

GENERAL INFORMATION

The most recent update and version of our Red Book is August 2019

During 2020 there have been no changes to the Law,
no changes to Instructions, no changes in the Ritual.

Red Book (Law and Book of Instruction) is available online for members access and use.

- The Red Book is accessed from the Nebraska OES website (neoes.org) under the “Members” tab.
- The Red Book is password protected. The password is the words of Electa’s (all lower case and no spaces).
- Unlike the Ritual, any or all pages can be printed or copied. The Red book is not copyrighted and it a working tool for your benefit.

Worthy Matron: Copy wording for Flag Salute or Introductions and have them with your notes when presiding insuring you correct wordings.

Ritual and Secret Work may not be copied. They are copyrighted.

Books and or items the Chapter should have in their possession:

Secret Work - Section 96 Law Book Subordinate Chapters Page 54

- 4 copies – WP / AP / Conductress / Assoc. Conductress
- Verify that each copy is copyrighted 2009,
- If copies are missing, damaged or out of date contact Grand Chapter office for replacement copies. There is no charge for replacement of worn or torn copies, however there is a \$5.00 fine for loss of the Secret Work.

Star Points: Borrow the Secret Work from one of these officers to make sure you have the correct wording for your Pass.

Worthy Patron: Proficiency is your duty. Check the wording of the officers to see that they are proficient in their work. Maybe choose one or two meetings during the year where the Worthy Patron has his Secret Work open during the Opening to watch word for word the passes. Let officers know this instruction will be coming from him and not to be surprised when he speaks up. Accuracy and continuity are our goals. A misspoken word or phrase becomes the new accepted wording unless we are reminded of the original and correct wording.

Law Book, Red Book, Book of Instruction–Grand Chapter Bylaws- Section 38 Page 32

- Each chapter must have 7 copies – WM / WP / AM / AP/ Sec/ Cond. / Assoc Cond. Supervisor delivers the updates for all of the books provided by Grand Chapter. The Supervisor will assist in switching pages and affirming accuracy.
- Each officer must sign a receipt for their copy and return the Book at the end of their term. If a Book is lost, a fine equal to the replacement cost shall be assessed to that officer.

All Members: Any member may possess the Red Book containing law and instruction. The Red Book is available online from the Nebraska Grand Chapter website. It is accessed by selecting the tab “MEMBERS”. RED BOOK appears at the bottom of the list. Click on the option beneath RED BOOK and you will connect with a screen that instructs you to enter the appropriate password. You are prompted that the appropriate password is “Electa’s Pass” all lower case and with no spaces It is a 200 page document which you can use at that time, or save to refer to, or print for your own individual paper hard copy. No registration is required for you to own a copy, therefore, the Grand Secretary has no way of knowing which members have printed a copy and need updates. Updates will be made to the copy accessible on the web site. The Grand Secretary will make notification of changes. Each member is responsible for their own updated accuracy. Updates available for printing from the Grand Chapter website. No updates will be sent to members from the Grand Chapter office.

Rituals – 1 copy

- The latest edition of the Ritual is 2019. Current Ritual states at the bottom of cover page: “Printed in the United States of America 2018

Proficiency Test - 1 copy – in the possession of the Worthy Patron

Worthy Patron: Proficiency is to be completed within 90 days of a new member’s Initiation. and that is the WP’s responsibility. Remember that although the WP is in charge of Proficiency, he does not need to be the one working with the new members. This is a great opportunity to involve other members – appoint a Proficiency Committee. Make sure they have the Proficiency Test to use. Verify their progress with the new members.

In each Chapter, The 7 Officer Law Books, 4 copies of the Secret Work, and Proficiency Test are the property of the Grand Chapter.

- Those entitled to them can loan them out to others that need to use them to study, but the officers assigned to them should always know where they are and are ultimately responsible for them. If you are an officer who is responsible for these items, keep track of the items. Maybe record when you loan them and to whom and when they are returned as a note or list. This can save time and tracking and encourages comfort in loaning these resources.

Other Information to share in your Chapter:

OES NEWS *REMINDER:* This is a very important tool for communication among all of our members. Your Chapter is encouraged to have someone responsible for sharing the news, if it is not done by the Chapter Secretary. Remind the Secretary that she/he must read the underlined items as these are direct correspondence from the Grand Chapter Office. If possible, offer other ideas for sharing the news.

Eastern Star Journal The Eastern Star Journal is going electronic. Any member can access and read online. Encourage the Chapter to share their “good news” with others through the OES News and the Eastern Star Journal and give them the contact information to send in news items.

Our own GGCCM and Appointments These are our special appointments during the current GGC Triennium.

Special Instructions for introducing GGCCM for 2018 – 2021 Triennium.

Book of Instructions pg. 29 - 31.

Sister: **Jan Thoman**, Ambassador to the Philippines, Luzon, of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Nebraska.

Sister: **Sharlene Coulter**, Member of the Appeals and Grievances Committee of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Nebraska

Sister: **Cynthia (Cyn) Norman**, Member of the Eastern Star Journal Committee of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Nebraska.

