

(All stations must be filled. Grand Officer substitutes should be Past Grands or District Deputy Grand Matrons.)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

"Changing times in our society sometimes make it necessary for a chapter to surrender its charter and lose its identity. Happily, there is always a Sister Chapter ready and willing to open its doors and its heart to those members who are devoted to the teachings of our Order and who wish to continue in its service. Such is the case of "A" Chapter which will tonight merge with "B" chapter."

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:

"I, Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of _____, Order of the Eastern Star, do hereby authorize the merger of "A" Chapter, #____, of _____ with "B" Chapter, #____, of _____."

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

"Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress, you will present the Grand Officers in a circle around our Holy Altar."

(The circle excludes the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Organist, Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel. The Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress proceed to the East marching line, turn out to the South and North, picking up Grand Officers as they pass them, march to the West line, turn in, march toward each other until nearly back of Esther's chair, turn East, proceed in two lines forming a circle within the Labyrinth around the Altar. The Grand Chaplain steps at once to a position back of the Altar, facing East.)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

"Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress, you will present the members of "A" Chapter #____ to form a circle around the Grand Officers outside the Labyrinth."

(Conductresses proceed as with Grand Officers above.)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

"Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress, you will present the members of "B" Chapter, #____ to form a third circle outside the Labyrinth and outside the second circle."

(Conductresses proceed as above.)

(Frequently there are not a lot of members for either of the two outside circles. They need to "spread themselves around the circle as best they can.)

***(Worthy Grand Matron raises the chapter)

(The Worthy Grand Patron steps down from the East to stand between the Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress thus completing the first circle.

GRAND CHAPLAIN: (kneels at the Altar)

"Dear Heavenly Father, we come to Thee for rededication to Thy Holy Word. In great humility we ask Thy Divine Guidance in all our deliberations, especially for our two chapters who tonight become one. Help us, Dear Lord, to face our tasks with courage. May our spoken words be kind and sincere. Help us by our words and acts to portray the teachings of our beautiful Order. We ask it all in the name of Him who taught us when we pray to say": (All join in the Lord's Prayer).

(While Chaplain is still kneeling at the Altar the soloist sings the following to "Bless This House:")...

Bless this Chapter Lord we pray, Make it safe by night and day;
Bless the members now joined here, May they prosper through the years
Bless all members at thy call, Let Thy peace lie over all;
Bless these doors that they may prove ever open to joy and love.

Bless the folk who gathered her making Eastern Star more dear
Bless the Altar in our sight, on it resting God's own light
Bless the lessons taught us here, keep their precepts bright and clear,
Bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with Thee,
Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with Thee.

(Chaplain stands -- backs into the Grand Officers circle)
(Worthy Matron has the doors closed.)

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:

"A great honor was paid each of us when we were deemed worthy to be instructed in the beautiful lessons of the Order of the Eastern Star. While kneeling at our sacred altar in the presence of the almighty and witnessed by friends we loved, we pledged ourselves to a solemn obligation. Our obligation is permanent; it can never be retracted nor taken a second time, but it can be repeated again and again until its spirit is impressed forever in our memory. May we all repeat our obligation, the heart and soul of our Order."

OBLIGATION (led by the Worthy Grand Patron)

(The Worthy Grand Matron seats the chapter and reopens the door.)

CHAPTER "B's" STAR POINTS: (Recited from the outer circle)...

ADAH: I bid you welcome from the blue ray of our Star
And pledge for our Adah fidelity true.
We are willing and happy to do our part
To make this union the best for you.

RUTH: I bring you a welcome from the yellow ray
As warm as the noonday sun
And our Ruth's pledge of Constancy



In all that here is done,
 With it a wish for your happiness
 May your every effort be crowned with success.

ESTHER: I bid you welcome from the ray of white
 Because your lives exemplify joy, purity and light.
 You are our Sisters and Brothers, and may our bright Star,
 Shine its radiant beams on you from afar.

MARTHA: From the green ray of our Star I bid you welcome.
 Martha teaches of faith and surely in you
 We have unbounded faith in whatever you do.

ELECTA: I bid you welcome from the red ray of our Star
 Electa teaches of Truth and Love
 Truly a blessing inspired from above.
 May we bring you true love and friendships
 That shall last your whole life through.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:
 "May we now be merged."

(Inner circle steps back into second circle, then all step back into outer circle. All join hands.)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON: (***) raises the chapter)
 "We now receive you into this Circle of Friendship and join our hands with you as a token of that inward unity which is the golden chain that binds us together. Let us all unite in singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

(After the song, the Worthy Grand Patron returns to the East)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:
 "Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress, you will return our members to their seats." (The Conductresses should be closest to the East. They will turn to the South and North marching lines, proceed to the West, turn in, march to the opposite marching lines and proceed to the North and South; then back to the West, turn in, march to the opposite line, turn to the East and return to their stations. The members should drop off at their seats; the Grand Officers should return to their stations.)

WORTHY GRAND PATRON:
 "Grand Marshal, you will now proclaim "A" Chapter, # ___ of _____
 merged with "B" Chapter, # ___ of _____."

GRAND MARSHAL: (Raises baton)
 "By order of the Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of _____,
 I hereby proclaim that "A" Chapter # ___ of _____ has on this

date merged with "B" Chapter, #___ of _____, which is a duly constituted and chartered chapter under the Grand Chapter laws of the State of _____."

(*Worthy Grand Matron seats the chapter.)

WORTHY GRAND MATRON:

"Grand Marshal, you will escort the officers of ""B" Chapter to their stations and return the Grand Officers to seats in the Chapter room."

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

REMARKS and THANK YOU'S

Ed Note: It has been uploaded to the Files section. It is in a folder called Programs- various and is named Merger Ceremony.

OESStar@egroups.com - This OES Email List is dedicated to the memory of Glenna Walsh-Frost, of

Houston, TX. the first List Moderator, who originated the idea that we could all communicate and learn from each other. It is an unofficial mailing list for members and friends of the Order of the Eastern Star. Not all participants of the list are members of the order. This list is not sponsored by nor do any of the posts listed hereon represent the opinions or directives of any Grand Chapter or any General Grand Chapter.

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