

CEREMONY OF AFFILIATION *for Chapters* COLORADO ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

NOTE: The date of affiliation is the date stated on the petition sent to the receiving chapter by the chapter requesting affiliation, and stated in the letter ordering the affiliation signed by the Worthy Grand Matron. (Bylaws of Subordinate Chapters, Sec. 4(e)). The Ceremony of Affiliation may be performed at either a stated or special meeting, at a date agreed upon by the two chapters. It is important to remember that the Affiliation Ceremony was written as a way of merging the two chapters, and welcoming the members of the affiliating chapter into the receiving chapter. The official date of affiliation of the members is the date stated in the letter signed by the Worthy Grand Matron, not the date the Affiliation Ceremony is performed.)

(If the ceremony is to be done on a regular meeting night, you will need to have a motion made to dispense the regular order of business and have the ceremony directly after opening.)

Participants in the ceremony to Affiliate shall be Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain (NE), Grand Marshal (SE), and Grand Organist. All other Grand Officers are urged to attend.

Seats shall be reserved in the southeast for all the Grand Officers.

Seats shall be reserved in the northeast for the members of the Chapter affiliating (surrendering its Charter). *(The Worthy Matron and Worthy patron could be invited to sit in the East, if the host Worthy Matron elects to extend this courtesy and there is room.)*

The continuing Chapter will open in Short Form, if this is a special meeting, and immediately proceed with the Ceremony of Affiliation. If the Ceremony is to be done on a regular meeting night, a motion is made, after Opening, to amend the regular Order of Business, and "Proceed with the Ceremony of Affiliation as the first order of business." If the Affiliation Ceremony is done at a special meeting, introductions are recommended following the ceremony as a means of getting acquainted and establishing chapter unity.

(It is suggested that the Worthy Matron of the continuing chapter ask a visitor to relieve the Chapter Warder and Sentinel so they may participate in circle.)

The floor work of the Grand Marshal results in the continuing and affiliating chapter members, and the Grand Officers present, to be intermingled around the Star Point chairs in an open circle. The opening is between the Altar and the East. The two Matrons are nearest the East on the North and the two Patrons are nearest the East on the South. The final movement is to all join hands in a "perfect circle of friendship" as the Worthy Grand Patron gives the last charge.

WORTHY MATRON: Worthy Grand Matron, I present to you the gavel that you may proceed with the Ceremony of Affiliation.

WGM: Participating Grand Officers, you will assume your stations. Sisters and Brothers, we are convened at this time and place for the purpose of affiliating * Chapter No. * with * Chapter No. *, thereby investing these Affiliated Chapters with privileges and

responsibilities as conveyed to any duly authorized chapter. From our Masonic ties we find the first stone of a new building is usually laid in the northeast corner. Therefore, the Officers and Members of * Chapter No. *(affiliating chapter), are seated in this location symbolic of what we hope to be a new and prosperous beginning for all involved. Grand Secretary, have these Chapters complied with the rules as set forth in our Bylaws governing Affiliation of Chapters?

GR. SEC'Y: Worthy Grand Matron, they have.

WGM: Grand Marshal, you will cause the members present of * Chapter No. * (affiliating chapter) and * Chapter No. * (continuing chapter), as representatives of their respective Chapters, to be in an open circle outside the Star Point Chairs. Will * (continuing chapter) Officers and Members please stand and follow the Grand Marshal? (1) (After they are in position) - Will the members of * Chapter No. * (affiliating chapter) please stand and follow the Grand Marshal? (2) Will the Grand Officers join the circle of members showing unity.(3)

(1) Grand Marshal nods to the room and circles to the NE corner with continuing chapter members following, forming a circle, leaving open spaces for affiliating chapter members and Grand Officers to join them.

(2) Grand Marshal nods to the members of the affiliating chapter to stand, circles the Star Point stations to the SE corner with members following, to join continuing chapter already in circle, filling in spaces evenly.

