

SYNOPSIS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER SESSION
Fresno, CA
October 20-22, 2011

The Grand Officers for 2011 are:

Kim Hegg	Worthy Grand Matron
Don Snyder	Worthy Grand Patron
Linda Bernhard	Associate Grand Matron
Steve Johnson	Associate Grand Patron
Maryann Barrios	Grand Secretary
Linda Hooser	Grand Treasurer
Sarahann Shapiro	Grand Conductress
Debra Maiman	Associate Grand Conductress
Jeff Baker	Grand Chaplain
Martha Peters	Grand Marshal
Darlene Cross	Grand Organist
Nancy Powers	Grand Adah
Jerry Broaker	Grand Ruth
Kathleen "Kat" Farris	Grand Esther
Cynthia Smiley	Grand Martha
Connie Snow	Grand Electa
David Shira	Grand Warder
Steve Cooley	Grand Sentinel

The arena was decorated to give the feeling of arriving at a train station, taking the train until you arrive at your destination, entering through the garden gates and proceeding to the pavilion for the party. The train station was at the back of the arena behind the West, with replicas of the

Worthy Grand Patron's formal emblem and actual train station. The West doors were in the shape of pagodas and cherry blossom trees lined the back. The stations of the Grand Conductress and the Associate Grand Conductress were decorated as part of a rock garden, with the fun emblems of the Conductresses behind their seats.

The East was simply decorated with the formal emblems of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. The theme of the session, "If You Just Believe..." was in the middle hanging against the backdrop. Lanterns decorated the ceiling of the Grand Chapter room. The edge of the East was decorated in pagoda lanterns, pandas, and snow leopards, with small white lights. The floor in front of the East was decorated to simulate a Japanese tea garden, with a bridge, grass and rocks, and a panda and snow leopard sitting in the garden.

At each morning session, the Grand Representatives, Deputy Grand Matrons, Grand Pages, and Grand Officers entered and assumed their stations. At each morning session the Hostess and Host greeted all; the Grand Chapter Room was proved at each session, and the Grand Conductress attended the Altar. The Grand Chaplain led us in prayer in the morning sessions. The Worthy Grand Matron declared each Session open, and the Grand Marshal made the proper proclamations. The Worthy Grand Patron made all necessary announcements.

Throughout the sessions, we heard reports from the Chairmen of the Standing and Special Committees of Grand Chapter.

The delegates acted on proposed legislation during the Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, and Friday afternoon sessions.

At various times during the sessions, we enjoyed the music from our Grand Choir and performances from various members of our Order.

The Thursday morning session was Formal Opening with Beverly A. Wade, Jr. PGM, as Hostess, and Larry Coffin, Jr. PGP, as Host.

The Emblem Ceremony took place, with the Grand Marshal and Grand Star Point Officers participating. The Grand Conductress escorted the Holy Bible into the Grand Chapter Room. The Grand Officers entered the Grand Chapter Room and assumed their stations.

The Hostess and Host welcomed the members. The Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron thanked the Hostess and Host for their welcome. The Grand Secretary read the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee, showing that 151 chapters had registered, more than the 20 percent required by our Constitution and Laws.

The Grand Chapter was proved and the 138th Annual Session was formally opened. The Opening Ode was sung.

The American Flag was presented, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, and the National Anthem was sung. The Worthy Grand Matron then thanked the officers and those who helped to open

this Grand Chapter. Parliamentarian Alyson Grant, PM, presented the Parliamentary Rules for the session, which were accepted as amended, the amendment being to Rule #2, so that a member had three minutes to speak for or against legislation, and the proponents could speak either first or last, but not both.

Escorted to the East and given Grand Honors were John Grobler, Acting Most Worthy Grand Patron, other General Grand Chapter elected and appointed officers, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons from California and other jurisdictions, visiting Worthy Grand Matrons and Worthy Grand Patrons and Grand Officers from various jurisdictions.

The Annual Reports of the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer were given. The Controller gave his report. Reports were also given by the Distribution, Constitution and Bylaws, and Jurisprudence Committees, as well as the head of the Election Board.

The reading of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Laws and Instruction Book was waived.

