of the Eastern Star. We have prepared a special meeting for you so that you may come to know more about our beautiful Order, and all the benefits it provides to you and to the community. First, the Worthy Patron will provide some information on the history of the Order of the Eastern Star. Second, I will ask each officer to give a brief explanation of her/his office and explain its significance. Third, we will provide an overview of all the charities we support and the work that we do in the community. Fourth, we will invite our guest speaker(s) to discuss their involvement with the Eastern Star. Fifth, we will close our Chapter and ask that you join us for collation and fellowship which follows all of our regular meetings.

I would now like to present our Worthy Patron.

**Worthy Patron:** The Order of the Eastern Star was developed in the mind of Dr. Rob Morris as early as the 1840's. He was never quite satisfied that all the good in Masonry should be confined to men. Dr. Morris felt that Masonry should be for the whole family, but by the laws of that Ancient Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing that he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, Dr. Morris sought some method by which women could share with their Masonic Brothers the same inspiration that "prompts man to noble deeds". Although he harbored these feelings for years, it wasn't until 1850, while confined to his home after an accident, that Dr. Morris fully developed the Eastern Star Degrees in their present initiatory form.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Worthy Patron. I would now like to ask the officers to give a brief explanation of their offices and explain their significance. I will begin with my station and a brief overview of the basic format of this Chapter Room.

Where I am standing is called the "East" representing the presiding point of our Order. The rest of the room is set up using the other three compass points. In the center is the altar, our focal point, surrounded by our emblematic star and its five points. There are eighteen officers and stations, seventeen within the Chapter Room, and one outside the door.

Sister Warder.

**Warder:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Warder:** My office works in conjunction with the Sentinel whose station is outside the door of this Chapter Room. We are responsible to ensure that no one enters or leaves the Chapter Room before she/he receives proper permission from the presiding officer. The significance of this station is to emulate peace and harmony for the good of the Chapter.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Warder. Sister Chaplain.

**Chaplain:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Chaplain:** I am responsible for leading the Chapter in its devotions at the altar. The significance of this office is to emulate that a life void of offense toward God and man proves to serve the best for all.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Chaplain. Sister Marshal.

**Marshal:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Marshal:** I superintend and marshal all processions and assist in all ceremonies. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of direction for our Order, and to always remember that courtesy and promptness are essential when directing those depending upon leadership.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Marshal. Sister Organist.

**Organist:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Organist:** I am responsible for providing appropriate music for all of our ceremonies. The significance of this office is that by uniting harmony with our ritualistic work, the impressions of our ceremonies will be more lasting.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Organist. Sister Associate Conductress.

**Associate Conductress:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Associate Conductress:** I am responsible for preparing candidates for initiation and to assist the Conductress in all of her duties to this Chapter. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of leadership and discipline, ensuring that we always look to these two components as necessary to our success.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Associate Conductress. Sister Conductress.

**Conductress:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Conductress:** I am responsible for assisting the Associate Matron and to conduct candidates through initiation. The significance of this office is to emulate the best fulfillment in all commitments of planning and leadership worthy of our Order.

It is also my duty to care for the Altar which is in the center of our Chapter Room. The Holy Bible rests upon our Altar; however, I wish to take this opportunity to affirm that the Order of the Eastern Star is NOT a religion. Our requirement for membership is that you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. The Order of the Eastern Star consists of people with different religious beliefs. We encourage all members to attend and participate in their respective houses of worship.

In the next few minutes you will hear several references to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. We look to these historical people as our examples of the virtues which we wish to have in our lives. Our founder, Dr. Rob Morris, was most familiar with the Holy Bible, and used these examples for us to follow. However, we know that there are men and women of high character and dedication found in the teachings of all religions.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Conductress. Brother Treasurer.

**Treasurer:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Treasurer:** I am responsible for receiving all money from the Secretary and recording it properly in our ledgers, to ensure whenever there is need, I am available to pay money out upon proper authority. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of security, confidentiality and fidelity in the performance of those duties so that the Chapter is never embarrassed in its efforts to relieve the distressed and to meet its expenses.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Brother Treasurer. Sister Secretary.

**Secretary:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Secretary:** I am responsible for recording the proceedings of every meeting, conducting all correspondence and receiving all money due to the Chapter, paying it to the Treasurer. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of intelligence and trust that the good deeds of my fellow sisters and brothers may be faithfully recorded.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Secretary. Sister Signet.

**Signet:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Signet:** My station is at the first point of our emblematic star. I represent the blue ray of Signet, who is the daughter of Jephthah, the ninth judge of Israel, as depicted in the Old Testament Book of Judges. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of fidelity, the chief glory in the crown of manhood. For without adherence to the virtue of fidelity, the entire social structure of the world would fall in ruin and become utter chaos.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Signet. Sister Ruth.

**Ruth:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Ruth:** My station is at the second point of our emblematic star. I represent the yellow ray of Ruth who is the daughter-in-law of Naomi, as depicted in the Old Testament in the Book of Ruth. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of constancy, the purest and truest test of devotion. For without adherence to the virtue of

constancy, we will never be able to realize the joy of taking responsibility when it is right, not convenient.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Ruth. Sister Esther.