(3) Upon reaching the SE corner Grand Marshal nods to Grand Officers to stand, and leads them back towards the NE corner, to intermingle evenly with members in the circle. Grand Marshal joins circle in the NE corner.)

WGP: Sisters and Brothers, before we proceed with the Affiliation of your Chapters, it is necessary that you reaffirm you assent to the following pledges. Please acknowledge your consent after the pledges are heard with "I do."

(WGM leads by assuming the Reverent Attitude.)

First: That you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Second: That the name of the Order, the names of its degrees and modes of recognition are unchangeable.

Third: That our Obligation, voluntarily assumed, is perpetual, from the force of which there is no release.

Fourth: That you agree to do all in your power as individual members to guard against admitting any person into your affiliated Chapter without due inquiry being made into his or her character.

Fifth: That you will do all in your power for the general good of the Order, avoid

disputes, quarrels, and evil speaking, and be kind and courteous to all members of the Order, wherever you may meet them.

Sixth: That you will obey the laws, rules, and regulations of the Colorado Grand Chapter and the Bylaws of * Chapter No. * (continuing chapter).

Seventh: It is understood that all Titles, and Honors previously attained at * Chapter No. * (affil. chap.) will be honored at * Chapter No.* (cont. chap.)

Do you submit to all these and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully?
(Members respond audibly)

Worthy Grand Matron, you have heard the pledges made by these Sisters and Brothers. Are you satisfied that they are entitled to be received by the Grand Chapter as being united as one Chapter?

WGM: Worthy Grand Patron, in consequence of their acceptance of these pledges and the Bylaws governing the Affiliating of Chapters, and having full confidence in their sincerity, we will now proceed to affiliate * Chapter No. * (affil. chap.) with * Chapter No. * (cont. chap.)

Sisters and Brothers, the Grand Chapter of Colorado, having been assured that these Sisters and Brothers are worthy and well-qualified, has granted them approval to affiliate as one Chapter in this place. This is a good and commendable undertaking and one upon which we may reverently invoke Divine Blessing. Let us unite in prayer. ***

(WGM enters the circle between the two WM's)

(Grand Chaplain proceeds to the Altar)

GRAND CHAPLAIN: Our Heavenly Father, we pray for Thy blessing upon the members who have associated themselves together. May they accomplish the good through united labor that individual effort would fail to secure. Bless the officers who are entrusted with the government of this united chapter. May Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness govern all their deliberations. May the affiliation of these Chapters serve to strengthen our Order in this community. We commend to Thy protecting care all members of our beloved Order. In Thy Name we ask. AMEN.

HYMN: "Bless Be The Tie That Binds" *(All present sing.)*

(Grand Chaplain returns to her/his station, and the Worthy Grand Patron seats the Chapter. The Worthy Matrons and Worthy Grand Matron will move up the steps in the East. The Worthy Patrons will do the same thing on their side, joining hands, thus making a complete circle around the Star Points and the East)

WGP: You are now received into a perfect circle of friendship, completed by the

representatives of the Grand Chapter of Colorado, Order of the Eastern Star. This, the outward token of inner unity, is the golden chain that binds our fraternity together and now unites these two chapters as one. By virtue and authority of the power invested in me, I now proclaim you a duly affiliated chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. May peace, unity, and loving kindness always reign. May you abundantly prosper, and may all your undertakings be wise and good and crowned with success.

WGP: Grand Secretary, has the Grand Chapter been notified that the Bylaws, with all the members signatures, of * Chapter No. * (affil. chap.) has been presented to the Secretary of * Chapter No. * to become a part of the records of * Chapter No. *(cont. chap.)?

GR. SEC'Y: Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter has received notification.

WGP: Grand Marshal, you will escort the officers to their stations and the others to seats in the chapter room.

(The Worthy Grand Patron returns the gavel to the Worthy Matron)

(The Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron may now each deliver a brief address, or they could be asked to speak under Good of the Order.)

If this is a regular meeting night the Chapter will go ahead with business as usual. If on a different night, Chapter will be closed in the usual form.