Our membership, as gathered from the Annual Report of the 179 Chapters of this Grand Jurisdiction, is as follows:

Membership as of June 30, 2010		30,322
Gained by Initiation	403	
Gained by Affiliation from inside the Jurisdiction	162	
Gained by Affiliation from outside the Jurisdiction	21	
Gained by Reinstatement	37	
Deceased in Error	13	
Total Gained		636
Loss by Demit	475	
Loss by Resignation	21	
Loss by Consolidation	22	
Loss by Suspension for nonpayment of dues	521	
Loss by Suspension for other causes	2	
Loss by Death	1,386	
Presumed Deceased	69	
Total Lost		2,496
Total Membership as of June 30, 2011		28,462

Of this figure, 5,290 are fifty-year life members, 202 are residents of charitable homes, 194 had medical exemptions and 522 had their dues remitted. This brings the total of dues paying members to 22,254. Life Sponsors of the Eastern Star Home total 15,147. There are 1,427 members who belong to two Chapters in California.

The Finance Committee report was given by Tricia Stewart, PM, Chairman.

The Worthy Grand Patron made announcements and the session was called from labor to refreshment.

At the beginning of the Thursday afternoon session, the Grand Representatives were escorted to the East and introduced. Associate Grand Matron Linda Bernhard welcomed them; the response was given Jackie Thornton, Vice-President of the Northern California Grand Representative Association.

The Annual Session Site Committee report was given by Larry Coffin, Jr. PGP. Presentations were made by representatives of both Visalia and Fresno.

The 2011-2012 budgets of the Grand Chapter and the Grand Chapter Endowment Fund was presented and accepted. Jackie Bozeman, Election Board Chairman, gave general instruction on balloting procedures.

Legislation was considered.

Announcements were made, and the session was called from labor to refreshment.

State dinners were held on Thursday night at various locations.

For the Friday morning session Sue Bishop, PGM, served as hostess; William J. Bray, III, PGP and Past Grand Master of Masons in California, served as host. They welcomed everyone to the morning session, after which the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron thanked them for their greeting.

The Worthy Grand Patron welcomed all first timers to our session.

The Residents of the Senior Living Community gave a fashion show of various hats.

The Grand Chapter was proved and the session was called from refreshment to labor.

Dignitaries not previously introduced were escorted to the East and given Grand Honors.

The Credentials Committee gave an updated report.

Don Markert, President of the Home Board of Trustees, introduced the members of the Board of Trustees and gave his annual report.

Instructions for election procedures were given, and the following members were unanimously elected to fill the offices of our Grand Chapter for the ensuing year:

Worthy Grand Matron	Linda Bernhard
Worthy Grand Patron	Steve Johnson
Associate Grand Matron	Sarahann Shapiro

Associate Grand Patron	Art Weiss
Grand Secretary	Maryann Barrios
Grand Treasurer	Tacy Lee
Grand Conductress	Debbie Maiman
Associate Grand Conductress	Martha Peters
Home Board of Trustees-North	Linda Hoesser

There were two candidates for two positions of Home Board Trustee from the South; one position was for a three year term, and one was for a two year term made vacant by the passing of Liz Moffat, PGT. The candidates were Kimberly Samson Cooke and Linda Dolman. Jackie Bozeman gave instructions, and the appropriate vote was taken. Linda Dolman was elected to the three year term, and Kimberly Cooke was elected to the two year term.

The 2011-2012 budgets of the Eastern Star Homes and the ESPP were presented and approved as printed.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Home Assessment of \$5.00 be continued for 2012.

Diane Reed, President of the California Eastern Star Foundation, presented her committee and gave her report.

The 2011-2012 budget of the California Eastern Star Foundation was presented and approved as printed.

Legislation was considered.

Three decisions of the Worthy Grand Matron were ratified.

The delegates voted on whether to hold the 2014 through 2016 Grand Chapter Sessions at Visalia or at Fresno. A written ballot was taken and it was decided that Visalia will host the 2014 through 2016 conventions.

The Worthy Grand Patron made a presentation of a \$500 music scholarship to Marsha Spiegel.

Legislation was considered.

The Worthy Grand Patron made announcements, after which the Grand Conductress attended at the Altar and the session was called from labor to refreshment.

At the Friday afternoon session, the Deputy Grand Matrons were escorted to the East and presented by the Worthy Grand Matron.

The Grand Chapter was proved and the Friday afternoon session was called from refreshment to labor.

Dignitaries not previously introduced were escorted to the East and given Grand Honors.