Sister: **Judy Wehrbein**, Member of the Service Dogs Committee of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Nebraska, and

Sister: **Bev Donham**, Member of the Youth Committee of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Nebraska.

And Sister: Laurie Sieg, MWGM Special Appointment, Campfire Friend

General Grand Chapter Projects, Grand Chapter Projects and the Special Projects of the WGM and WGP:

It is important to promote these projects and activities and have information available to distribute. Our members need to be able to reach out and serve.

The primary philanthropic project of the General Grand Chapter and the Order of Eastern Star is Service Dogs.

General Grand Chapter Projects supported by Nebraska Grand Chapter are:

Alzheimers
 Estarl
 Military
 Knights Templar Eye
 Shrine Charities
 Shine Hospitals
 International Headquarters
 Cancer
 Heart
 Service Dogs
 Youth

Grand Chapter Projects in Nebraska are:

Nebraska Masonic Youth Groups
 DeMolay, Jobs Daughters International, International of the Rainbow for Girls
 Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont
 Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth
 ESTARL
 Educational Loan Fund
 Scholarships

2019-2021 Special Project of the WGM and WGP is:

- “Paws Up” and the funds raised will be used for placing, training and maintaining Service and Therapy Dogs in Nebraska.

OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc.

- Announced on 1/1/21 this newly formed public charity (501c3) allows for an individual’s financial contributions to the projects of the dogs to be tax-deductible.
- New contribution forms for sending monies to the Grand Chapter office have been created to include this public charity. (OLD FORMS are GRAY. CURRENT FORMS are IVORY.)

2021 “Enduring Hope” Grand Chapter Session:

- **There will be a 2021 Grand Chapter Session May 11-12, 2021.**
- Session will be at the Younes Conference Center, Kearney.
- Hotel housing preferred in one of the Younes hotels to reduce risks of exposure.
- Creating a safe and low risk event, this session will follow DHHS guidelines and precautions of our public health crisis. It will be facilitated for low risk events and social distancing interactions allowing for the forward momentum of our Order while guarding the safety of all members.
- Out-of–State Dignitaries will not be invited.
- While it’s schedule will not match our historic itinerary and will be shortened, it will include:
 - “Freedom of Hope” Flag Ceremony (Tuesday)
 - “The Paws-ibiites are Endless” Luncheon (Tuesday)
 - Memorial Service (Tuesday)

- “Celebrating our Faith, Hope. Love” Membership Banquet (Tuesday)
- Informal Opening (Tuesday)
- Initiation (Wednesday morning)
- “Bubbling with Gratitude for Our Superstars” Luncheon (Wednesday)
- Business of Grand Chapter (Wednesday afternoon)
- Election and Installation of 2021-2022 Grand Officers (WEDNESDAY, MAY 12)
- “Bubbling Forward” Banquet (Wednesday)
- Group Photos
- Fund Raising for WGM/WGP Projects
- Rehearsals and preparations on Monday, May 10 and meals provided.
 - “Live. Love Bark.” Luncheon, “Honoring Your Paw-ticipation” Banquet
- As a gift to you for your faithfulness and dedication to your chapter, our Grand Chapter and the Order; our Grand Trustees have voted to have LUNCHEONS and BANQUETS for participants (Monday-Wednesday) be paid for by the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

All members: We encourage your attendance and participation. Each member has a vote at our Grand Chapter. The two day Session itinerary will include the participation of Grand Representatives, Assistant Grand Warders, Assistant Grand Sentinels, 2019-2021 WMs and WPs. The 2019 - 2021 Organists and Worthy Patrons will be the honored stations. There will be a variety of special music, but no choir. (Anyone who would like to volunteer to assist at Grand Chapter, let the WGM know asap..)

New in 2021 is Ritual Competition

- Any member may compete. Competitions will be on Monday,
- Awards Tuesday evening at the Membership Banquet.
- Chairman Susan Andreasen , PGM will provide registration for participation.

New in 2021 will be the ability to view open sessions of Grand Chapter via a virtual platform.

- Tuesday’s sessions will be shared beginning at 9:30 am and concluding at the end of the informal opening session.
- Wednesday’s Grand Officers’ Installation and 2021-2022 Kickoff will be shared virtually.

Grand Chapter information, details and forms are available in February.

Chapter Secretaries receive this information in February.

Forms are also available online at the Grand Chapter website – www.neo.es.org.

Chapter Secretaries: We encourage you to notify all of your members. Participation will be available in person or virtually.

Logos, Emblems, Graphics:



Subordinate Chapter Emblem and Logo

For use by subordinate Chapters Officers and members



Grand Chapter Emblem and Logo

For use by Grand Chapter, Grand Chapter Officers,
District Grand Supervisors



General Grand Chapter Emblem and Logo

For use by General Grand Chapter, General Grand Chapter
Officers, General Grand Chapter Appointees



Marketing Logo: To be used to promote our Order.
Does not replace any other emblems or logos.



