

AFFILIATION CEREMONY *for Individuals*

General Grand Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star

This ceremony is to be performed following the report of the investigating committee on the petition of the applicant(s), and subsequent election by ballot of the Chapter members.

Worthy Matron: SISTER CONDUCTRESS(S), YOU WILL PRESENT THE MEMBER(S) WHO HAS (HAVE) BEEN ELECTED BY THE VOTE OF THIS CHAPTER, TO BE AFFILIATED.

(Present and Past Most Worthy Grand Matron(s) and Patron(s), Present and Past Grand Matron(s) and Patron(s) have presumably been previously presented as Distinguished Guests, back of the Altar and given honors according to their titles. For the Ceremony of Affiliation, all prospective affiliates shall be presented West of Esther's Chair.)

Conductress: WORTHY MATRON, IT IS MY HONOR (PRIVILEGE) TO PRESENT SISTER(S) AND/OR BROTHER(S) FOR AFFILIATION WITH THIS CHAPTER. (Give name of each person and previous Chapter where membership was held.)

Worthy Matron: MY SISTER(S) AND/OR BROTHER(S), AS WORTHY MATRON OF _____ CHAPTER AND ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS, WE ARE HONORED TO RECEIVE YOU INTO OUR CHAPTER THROUGH AFFILIATION, AND ARE HAPPY TO EXTEND TO YOU OUR FRATERNAL LOVE AND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP. THE RENEWAL OF YOUR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORDER IS GRATIFYING TO US. WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL FIND NOT ONLY HARMONY WITHIN THIS CHAPTER ROOM, BUT THAT THE TIES OF OUR BEAUTIFUL ORDER WILL BRING YOU MUCH JOY AND INSPIRATION. WE NOW WELCOME YOU INTO OUR MEMBERSHIP AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN ALL THE PRIVILEGES WHICH WE OFFER, AS WE ENDEAVOR TO EXEMPLIFY THE PRINCIPLES OF CHARITY, TRUTH AND LOVING KINDNESS. WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUR RITUALISTIC CEREMONIES AND, THROUGH THIS INSTRUCTIVE WORK, BECOME BETTER ENABLED TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF OUR ORDER BY OUR SERVICE TO MANKIND AND TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

THAT WE MIGHT FURTHER ENHANCE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CEREMONY, THE DESIGNATED OFFICERS WILL FORM A SEMI-CIRCLE OUTSIDE OF THE LABYRINTH, JOINING WITH THE CONDUCTRESS(S) AND AFFILIATES(S) WEST OF ESTHER'S CHAIR, THUS COMPLETING THE SEMI-CIRCLE. (Worthy Matron calls up the Officers ... 2 raps.)

SISTER CHAPLAIN, YOU WILL APPROACH THE ALTAR.

(The other Officers will maintain an equal distance apart in approaching the West, and return to their Stations in the same manner. The Worthy Patron, Associate Patron, Associate Conductress,

if not assisting, Warder and Sentinel remain standing at their Stations. The Officers proceed toward the West on the North and South marching lines respectively, thus:

Esther turns left and steps to the North line, turns left again, marching West, taking her place at the left of the Conductress. Martha and Electa follow Esther in like manner, Treasurer and Worthy Matron follow Electa, thus completing the North side of the semi-circle. The Associate Matron steps forward to stand at the right of the Conductress, (or Associate Conductress, if assisting) or Affiliate(s). Ruth turns right to the South marching line, turns right again, marching West to take her place beside the Associate Matron. Adah follows Ruth in like manner. The Marshal and Secretary proceed West, taking their places to complete the South side of the semi-circle.) (Worthy Patron calls up the Chapter -- 3 raps.)

Worthy Patron: SISTER CHAPLAIN, YOU WILL NOW LEAD US IN PRAYER.
(All members, at this time, assume the attitude of Prayer.)

Prayer: O THOU ALMIGHTY GOD, RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE BREADTH OF WHOSE POWER IS BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF THE HUMAN MIND, THOU DID'ST PLACE A BRIGHT STAR IN THE EAST, WITH RAYS WHICH REACH TO THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE EARTH AND SHINE UPON US AS WE TRAVEL THE HIGHWAY OF OUR BEAUTIFUL ORDER, ENDEAVORING TO EXEMPLIFY THE PRINCIPLES IT TEACHES US THROUGH LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW MEN AND CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE.

WE COME TO THEE, IN THIS SOLEMN CEREMONY, WITH HUMBLE HEARTS AND LOVING SPIRITS, TO ASK THY BLESSING UPON EACH ONE OF US AS WE HERE EXTEND THE HAND OF WELFARE TO OUR AFFILIATED MEMBERS, BY THE RECEPTION OF WHOM WE HAVE LENGTHENED AND STRENGTHENED THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF FELLOWSHIP, WHICH TENDS TO BIND EASTERN STARS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, CLOSER, IN THE PROMOTION OF TRUTH AND LOVE, UNITY AND PEACE. MAY A DEEP SENSE OF WARM FRATERNALISM ABOUND WITHIN THIS CHAPTER AND CAUSE EACH MEMBER TO FEEL A CLOSER BOND WITH THEE AND WITH ONE ANOTHER, AS WE ASK FOR THY CONTINUED PRESENCE WITH US AND DIVINE GUIDANCE IN OUR SERVICE OF LOVE AND LABOR FOR THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. AMEN. (Response by all members. The attitude of Prayer is dropped and the Chaplain rises and remains standing at the Altar while the Officers forming the semi-circle, including the Affiliates, cross their arms over the breast, the left over the right, clasping hands with the Officers on the right and left, holding this position during the singing which follows.)

Worthy Patron: LET US ALL UNITE IN SINGING THE FAMILIAR ODE, "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS".

(The officers who have formed the semi-circle, with the exception of the Conductress(s) and Affiliate(s), return to their stations,

led by the Worthy Matron on the North side and the Secretary on the South side. The Chaplain follows Martha.)

Worthy Matron: (Worthy Matron seats Chapter). SISTER CONDUCTRESS AND ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS (If assisting), YOU WILL CONDUCT OUR SISTER(S) AND/OR BROTHER(S), (repeating their names) TO THE SECRETARY'S DESK TO SIGN THE BYLAWS, AFTER WHICH YOU WILL RETURN THEM (HIM OR HER) AGAIN, WEST OF ESTHER'S CHAIR.

(Worthy Matron calls up Chapter.)

Worthy Matron: SISTERS AND BROTHERS, IT IS MY PLEASANT DUTY TO PRESENT SISTER(S) AND/OR BROTHER(S), (repeat name(s) WHO IS (ARE) NOW A MEMBER(S) OF OUR CHAPTER THROUGH AFFILIATION. YOU WILL JOIN WITH ME IN GIVING HER (HIM OR THEM) A HEARTY WELCOME.

SISTER CONDUCTRESS (and Associate Conductress, if assisting), YOU WILL CONDUCT OUR NEW SISTER(S) AND/OR BROTHER(S) TO A SEAT (or seats) IN THE CHAPTER ROOM.

(Worthy Matron seats Chapter.)

At the time of Good of the Order, remarks may be invited from the Affiliate(s) and others. Appropriate music should be played for this Ceremony.

Ritual Committee, G.G.C.

Ella Mae Parker Stokes (Mrs. Kenneth) P.G.M.
Elbert L. Smith, Jr., P.G.P.
Harvey M. Johnston, P.G.P.
Hunter M. Picken, P.G.P., Chairman