John Grobler, Acting Most Worthy Grand Matron, and Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron Bobbi White spoke to the California delegates. Sister Bobbi announced that the following California members have received General Grand Chapter appointments for 2012-2015, to take effect on November 8, 2012:

Kim Hegg - Credentials
Janet Robinson - Eastern Star Journal
Susan White - ESTARL
Frank Young - Jurisprudence
Don Snyder - Public Relations

The Worthy Grand Patron introduced Margaret Clarke, Worthy Grand Esther and the widow of Most Worthy Grand Patron Fred Clarke, who thanked the delegates for their kindness.

The Grand Secretary read Proposed Resolution No. 1 to the assembled delegates that asked for the endorsement of the Grand Chapter of California of Dennis P. Jordan, PGP, for the office of Right Worthy Grand Trustee of the General Grand Chapter; the election is to be held at the Triennial Assembly in Texas in 2012. The Distribution Committee referred the resolution to the Constitution and Bylaws, Jurisprudence and Finance Committees. Kathy Young of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee reported that the committees recommended a yes vote.

The Associate Grand Matron moved that the Grand Chapter support PAWS for Purple Hearts Program for 2012 as the special project of the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Matron, with the net proceeds being donated to this program. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Associate Grand Matron moved that the California Eastern Star Foundation of the Grand Chapter of California Cancer Research Fund be continued for the year 2012 with the net proceeds going to Relay for Life, with the funds being donated to the American Cancer Society. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Associate Grand Matron moved that the Grand Chapter continue their support of the We Care program. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Grand Conductress moved that the Grand Chapter of California sell advertising in the 2012 roster with the proceeds to benefit the Grand Chapter General Fund, and to sell pocket calendars for 2013, with the proceeds to benefit the Grand Chapter General Fund. The motions were seconded and adopted.

Reports were given by the Benevolent Fund, Cancer Assistance, and Scholarship committees and accepted.

Announcements were made, and the session was called from labor to refreshment.

Informal opening was held on Friday night at the Grand Banquet and Ball. The Grand Ball was held on Friday evening in the Radisson ballroom. Richard Hopper, Past Grand Master of Masons in California, was the emcee for the beginning of the evening. Seated at the head table were:

- John Grobler, Acting Most Worthy Grand Patron, and his wife Barbara;
- William J. Bray, III, Past Grand Patron and a Past Grand Master of Masons in California, escorting Jeanie Loui, wife of Frank Loui, Grand Master of Masons in California;
- Megan Goudy, Miss California Job's Daughter;
- Megan Crowley, Grand Worthy Advisor of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls;
- Bobbi White, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron;
- Kim Hegg, Worthy Grand Matron and her escort Marty Andrews;
- Don Snyder, Worthy Grand Patron and the emcee for the evening with his husband Scott Smissen,
- James Wilson, Master Councilor, NorCal Jurisdiction, Order of the De Molay.
- Katherine Ohrbom, Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Job's Daughters International

The Grand Officers and their escorts were escorted into the room. Jeff Baker, Grand Chaplain, gave the invocation and dinner was then served.

After dinner, the visiting dignitaries were recognized. Bill Bray introduced the Grand Lodge officers and their ladies, along with Jeanie Louie, wife of the Grand Master. Heads of various affiliated and concordant bodies were also recognized.

Don Snyder announced the winners of the ritual competition:

Esther's Initiation Lecture: Peggy Mecham-Carlotti

Associate Patron Long Form Initiation Lecture: Dick Anderson

Chaplain's Prayers: Don Terry

Worthy Patron/Conductress Initiation work: Robert Bernsdorf and Carole Rodrigues

All Star Point Initiation work: Kate Salazar, Leah Hahn, Tatiana Ferguson, JoAnn Krausman, Janice Mullard, and Arlene Highland

Don also announced that Rise Glaser was the winner of the travel program, and that Carrie Dacquiado was the winner of the Community Service program.

The following youth leaders addressed the guests:

- James Wilson, Master Councilor of NorCal DeMolay.
- Megan Goudy, Miss California Job's Daughter, who introduced Katherine Ohrbom, Grand Bethel Honored Queen
- Megan Crowley, Grand Worthy Advisor, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Don Snyder introduced John Grobler, Acting Most Worthy Grand Patron, who addressed the guests. He then introduced Bobbie White, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron, who also addressed the guests. William J. Bray III, PGP, Junior Past Grand Master of Masons in California then addressed the guests.

Don then thanked Dick and Judi Hopper for all the work they did to put the evening together; Jeff Baker, Grand Chaplain, gave the benediction, and then a deejay started playing dance music.