2020 Graphic Designs: During 2020, a series of graphics have been designed for use by our chapters and members to promote the Order and encourage our members. **Graphics can be accessed from: <https://oesstrong.org>**

Websites/Social Media:

- We have an easily accessed and valuable tool in our www.neoes.org website. Please encourage your members to check it out and use its resources.
- Our electronic Masonic Calendar is both a resource to find out what is going on in our Masonic community and an opportunity to include your own Chapter's activities.
- The OES News calendar is a good tool. Please encourage a member of your Chapter to be responsible for putting your Chapters activities on the OES Calendar. Submit to the Grand Chapter office each month prior to the 10th of the month.
- Facebook pages are also active and can be a great way to stay connected, informed, and know what is happening across Nebraska.
- Our Grand Chapter hosted Facebook page: "Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star" is a private group. If you are not yet a member, request to join. Encourage other members of your Chapter to join as it is a great communication tool.
- "Nebraska Star Dogs" is also hosted by Nebraska Grand Chapter and is a public page that features our Service and Therapy Dogs and project opportunities. Please like and follow the page. It is a great tool for reaching to those who are not yet our members. Invite your Facebook friends to like and follow.
- Individual private Facebook pages are hosted by Grand Chapter for the following Chapter Officers: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Secretary. Encourage your officers to request joining. This is an effective tool for communications and fellowship among our Chapters' officers.
- A new private Facebook group for our Chapters' Dog Representatives is being created. If you are your Chapter's Dog Representative please check out "Dog Representative Network".
- Nebraska Grand Chapter is also hosting a YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTtOZAoID1SQ5yHo-Uex_7g
It includes videos promoting our Star Dogs, messages of encouragement and views of our Chapters. Check it out and use these videos for awareness and to encourage your members' participation.

Funerals and Ceremonies:

- When a family desires Chapter participation: Funeral Service Ritual pg. 153-160.
Alternative Funeral Service for Former Members Ritual pg. 160a & 160b.
The Eastern Star Graveside Service – Book of Instruction pg. 86 & 87.
Ceremony of Draping the Charter – Book of Instruction pg. 88 & 89.

Families of deceased members should be made aware of these funeral services and ceremonies. When you are made aware of a member's death please see that their family members are aware of these ceremonies. Out of state family may not be aware of how close and available the Chapter is for them as they grieve.

Membership:

- Social media, our website, our You Tube channel and its videos, OES News and Eastern Star Journal are all tools to share our story and our availability. They can be great tools for reaching out and sharing information with potential new members. They also can encourage and mentor current members.

Publicity:

- We have an active Publicity Committee and they are working diligently to get the name of Nebraska OES out in the state and in the General Grand Chapter arena. They provide forms for news articles and will take your information and write up articles for you. Contact them with questions about how to publicize and reach out.

Service and Therapy Dogs is our newest Standing Committee of Nebraska Grand Chapter:

- By vote of our jurisdiction at the 2017 Grand Chapter Session, a new standing committee was established. It is: the Service and Therapy Dogs Standing Committee.
- They will be engaged with the General Grand Chapter and our General Grand Chapter Committee Member of this GGC Triennium Judy Wehrbein, PGM and assisting our subordinate Chapters and our members to serve in our communities through the opportunities provided by partnering with Service and Therapy dogs, their trainers, and handlers.
- The Standing Committee is working to publicize our projects and engage with each Chapter, including a representative being named from each Chapter to assist with communications and engagement.
- The Standing Committee will visit your Chapter or community to present, share a program, increase understanding and awareness. Included in this notebook are brochures, information, and a form to submit to request their appearance in your community and at your event.

WMs: Have you taken the step in your Chapter to name a member to work with this new standing committee? Please do and confirm with the Committee Chairman their contact information.

The Future and our Order:**Since 2019, Worthy Grand Matron's Special Committees of Nebraska Grand Chapter:**

Special committees have been engaged during this 2019-2021 Grand Chapter year. They are reaching out to our chapters to hear your voices regarding:

- Grand Chapter dates and events
- Possible options for Installation Ceremonies and presenting resolutions to General Grand Chapter in Salt Lake City 2021.
- C and C (Care and Compassion) to connect with each chapter regarding their current needs, successes, and desires for their Chapters. Members of this special committee are also available to come to your chapter and communicate ideas, support, encouragement.

Membership Eligibility Resolution to be presented at General Grand Chapter:

- A resolution to amend our General Grand Chapter Constitution regarding membership eligibility for women has been written and filed by Sarahann Shapiro, PGM of California and GGC member on Appeals and Grievances.
- It presents that women who do not have or cannot access proof of Masonic relationship may be sponsored by two Master Masonic who are Brothers of the Chapter she is petitioning. This resolution will be voted upon at the General Grand Chapter Session in 2021.

Communication is so valuable to our members:

- We encourage Chapters to share the information about what is happening for our Order beyond their own Chapter walls.
- Our members may not know all the exciting opportunities and events within Eastern Star unless they are shared at meetings and among our members.
- A Chapter can participate in so many exciting and interesting opportunities when they are aware.
- Share what your chapter is doing. Others cannot attend when they are not aware.