

INITIATION

Ritual pgs. 49 – 59, 168 - 172

Law: pg. 73 & 74

BOI: Pg. 56 – 62

General Instructions

- A Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron may invite a qualified Past Matron, Past Patron, or a visiting Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron to assist in the initiation.
- A Chapter may request any Chapter within the Grand Jurisdiction or the Grand Officers to initiate an elected candidate. However, the Chapter Officers **MUST** do the initiatory work at least once a year, in addition to the Supervisor's visit. Having other officers exemplify the work **does not count** as their one time.
- The names of the candidates shall not be revealed prior to their initiation.
- An initiation must be held at a stated meeting or a special meeting called by the Worthy Matron for that purpose. Initiation cannot be held on the same day as the election of the candidate or on a Sunday.
- A petition of an elected candidate is good for one year. If a candidate does not appear for initiation within one year, they must re-petition before the degrees can be conferred.
- A Brother must be present for the conferring of degrees. Only the Worthy Patron or a Worthy Patron pro tem shall give the lectures of the Worthy Patron during the initiation ceremony.
- The Worthy Patron, Associate Patron, or any other Brother may recite the Scriptures.
- If members are acting as candidates, they will retire in form with the Associate Conductress when she retires to determine if there are candidates in waiting.
- If members are sitting with the candidates, they should come in with the Associate Conductress when she announces the candidates in waiting. **No one may enter or leave after that time until the initiation is completed except in case of emergency.**
- All officers **MUST** memorize their work and not use a Ritual in the Chapter Room.
- There is only one prompter at a time in the Chapter Room. **Make sure that the prompter has a copy of the Secret Work.** If more than one prompter is used, be aware that only one Ritual is open at a time. The Worthy Patron should be prepared to prompt during the prayer circle if the Marshal or Secretary are the usual prompter.
- In Nebraska, no ribbons or floral ceremonies are used during initiation.
- We suggest that for initiation you encourage your Chapters to always have two candidates. Even if there is only one new candidate, have a member stand in for an initiate. In that way, the initiate is never alone and there would be the two to take the obligation.

- Before the Opening of chapter:
 - The Conductress should make sure the Preparation Room is tidy as well as the Chapter Room and Secretary's desk. First impressions are permanent, and you want to make a good impression!
 - The Conductress will see that a sufficient number of small Bibles, one for each candidate, are properly placed upon the Altar.
 - What is proper placement?
 - ✓ Northeast and Southeast corners of the Altar
 - ✓ Binding to the East on the northeast corner, binding to the West on the Southeast corner.
 - ✓ Place on the Altar as if you are going to pick it up to read it.
 - ✓ If odd number of Bibles, the Conductress has the extra Bible.
 - The Conductress shall see that the Signet is turned on and is in working order.
 - *** Before your school begins, check the Signet * * * *
 - The Associate Conductress checks the Preparation Room to see that the light is on and it is neat and free from clutter.
 - No prefix is used when reporting on and when introducing candidates. Use only their names.
 - Change the wording in the Ritual work to fit the situation. (Sisters, Brothers, or Sisters and Brothers, etc)
 - After the Obligation, candidates are called Sister and Brothers.
 - In Nebraska, the Officers do not use gestures when giving lectures, except to give the sign and pass.
 - The Conductress centers the new members where the officers will be standing when giving their lectures.
 - It is important for everyone to hear and see the Initiation Ceremony work done in its entirety. Even if there are not candidates to initiate, we do need to have all the ritualistic work done whenever possible. The Initiation Ceremony can only remain proficient and effective in our Chapters when it remains familiar and being learned, practiced, and exemplified. However, this might not be feasible or possible at a School. Try to schedule another time with your chapter to help facilitate an initiation being done if it is not possible at your school.

Ceremony of Initiation

- The Associate Conductress is instructed to retire. If the Chapter is exemplifying initiation, those members acting as candidates should retire with the AC at this time. They will stand with the AC behind Esther's station to give the Salutation Sign and retire together. **THEY DO NOT EXIT SEPARATELY.**
- The Associate Conductress is asked to retire twice:
 - ✓ First time – she is only going out to determine who is there.

