

NOTE: These minutes were approved as corrected at the March 20, 2021, Board of Directors meeting held by video conference.

GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2021
MEETING HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

The Regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:07 a.m. via video conference by Chairman Bob Royall. The Chairman welcomed all present. All were wished a Happy New Year. The following quotes were shared:

“For those who wear a mask, we need to see your soul.”

“Practice working hard that we can’t get it right to a point we can’t get it wrong.”

Board Members present by video conference were: Chairman, Bob Royall, District Four; Vice Chairman, James Parker, District One; Secretary, Phyllis Wilson, District Five; Joe Gilmore, District One; Cindy Echols, District Two; Tamela Henington, District Two; Darrell Albrecht, District Three; Donna Noe, District Three; Bill Henry, District Four; and Randy Martin, District Five.

Others present by video conference for the meeting were: Worthy Grand Matron, Linda Winn-Christenson; Worthy Grand Patron, Paul Garner; Associate Grand Matron, Terri Rozell; Grand Secretary, Dr. Ellen Pickrell; Grand Treasurer, Greta Spradling; Grand Conductress, Phyllis Macon; Past Grand Matron, Jimmie Lee McMann; Past Grand Matron, Carolyn Martin; Barbara Martin, Ron McMurray, Cheryl Royall, Kathy Paschal, Shelly Walker, Beverly Plante, Susan Martin, Tonya Wilson, Garvid Wilson and Gary Isham.

Donna Noe presented a devotional on a Happy New Year and a quote by Bob Goff. A prayer was presented by Donna Noe at the end of the devotional.

Worthy Grand Patron Update:

Thanks were given to the Board for continuing the work of Grand Chapter and attending the meeting. He shared thoughts and information on being resilient and diligent during the Covid-19 situation.

Worthy Grand Matron Update:

Thanks were given to the Board for continuing the work of Grand Chapter and attending the meeting. Members need to believe in the Order and its future.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

- The following February birthdays were recognized: Joe Gilmore, Donna Noe and Barbara Martin.
- There were no Anniversaries to be recognized.

Minutes:

The minutes of the November 21, 2020, Regular Board of Directors meeting held by video-conference were presented.

Darrell Albrecht moved that the minutes of the November 21, 2020, Regular Board of Directors Meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Cindy Echols and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board. One member was not present for the November 20th meeting. One member abstained as he was not at the meeting.

Email Vote Ratification:

The next item of business was ratification of email votes conducted in December:

December 2nd – Vote on the Board of Directors Contract Committee’s recommendation to renew the Grand Chapter Office Lease for 3 more years.

December 2nd – Vote that the Minutes of the November 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be posted to the Grand Chapter website with a caveat in red, that reads, **“The information contained in this document will not be official until such time as the Minutes are ratified by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting to be held on January 9, 2021.”**

December 8th – Vote to have the coil, cap, and coil wire replaced on the Grand Chapter Van at a cost of approximately \$450.00.

Randy Martin moved to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Tamela Henington and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board.

Correspondence:

Cards sent by the Secretary included: 11 Birthday Cards, 3 Anniversary Card, 1 Sympathy Card, and 3 Christmas Cards.

Grand Secretary’s Report:

Testing is going on for the Beta version of the new Secretary’s Database.

IRS Forms (W2s and 1099s) have almost been completed.
The lease for the Grand Chapter Office has been renewed.
Maintenance is being done on the Grand Chapter Officesafe.
The Grand Chapter Office is sending emails to new Masons asking them and their wives to join OES.
The Grand Chapter Office is open every day during normal office hours.

Final Annual Audit Report was presented by Gary Isham.
The final documents for the Annual Audit Report have been issued. Minor changes were made. The language was updated on Endowed Memberships.
The documents will be distributed to the Board of Directors and the Corporate Board electronically.
Gary Isham thanked the Grand Secretary and Jane Pyle for their assistance during the preparation of the Audit.
Thanks, were given to the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Jane Pyle and Gary Isham for the preparation of the Audit.
Cindy Echols moved to accept the Final Annual Audit Report as presented by Gary Isham. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Wilson and adopted. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board.

Grand Treasurer's Report:

The Board has been provided with the Financial Reports as requested. The reports include: Eastern Star Home Account, Grand Chapter Account, Balance Sheet Entries and the Profit/Loss Report.
The Grand Treasurer has been receiving requests for Endowed Memberships. An average of 100-120 requests are received a year. There are a total of 7,078 Endowed Memberships.
The Grand Treasurer thanked the Grand Secretary, Jane Pyle and Gary Isham for working on the Audit.

TMRC (Our Precious Ladies):

Information on our OES Ladies was presented by Barbara Martin.
The three (3) ladies are doing well. All are receiving the Covid-19 vaccination.

Unfinished Business:

Secretary's Database Update:

Information on ENABLE Labs was presented by the Grand Secretary, Dr. Ellen Pickrell. Enable Labs testing of the new database will start this week. Twelve (12) secretaries are testing the Beta version of the database.

New Business:**139th Grand Chapter Session Update:**

Information was presented by Associate Grand Matron, Terri Rozell.