Karen Fletcher, General Grand Chapter Committee Member, Hostess, and David "Skip" Skipworth, PGP, Host, welcomed everyone to the Saturday morning session, after which the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron thanked them for their greetings.

The Worthy Grand Patron recognized Doris Heard, an 84 year member, who was attending our Session.

The Grand Conductress escorted Jane Schultz, escort of Linda Hoeser, Grand Treasurer, to the floor of the East facing west, where she was thanked for her years of service raising funds for the Scholarship fund, and presented with a quilt made by Shari Keller, Deputy Grand Matron. The Grand Chapter was proved and the Saturday morning session was called from refreshment to labor.

The Worthy Grand Patron made announcements.

Necrology Service: Eulogies were given for Frederick Clarke, Most Worthy Grand Patron; Lois Newman and Florence Adair, Past Most Worthy Grand Matrons; Isabel Marsh Johnson, 1967 Grand Treasurer, and Elizabeth "Liz" Gardner Moffat, 2010 Grand Treasurer, who passed away during the last year; our members who passed away were remembered. The Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress draped the altar. Carolyn Roberts, PM of Athena Chapter No. 46, played a harp solo.

Jay and Debra Learn, General Chairmen of Grand Chapter Week, gave their report and acknowledged the various committees who worked hard to make the session a success.

Final reports of the Distribution, Credentials, Jurisprudence and Constitution and Bylaws Committees were given.

Announcements were made.

The Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron gave their farewell remarks.

The Closing Ode "I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together" was sung, and the session was called from labor to refreshment. Following the closing of the session, the 2011 Grand Officers exited the Grand Chapter for the last time.

The session was then called from labor to refreshment, to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. for the Installation of the 2012 Grand Officers.

Saturday Afternoon/Evening Session, the 139th Installation of 2012 Grand Officers: The organists for the evening were Darlene Cross, 2011 Grand Organist, and Debi Ganaway (358). The theme for the Installation of Grand Officers was "Angels Among Us" and the East was decorated in a cloud theme, with the backdrop showing an angel in the sky radiating light from all sides. The formal emblems of the incoming Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron were on the side. The stage in the East was decorated to simulate clouds, and the floor of the East had the new fun emblems on them. The West, South and North also were decorated to simulate clouds.

The Grand Representatives entered the Grand Chapter, followed by the 2011 and 2012 Deputy Grand Matrons. The Emblem Ceremony took place, with narration by Cherri Whiteley, PM, and Sisters Karen Fletcher, GGCCM, and Sue Bishop, Sheri Weisser Sue White and Donna Herring, all Past Grand Matrons, serving as Emblem Bearers. Honorary Grand Marshal was Babara Scott, PGM. Norma Stilwell, GGCCM, served as Bible Bearer; Sue McKinney and Sherie Gustafson, both PGMs, served as Bible Escorts.

Loyal Stark, PMWGP, and Kathleen MacDonald, PGM, Host and Hostess for the evening, were escorted to the East and introduced.

Kim Hegg, WGM, and Don Snyder, WGP, were escorted to the East and introduced.

The 2011 Grand officers assumed their stations, with Beverly Wade, Jr. PGM, and Larry Coffin, Jr. PGP, assuming the office of AGM and AGP.

The Grand Chapter was opened, and the assembly recited the Lord's Prayer.

The American Flag was presented in the East by William J. Bray, III, PGP and Past Grand Master of Masons in California. The Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem followed.

Flags presented included:

- Eastern Star Flag, by JD Hammett, PGP
- Christian Flag, by Jim Chormicle, PGP
- California Flag, by Mike Cornell, PGP
- Texas Flag, by Steve Nicholas, GGCCM
- Prince Edward Island Flag, by Dennis Jordan, PGP
- Washington Flag, by Dave Buck, PGP

The Hostess and Host greeted everyone. Those participating in the Installation and Presentation of the Jewels were escorted and presented, after which the 2011 Grand Officers retired, and were escorted to the East; a recess was called.