- ✓ Second time – she goes out to prepare the candidates, as per the instruction of the Worthy Matron.
- Hosts for the candidates enter the Chapter room in form with the Associate Conductress when she returns to report that there are candidates in waiting. **They need to enter in proper form and the Sentinel should remind them to do that.**
- The Associate Conductress will be instructed to retire to prepare the candidates for the ceremony.
- The Associate Conductress will instruct the candidate(s) on the following:
 1. This is a solemn and serious Ceremony.
 2. Hats and gloves are only worn for medical or religious reasons in the Chapter Room.
 3. They will walk in couples and they will be escorted.
 4. They are not to touch the large Bible on the Altar.
 5. They are asked to kneel at the Altar and will be helped to rise. **(Determine before the Ceremony if the candidate(s) can kneel, as it is permissible for them to be seated at the Altar for the Obligation. Chairs should be arranged for as needed.)**
 6. They will be asked two questions which they should answer aloud. **(One by the Associate Conductress and one by the Worthy Patron.)**
- The Associate Conductress then takes the candidate(s) to the Preparation Room where she gives her lecture to them.
(For your School, you should ask the AC to give her lecture just inside the door, as we seldom have a chance to hear that lecture)
- In a normal setting in our Chapter, the organist may play softly as the AC is giving her lecture. Music should cease when the raps are given.
- Following the lecture, the AC lines up the candidates in couples, in the same order in which she announced them to the Worthy Matron. **(Follow the diagram found on page 59 of your Instruction Book.)**

Preparation Room

6	AC
5	4
3	2
C	1

Door of Chapter Room

- The AC raps and the Conductress addresses the WM and then proceeds to respond to the raps at the door of the Preparation Room. Only the Conductress opens and closes the door. **(Everyone speaking at the door should be loud enough for the Worthy Matron to hear.)**
- The Conductress reports to the Worthy Matron who instructs her to admit them. **(Worthy Matron is then seated.)**

- The lights are dimmed before the candidate(s) enter the Chapter room when the Worthy Matron says “admit.”
- The Conductress returns to the door and opens it without raps.
- The Conductress offers her left arm to the candidate. The AC offers her right arm to the last candidate or follow behind the last couple.
- The Conductress brings the candidate(s) into the Chapter Room and cause them to face the nearest wall for her lecture.
- The location will vary in some chapter rooms, so you need to think about that before you begin your instruction and adjust your talk through accordingly.
- The Conductress waits until the AC returns from closing the door before stepping in front of the candidate(s) to give her lecture. If there is only one candidate, the AC shuts the door as soon as she enters the room. (Demonstrate both ways.) The Candidates are not left alone. Either the Conductress or Associate Conductress remains with them.
- After the lecture the Conductress offers her right arm to the first candidate and AC offers her left arm to the last candidate, if she has one, or follows if there is no candidate to escort. **(This is opposite from the way you come in with the candidates.)**
- If only one candidate, the AC assumes her station as they pass it on the way to the AM.
- The Conductress follows the marching line around the room to the Associate Matron. **(See Diagrams in back of Ritual, pp 168 & 169)**
- One candidate: the Conductress turns in front of the Associate Matron.
- More than one candidate: she proceeds to the north marching line to countermarch and brings the candidates to be centered on the Associate Matron.
- The Conductress introduces the candidate(s), and the Associate Matron addresses them. She then instructs the Conductress to cause the candidate(s) to face the East.
- The Conductress countermarches by going to the south marching line, turns left, marches east two steps, turns left and marches north, centering the line on the Worthy Matron and faces East. Regardless of the number of candidates, we always countermarch to cause them to face the East. **(See Diagram in back of Ritual, p 170)**
- The Associate Matron introduces the candidates to the Worthy Matron. The WM gives her response and invites the Worthy Patron to preside by giving him the gavel. He places it on the pedestal. **The Worthy Patron always stands to the left of the pedestal while he presides, never behind the pedestal.**