**Esther:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Esther:** My station is the third point of our emblematic star. I represent the white ray of Esther who was a Jewish damsel and rose to power as the Queen of Persia, as depicted in the Old Testament of the Bible in the Book of Esther. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of loyalty and purity, the perfect test of courage. For without adherence to the virtue of loyalty, we would not know the pleasure of being true to thy self and therefore to others.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Esther. Sister Martha.

**Martha:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Martha:** My station is at the fourth point of our emblematic star. I represent the green ray of Martha who is the sister of Lazarus, as depicted in the New Testament in the Gospel of John. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of faith, the answer to the greatest and most important questions of our lives. For without adherence to the virtue of faith, we will lose our ability to “walk by faith, not by sight”.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Sister Martha. Sister Electa.

**Electa:** Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.

**Electa:** My station is at the fifth point of our emblematic star. I represent the red ray of Electa who is the benevolent and generous benefactress of the poor, and the faithful follower of the Christ as depicted in the New Testament in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of John. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of love and charity, and to always remember to love thy neighbor as thyself. For without adherence to the virtue of love, we never know that which is pure and true.

**Worthy Matron:** Thank you Sister Electa. Brother Associate Patron.

**Associate Patron:** Worthy Matron

- Worthy Matron:** Please summarize the significance of the five points of our emblematic star.
- Associate Patron:** It is by the virtues of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love that we strive to adorn our lives, and build an Order truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.
- Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.
- Associate Patron:** My station is in the West. I am responsible to assist the Worthy Patron and in his absence, assume all of his responsibilities. The significance of this office is to emulate the best of divine guidance that I may always be at the ready to hear the word of our Supreme Being, and be led by it to the good and the welfare of our Order.
- Worthy Matron:** Thank you, Brother Associate Patron. Sister Associate Matron.
- Associate Matron:** Worthy Matron.
- Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of your office.
- Associate Matron:** My station is in the West. I am responsible to assist the Worthy Matron and in her absence, assume all of her responsibilities. The significance of this office is to emulate the principles of our Order in my leadership of this Chapter.
- Worthy Matron:** You will explain the significance of the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron's stations.
- Associate Matron:** The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron sit in the East of the Chapter Room. The Worthy Matron is the presiding officer of the Chapter. The Worthy Patron oversees the work and government of the Chapter. The significance of their offices is to emulate the best of authority and duty to their Chapter and the community which it serves.

**Kathy will speak briefly on the different levels of OES and throughout the world.**

**Frank will speak about the social aspect of our Order.**

**Worthy Matron:** The Order of the Eastern Star is a charitable organization. We help support several charities through our state-wide Grand Chapter, such as the American Heart Fund and Cancer Research. This year, two special charities are Diabetes and Habitat for Humanity.

This year we have been concentrating on supporting cancer research and our members have been extremely supportive. Our Order is a wonderful way of contributing to many worthy charities such as cancer research, and it is a way for all of us to help our communities.

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**Worthy Matron:**

The Order of the Eastern Star is also proud of their work with the youth of America. Signet Chapter is pleased to sponsor Woodridge Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Membership in Rainbow is open to girls between the ages of 11 and 21. Rainbow also stresses charitable work and provides leadership training for our young women.

At this time I am pleased to introduce Kristina Newman, Past Grand Worthy Advisor of the Grand Assembly of Rhode Island, and Pledge Mother, who will tell you Rainbow and their activities.

**Kristina:**

**Worthy Matron:**

Thank you, Kristina.

The Masonic Fraternity also sponsors the Order of DeMolay for young men. At this time I am pleased to recognize our Worthy Patron, who will speak a little about the Order of DeMolay.

If you would like to know more about these youth programs, please speak with Kristina or Frank after the meeting.

The Order of the Eastern Star also believes in supporting our young people in their quest for higher education. Every year the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island gives thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving students in college. Signet Chapter along with other Subordinate Chapters around the state are always pleased to be an active participant in these scholarships.

**??Speaker on Masonry**

**Worthy Matron:**

Worthy Patron, I now turn to you for your closing remarks.

**Worthy Patron:**

Thank you Worthy Matron. We hope you have enjoyed our special meeting this evening. We have some information about our Order which we would like to have you take with you. I will now ask those who are not members of our Order to please rise. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress will you please distribute the packets to our guests.

(Have Marshal count those standing & report quietly to Secretary. Music—if this takes a while.)

In the hope that you would like to become a member of our fraternal Order, you will find a petition for membership in your packet. Anyone of our officers will be glad to answer any questions and assist you in completing the petition. Signet Chapter looks forward to receiving it.

**Worthy Matron:**

We invite you to the outer hall for fellowship and refreshments. Thank you for being with us.

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Sister Associate Matron.

**Associate Matron:**

Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:**

Do you know of any further business to come before this Chapter?

**Associate Matron:**

There is none within my knowledge, Worthy Matron.

**Worthy Matron:**

(3 raps of gavel)

Let us unite in the Mizpah benediction.

Sister Conductress, you will attend at the Altar informally.

(Conductress closes Bible without sign and returns to her seat.

Sister(s) \_\_\_\_\_, you will escort the officers from the Chapter Room.

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