New contracts are being negotiated with the hotels. The contracts will be sent to the Board Contract Committee for review.

Ford Arena has been sold. Associate Grand Matron, Terri Rozell and Associate Grand Patron, Tom Brisko are working with management to secure the venue.

Committee Reports:

Benevolent Aid: Phyllis Wilson reported on Benevolent Aid for December 2020 and January 2021.

December 2020

Long Term Aid was paid to the following Chapters in December:

Kerrville #24	Alvarado #656	South Fort Worth #835
Duncanville #1014	New Caney #1093	Amarillo #787
Winnie #160	Aldine #1088	Burnet #425
Haltom City #982	Cockrell-Hill-Delta-Flora #794	
Grand Prairie #219	Round Rock #316	

Emergency Aid: Crescent #820 Conroe #710

Temporary Aid: None

The totals for Benevolent Aid in December were:

Long Term Aid	\$ 6,500.00
Emergency Aid	\$ 3,000.00
Temporary Aid	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 9,500.00

January 2021

Long Term Aid was paid to the following Chapters in January:

Kerrville #24	Alvarado #656	South Fort Worth #835
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Duncanville #1014	New Caney #1093	Amarillo #787
Winnie #160	Aldine #1088	Burnet #425
Haltom City #982	Cockrell Hill Delta Flora #794	
Grand Prairie #219	Round Rock #316	

Emergency Aid: None

Temporary Aid: Round Rock #316

The totals for Benevolent Aid in January were:

Long Term Aid	\$ 6,500.00
Emergency Aid	\$ 0.00
Temporary Aid	\$ 500.00
Total	\$ 7,000.00

One Long Term Aid application has been approved in January.

Museum and Facilities: Darrell Albrecht reported on the Museum.

The Grand Secretary reported that the OES display at Grand Lodge needed to be updated. There is a Signet and five pedestals that can be moved to Grand Lodge Library & Museum from the Grand Chapter Office.

Titles, Deeds, & Properties: Bill Henry reported on the Titles, Deeds and Properties. A presentation will be made at the February meeting.

Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects: Tamela Henington reported on the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects.

Members have inquired as to whether they can still purchase items.

It was suggested the remaining items be listed in the Bulletin and possibly the Grand Chapter Website.

Members purchasing items would be responsible for shipping costs.

Scholarships:

Information on Education and ESTRAL scholarships was presented by Donna Noe. Not a lot going on right now. Chapters need to understand that contributions are needed to the Humanitarian Fund to keep these programs going. Deadlines for Education and ESTRAL applications are March 1st.

Retirement Banquet: Information on the retirement banquet was presented by Bill Henry, Randy Martin, Joe Gilmore and Donna Noe.

The Board of Directors Retirement Banquet is coming soon. Date for Banquet will be July 16, 2021.

Miscellaneous:

- Next Board meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2021. The Bankers will be presenting at this meeting. The location will be determined.
- The February devotional will be given by James Parker.

District Reports:

District 1: James Parker and Joe Gilmore reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have been dark due to the inability to have a quorum during the Covid-19 situation.

Some members have the Covid-19 virus.

Past Matrons/Past Patrons District 1 meeting was cancelled.

Opal Martin's niece passed away.

District 2: Cindy Echols and Tamela Henington reported on the following happenings:

Prayers are needed for Ramona Hall.

Shelly Walker will be presenting a program at Lubbock #76 honoring the officers.

District 3: Darrell Albrecht and Donna Noe reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have been dark due to the inability to have a quorum during the Covid-19 situation.

Several members have passed away due to Covid-19 virus.

Grand Lodge has an Emergency Aid Program.

District 4: Bob Royall and Bill Henry reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have been dark due to the inability to have a quorum during the Covid-19 situation.

Some members have the Covid-19 virus.

Past Grand Patron Burley Jones had the Covid-19 virus but is doing well.

Grand Marshall Jimmy Leftwich and the Humanitarian District 1 Chairman his wife have had Covid-19 virus.

Some members have passed away,

Prayers are needed for James and Linda Roy.
Crosby High School, Crosby, TX football team will be playing in the State Championships.

District 5: Phyllis Wilson and Randy Martin reported on the following happenings:

Several Chapters have been dark due to the inability to have a quorum during the Covid-19 situation.

Some members have the Covid-19 virus. Both Carlotta and Jim Fairchild have had the Covid-19 virus.

Let Phyllis Wilson know if cards need to be sent from the Board.

Good of the Order:

The following people expressed their appreciation for the Board allowing them to attend the Regular Board Meeting:

Past Grand Matron Jimmie Lee McMann	Past Grand Matron Carolyn Martin		
Beverly Plante	Shelly Walker	Kathy Paschal	Cheryl Royall
Glenda Murphy	Ron McMurray	Tonya Wilson	

Executive Session Report: The Chairman reported on items discussed in the Executive Session: Benevolent Aid -Long Term Aid application was approved.

There being no further business, the Mizpah Benediction was repeated in unison.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Travers
Recording Secretary