Obligation

- The Conductress follows the Ritual **(See Diagram p171 in back of Ritual)**. The Conductress(es) reaches the Altar, waits for the music to cease and causes the candidates to kneel. **(This is why you wanted to make sure that you have checked with the candidates to know if they can kneel.)**

- The Conductresses should move together. They each pick up a Bible and move to the front corners of the Altar where the Conductress gives oral instruction from the Secret Work as both Conductresses demonstrate how to hold the Bibles. (Demonstrating as you explain.)
- If there are more than two Bibles for candidates, Conductresses pick up the additional Bibles and carry all with them to place the Bibles in the hands of the candidates, not walking back and forth to retrieve one Bible at a time. The Conductress handles the extra Bible if there is an odd number of candidates.
- The Conductresses work from the East side of the Altar to the West side to place the Bibles in the hands of the candidates. (Another description – the Conductresses present the Bibles working from the outside of the group of candidates to the center of the group.) The Bibles are given to the candidates from the right side with the right hand. If you take hold of the top of the Bible, you can slip it right into the hands of the candidates in the proper position.
- If there are an uneven number of candidates, the Conductress presents and collects the extra Bible.
- The Conductresses step back to the northwest and southwest corners of the Altar, facing East, where the Conductress reports to the Worthy Patron.
- The Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter and proceeds to the Altar using square corners. The Star Points turn toward the Altar. As the Worthy Patron enters the Labyrinth, all members assume the Reverent Attitude.
- Be sure the prompter has a copy of the Secret Work to help the WP with the Obligation.
- When the obligation is completed, the Conductresses drop the Reverent Attitude and work together from the west to the east in retrieving the Bibles from the new members. (Alternative description – pick up Bibles from the new members in the center of the group and move to the outside end of the group). Pick up all Bibles before placing Bibles on the Altar. The Bibles are removed over the left shoulder with the left hand and then they replace them on the front corners of the Altar, as they were before the Obligation.
- The Conductresses assume their positions just behind and to the side of the candidates **and take the Reverent Attitude.**
- The lights are turned back up when the Worthy Patron says, “**Arise my Sister/Brother.**”
- The Worthy Patron assists the new members, who are now Sisters and Brothers, to rise by taking their right hand and helping them up. The Worthy Patron does not reach across the large Bible, but steps around to the side of the Altar as necessary.
 - If there are candidates who choose not to kneel, the WP still offers his right hand and says, “Arise my Sister/Brother”. We are “arising” them into the Order of the Eastern Star, not just to standing.
- The Worthy Patron returns to the east side of the Altar and continues his lecture. Still holding the Reverent Attitude (as he is still inside the Labyrinth) he steps back far enough to be just inside the Labyrinth and finishes his lecture.

- **(Note: this is the only time anyone moves while holding the Reverent Attitude.) He takes one step out of the Labyrinth, drops the Reverent Attitude, as do all members, and returns to the East. (BOI, page 61).**
- The Star Points turn back to face the East and the Chapter is seated.
- The Organist may start to play immediately after the Chapter is seated. The Conductresses wait until the Worthy Patron is in the East and raps the gavel before moving the new members.
- The Conductress then leads the new member to Adah's station by leaving the labyrinth between Electa's and Adah's stations to the South marching line, and walking around the Chapter Room using square corners returning to Adah's station. **(See Diagram at the back of the Ritual p 172)**

Law: pg. 73-74 Ritual pgs. 49 – 92 Book of Instruction: Pg. 61 – 67

Star Point Lectures

- The Conductresses follow the Diagram of the Labyrinth to the first Star Point. Ritual pages 175-180
- When winding the labyrinth, the Altar is always to the **left** of the Conductress and Star Points on the **right**. Every Conductress will have her own method of remembering how to wind the labyrinth. Ask the Conductress what her memory trick is for her winding.
- Conductress centers the new members on the position of the Star Point as she will be giving her lecture. (Symbolic triangle – Conductresses and new members form the straight base and Star Point forms the peak.)
- When addressed by the Conductress, the Star Point rises and steps to the side of her chair before responding. The Star Point does not rise before the Conductress addresses her.
- **Star Points DO NOT nod to the Conductress.**
- **Star Points refer to your Officer Instructions for details and instruction.**
- After Electa's lecture, the Conductress moves around the outside of the Star Points chairs without square corners "to tie up" the Labyrinth. She will advance to a point in front of Electa's chair, turn to the south just past Adah's chair and turn to the east but not to the marching line and countermarch to a point in front of the Worthy Patron, centering the new members on the Worthy Patron.