The 2012 Grand Officers were then installed in ritualistic order, including the appointive Grand Officers, who are:

David Guggenbickler (23)	Grand Chaplain
Chris Dias (622)	Grand Marshal
Tina Spriggs (9)	Grand Organist
Margaret Foley (186/372)	Grand Adah
Kathe Larick (358/96)	Grand Ruth
Jan McPherson (428)	Grand Esther
Deborah Baker (346/93)	Grand Martha
Terri Ewing (33)	Grand Electa
Richard Marsh (143)	Grand Warder
Al Jazwiecki (163)	Grand Sentinel

The 2012 Grand Officers were proclaimed installed. Presentations of Jewels were made to our retiring Worthy Grand Matron and retiring Worthy Grand Patron. We heard remarks from Worthy Grand Matron Linda Bernhard, and Worthy Grand Patron Steve Johnson. The Worthy Grand Patron presented the Worthy Grand Matron with her gavel and sounding block made of walnut from Steve's cousin's home. The sounding block had Miss Beehaven lasered on the base. The Grand Marshal was presented with her baton, also made from wood taken from Steve's cousin's home.

The Closing Ode, "Let There be Peace on Earth," was sung, and the 138th Grand Session was closed.

The next session of Grand Chapter will be held in Fresno, California, from October 18th through October 20th, 2012.

Legislation acted on at the 2011 Grand Chapter Session

Proposed Amendments:

- No. 1 Adopted (Carryforward from 2010).
The dues portion of the per capita is to be increased by \$4.50 per member, beginning at the close of Grand Chapter 2011.
- No. 2 Adopted (Carryforward from 2010).
All votes on matters of Consolidation shall require a two thirds vote of those present and voting rather than a simple majority except for the election of officers.
- No. 3 Not Adopted.
- No. 4 Adopted.
A fine of \$50 will be levied on any Chapter that has not filed their year-end financial report with the Grand Chapter office by the constitutional deadline of December 1st; further, if the fine is not paid by the following September 15, the members of those Chapters will not be allowed to register for Grand Chapter until the fine is paid.
- No. 5 Adopted.
A third option will be added to the Uniform Code of Bylaws, dues section: "The annual dues of each member may be the sum of _____ dollars plus the amount of the Grand Chapter per capita fees and special assessments rounded up to the next higher whole number with the extra cents to go to the Subordinate Chapter.
- No. 6 Adopted.
Secretaries may scan and store petitions and attached documents of members in excess of 50 years on a recognized computerized medium such as CDs, DVDs or USB drives in a format recommended by the Grand Secretary, and that all copies of all archived materials be sent to the Grand Chapter office and that no hard copies be destroyed until confirmation of receipt of said documents has been sent from the Grand Chapter office.
- No. 7 Adopted as amended.
This requires that a Secretary in addition to an itemized list of reimbursable expenses must enclose receipts, invoices, etc. to document these expenses.
- No. 8 Adopted.
The Endowment Committee will be reduced to four members, a Chairman plus three members who are geographically distributed, all of whom shall be selected by the Associate Grand Matron to serve a one year term during her year as Worthy Grand Matron.
- No. 9 Adopted.
The Cancer Assistance Committee shall be reduced to one Chairman member who shall be selected by the Associate Grand Matron to serve a one year term during her year as Worthy Grand Matron.

No. 10 Adopted.

The amounts set forth as compensation shall be converted to an available expense allowance, which may be requested by each member entitled to receive such funds by submitting a reimbursement request with receipts to the Grand Secretary. Such request may be for any amount up to and including the total amount of that Committee member's allowance. No checks shall be sent to any Committee member for this allowance without a proper request. Any funds not requested shall remain unpaid and shall not roll over to any future year.

Resolutions presented at Grand Chapter:

No. 1 Adopted.

This resolution gives the endorsement of the Grand Chapter of California to Dennis P. Jordan, PGP, for his candidacy for the office of Right Worthy Grand Trustee of the General Grand Chapter, the election to be held in Texas in November, 2012. (Note to members: There is no financial liability to this endorsement.)

Decisions of the Worthy Grand Matron that were ratified at Grand Chapter:

No. 1 Fundraising:

When advertising to persons other than members of our Order, a chapter must state in their advertisement where the funds will be used. If a chapter fails to identify where the funds will be used, then all funds collected must go to support a Masonic charity rather than the general fund of the chapter.

No. 2 Interpretation of "Funds and Money"

Comped rooms given to the Order of the Eastern Star for Grand Chapter are not considered assets or a cash equivalent. They do not fall within the meaning of money or funds as set forth in Section 86(d) of our Constitution and Laws.

No. 3 Committee on Constitutional Reorganization

The Committee on Constitutional Reorganization is empowered to make organizational changes in our Constitution that it deems necessary in order to make the laws and provisions set forth in our Constitution user friendly.