

Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey PROPOSED By-laws Change March 1, 2022

Current wording:

Chapter 3: Grand Officers

Section 3.2. Appointed Grand Officers

3.2-(b) The Most Worthy Grand Matron shall appoint a Worthy District Deputy to represent each District. The title shall be "Worthy District Deputy" followed by the District Number represented.

3.2-(b)(1) She shall be a Past Matron and a member in good standing of some Subordinate Chapter in the District for which she is appointed.

3.2-(b)(2) Worthy District Deputies are not installed and hold office at the will of the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

Section 3.5. Title of Present and Past Grand Officers

3.5-(a)(2) A present Grand Staff Officer, Worthy District Deputy, or Grand Representative, shall be presented or listed using the proper title of the office she or he holds.

Section 3.6. Honors Entitlement

3.6-(c)(5) Worthy District Deputies

Chapter 5: Most Worthy Grand Matron

Section 5.1. Duties and Powers

5.1-(h) She shall call an all-day session of her Officers and Deputies and have her Officers exemplify the ritualistic work with the Deputies as observers who will later instruct the Subordinate Chapters.

Chapter 13: Duties of Appointed Grand Officers

Section 13.2. Worthy District Deputies

13.2-(a) As the representative of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, the Worthy District Deputy

13.2-(a)(1) Shall oversee the affairs of the Subordinate Chapters in her District and report significant District and Chapter events to the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

13.2-(a)(2) Shall make herself thoroughly familiar with the Laws, Rules, and Regulations and the Standard Authorized Ritual. Any matter not clearly defined in either document, shall be referred to the Most Worthy Grand Matron for clarification.

13.2-(a)(3) Shall obtain a copy of the Bylaws of each Subordinate Chapter in her District, to be returned to the Chapter when her term expires.

13.2-(a)(4) Shall transact such business in connection with the Subordinate Chapters within her District as the Most Worthy Grand Matron may direct, and keep the Most Worthy Grand Matron informed as to her actions.

13.2-(a)(5) Shall attend all formal or special events observed in the Subordinate Chapters of her District, all District Meetings, and whenever any of the Top 3 visit a Subordinate Chapter within her District. One of her visits shall be her Official Visit.

13.2-(a)(6) Shall host a School of Instruction for elected and appointed officers of Subordinate Chapters in her District prior to October first and shall invite the Most Worthy Grand Matron, the Most Worthy Grand Patron, and the Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron to attend.

13.2-(a)(7) Shall supervise the arrangements for a District Meeting as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 15 of these Laws, Rules, and Regulations.

13.2-(a)(8) Shall submit an annual report on or before May 1st of each year to be included in the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Chapter concerning membership and charity activity of each Subordinate Chapter.

13.2-(a)(9) She shall observe the ritual work of all officers in each Subordinate Chapter in her District and report any inaccuracies to the Worthy Patron to correct.

13.2-(b) Only on the occasion of her Official Visit shall she be received first as the representative of the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

Chapter 15: Districts

Section 15.1. District Meetings – Date, Cost and Planning

15.1-(a) The Subordinate Chapters in each District, under the supervision of the Worthy District Deputy, shall hold annually, on a date to be assigned by the Most Worthy Grand Matron, a District Meeting, at which time the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron and the staff of Grand Officers will officially visit the District.

15.1-(b) The planning of the District Meeting shall be vested in the Worthy District Deputy and the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, and Associate Matrons of the District. The expense of the District Meeting shall be borne proportionately per capita by the Subordinate Chapters of the District. The Worthy District Deputy, within thirty days after the District Meeting, shall give to each of the Subordinate Chapters of the District a detailed report of receipts and disbursements and shall rebate proportionately per capita any unexpended portion.

15.1-(c) The District Meeting shall be opened and closed according to the ritualistic form for opening and closing District Meetings as found in the Standard Authorized Ritual.

15.1-(d) The presence of a Charter is not required unless the initiatory work is being performed to initiate new members.

15.1-(e) Whenever the Altars of Subordinate Chapters in the District are draped for a Past Grand Matron, Past Grand Patron, or Grand Officer, the "mourning cloth" shall be placed upon the Altar of the District Meeting prior to the opening and remain on the Altar until after the meeting is closed.

15.1-(f) The place of District Meetings shall receive the approval of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and no place shall be approved except the secrecy of the Ritualistic requirements of the meeting be maintained and the dignity and welfare of the Fraternity be reasonably preserved.

15.1-(g) Past Grand Matrons or Past Grand Patrons participating in the opening of the District Meeting shall limit their remarks to no more than 5 minutes each.

15.1-(h) With the permission of the Worthy District Deputy, photographs may be taken during the District Meeting.

15.1-(i) Worthy District Deputies may, with the consent of their Official Family, request permission from the Most Worthy Grand Matron to hold a District Meeting jointly with another District.

Section 15.3. Merger of Districts

15.3-(a)(2) The Worthy District Deputy of a merged District shall be presented as "Worthy District Deputy of Merged District No. ____" until the following Grand Session, and be given the proper honors due her.

15.3-(a)(3) The badge of office of the Worthy District Deputy of the merged District must be returned to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary at Grand Session.

Section 15.4. Reception at a District Meeting

15.4-(a) A Subordinate Chapter of the Order may, subject only to the approval of the Worthy District Deputy and the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons Associate Matrons of the District, hold a reception for one or more Grand Officers in conjunction with the District Meeting.

15.4-(b) The reception shall be recorded in the records of the Subordinate Chapter as a "Special Meeting."

15.4-(c) No dispensation shall be required.

Chapter 21 Organizing a New Chapter

Section 21.1. Petition for Dispensation

21.1-(d) The Most Worthy Grand Patron shall appoint an investigating committee of three, consisting of the Worthy District Deputy, a Sister, and a Master Mason, all of whom shall be members of Chapters in the

District in which the proposed Chapter will be located. The committee is to investigate the eligibility of all prospective members of the proposed Subordinate Chapter and shall report on each to the Most Worthy Grand Patron.

Proposed wording:

NEW:

Chapter 16: Committees

Section 16.23. Support & Ritualistic

Section 16.23-(a)

The Most Worthy Grand Matron shall appoint a **Support & Ritualistic Committee** of 5 members. The responsibility of this Committee is to advise the Worthy Matron/Chapter on problems that may occur and other ritualistic questions.

REASONING/Interpretation:

There was much discussion in my District about the waste of money to hold a District Meeting and that our Official Visits, due to lack of Officers, is a visitation of the members of our District.

The **Support & Ritualistic Committee** of 5 members would be there to assist in our Chapters' situation/problems and they would report to the Most Worthy Grand Matron. Similar to the current Worthy District Deputy responsibilities, the Support & Ritualistic Committee would be the liaison to the Most Worthy Grand Matron for answers to District questions and concerns. This committee would not have to have honor nights or receptions because it is a committee, not a Grand Officer; thus saving money once again.

This would take effect 2025-2026. Prior to this change, a committee shall look at the Law and Instruction books to be sure all have been corrected (regarding WDD and District Meetings).

Name & title		Chapter Name & Number	
Signature	<u>Julie Larissin, PM</u>	Chapter	<u>Jessika #13A</u>
Signature	<u>MJG RWGT</u>	Chapter	<u>Morningstar 22</u>
Signature	<u>Bathy Flanaganum</u>	Chapter	<u>Little Falls #224</u>
Signature	_____	Chapter	_____