Prayer Circle

General Instructions

- The Worthy Patron, Organist, Warder and Sentinel do not participate in the Prayer Circle.
- If the Associate Conductress is not assisting, she enters the Prayer Circle between the Associate Matron and Martha.

Entering the Labyrinth:

- Following the Worthy Matron’s lecture, the Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter.
- The officers follow diagrams in the Ritual, pages 181-182, and the Book of Instruction page 97 to their positions in the circle.
- The Chaplain begins their approach to the Altar.
- The Worthy Matron is the first officer of the circle to move and she is the cue to the other participating officers to start their movements toward the circle. All officers participating begin moving slowly at the same time.
 - a. The Conductress waits until the Worthy Matron has passed and then causes the new member(s) to face the West (Ritual, pages 78-79). The Conductress instructs the new members to move in single file, following her.
 - b. All Star Points back behind their chairs to enter the Prayer Circle. Esther has the longest distance in this movement.
 - c. The Chaplain is the first to enter the Labyrinth.
 - d. Other officers watch the movement of the Worthy Matron as she is the first of the participating officers to enter the Labyrinth. Then together the other participating officers step in **at the same time**, retaining their movements as a circle.
- When the Chaplain reaches the Altar and all others participating are in their proper positions, the officers join hands. This signals that:
 - a. All members assume the Reverent Attitude
 - b. The Conductress(es) brings the new member(s) into the Prayer Circle. (The Conductress(es) join hands with the officer next to her/them, but not with the new member(s).)
 - c. The Chaplain then kneels for prayer and assumes the attitude of prayer. It is the Chaplain’s choice of whether or not to kneel. If the Chaplain chooses to remain standing, she/he assumes the attitude of prayer to be prepared to lead the prayer. During the prayer, officers follow instructions from the Ritual, middle of page 79.
 - d. **During the prayer:** (not at the beginning of the prayer)
 - a. **If there is only one new member**, the Worthy Matron takes the hand of the new member. The Conductress then takes the new member’s hand with her right hand, closing the circle.
 - b. **If there is more than one new member in the circle**, the Associate Conductress takes the hand of the new member on her left and the new members join hands. The Conductress again closes the circle by taking the hand of the new member on her right.
 - c. The closed circle now including our new members symbolizes our unity, fraternal bonds, and assurance that we are all in protection and support of each other.

- d. The hands are clasped and then raised with “golden chains thus lengthened” displaying our lengths of the chain.
 - e. Clasped hands, raised in unison, should be about shoulder height, giving unity and consideration of the varying heights of the officers and members in the circle. The raised height should be comfortable for all in the circle.
 - f. Clasped hands remain in this position until the words “each link shall fall away in death” when the hands are lowered by officers one by one and unclasped.
- e. The Worthy Matron’s right hand begins this process and the movement proceeds to the right around the circle.
- a. When an officer unclasps their left hand, the hand remains at their waist level and is joined there by their right hand into the Reverent Attitude. Attitude of Prayer is assumed through the prayer.
 - b. The Worthy Matron’s left hand leaves its clasp and she assumes the Reverent Attitude as the Chaplain reaching the end of the prayer says: “**AMEN**”. This timing affirms our unity in this prayer.
- d. Following the prayer:
- c. The Reverent Attitude is dropped by all members **after** the singing of the first verse of “Bless Be the Tie that Binds.” The second verse is hummed during the movements out of the circle.
 - d. The Worthy Matron is the first officer to move. Her movement is a cue to the other participating officers to slowly move together retaining their circle as long as possible. All officers (except the Chaplain) back to the edge of the Labyrinth at the same time, the Worthy Matron crossing first, and return to their stations.
 - e. The Chaplain remains at the Altar until other officers have backed to the edge of the Labyrinth, then she/he steps back out of the Labyrinth.
 - f. After the Worthy Matron passes her, the Conductress(es) countermarches with the new member(s) and marches abreast to the East so that they are centered, facing the Worthy Patron.
- Ritual Pages 183
- g. The Worthy Patron seats the Chapter when the Chaplain has returned to her/his station.
- e. Worthy Patron’s Lecture:
- h. Only the Worthy Patron or Worthy Patron pro tem shall give the lecture of the Worthy Patron during initiation.
 - i. During his lecture, the Worthy Patron remains at his station at the left of the podium.

- j. He follows the wording in the Ritual, pages 80-85. He does not use gestures.

Following the Prayer Circle

- The Conductress remains on the floor facing **southwest** when giving the Secret Work. Her attention is focused on the Worthy Patron during the Cabalistic Word and Motto. She turns her head when she repeats the Cabalistic Word and Motto to the new member(s) (Secret Work, #17) pages 3-4).
- In demonstrating the grip, the Conductress remains with the first new member until the Worthy Patron completes the instruction, she then demonstrates the grip to each of the other new members.
- If there is one new member, the Conductress proceeds directly to the Signet; if there is more than one, she passes behind the line to proceed to the Signet.
- The Worthy Patron may look at the Signet when giving his lecture.
- The lecture **Ritual pgs 86-90** is given by the Associate Patron or the Worthy Patron:
 - From 2018 GGC legislation: Paragraphs 1,2, and 8 of this lecture must be given by the AP or WP. Paragraphs 3-7 of this lecture may be omitted in short form.
- If the lecture is being given by the Associate Patron:
 - The Conductress(es) follows the Ritual (Diagram, page 184) to conduct the new member(s) to the Associate Patron, **where they may be seated if they desire.**
 - Following the Associate Patron's lecture, the Conductress(es) and new member(s), return to the East (Ritual page 185)
- Signing the Bylaws:
 - **If one new member, the Conductress:**
 - Offers her right arm to the new member, turns right and escorts the member directly to the Secretary's desk.
 - Faces north and waits for the new member.
 - Offers her right arm after the new member has signed the Bylaws and they make a circuit of the room, ending in a straight line centered in the East facing west.
 - **If more than one new member, the Conductress:**
 - Asks the new members to follow her **in couples.**
 - Turns to the left and countermarches her line about half the distance to the Secretary's desk.
 - Pauses and instructs the new members behind her to wait until she nods to each of them to proceed (beginning with the new member nearest the Altar).
 - Proceeds to the Secretary's desk with the first new member on her right arm and waits facing north.

- Offers her right arm to the new member and nods to the next member in line (the one nearest the Altar) to go to the desk unassisted. After signing, that member is escorted on the Conductress' right arm to a position on the south marching line, facing west.
- Returns to the Secretary's desk, waits facing north, and then escorts each new member (except the last one) on her right arm to her/his position on the marching line.
- The Associate Conductress offers her left arm to the last new member (moving up if necessary), escorts her/him to the desk and waits facing south. After the signing, she offers her left arm and escorts that member into position on the marching line.
- The Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter.
- The members sing a welcome song as the Conductress(es) and new member(s) make a circuit of the room, observing square corners, ending in a straight line, centered in the East facing West.
- After a hearty welcome is given, Worthy Patrons raps seating Chapter, without further instruction, the Conductress(es) seats the new member(s) and returns to her station(s).
- Prior to the ceremony of Initiation, the Conductress(es) select where the new member(s) will be seated. Make sure they are seated with family or friends so that through the duration of the meeting they are not alone and can be mentored by someone familiar to the new member(s) and the Order, Order of Business, and common courtesies.
 - Mentoring of new members is vital and should begin at this moment.