

GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS  
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:00am at the Grand Chapter Office in Arlington, TX by Chairman Tamela Henington. The Chairman welcomed all present and those members attending by Zoom. Friendship quotes and a quote by Taylor Swift were shared.

Board Members present: Chairman, Tamela Henington; Vice Chairman, Joe Gilmore, District 1; Rick Taylor, District 1; Mary Medford, District 2; Beverly Plante, District 3; Donna Noe, District 3; Bill Henry, District 4; Oscar Hairell, District 5; and Karen Wright, District 5.

Board Members Absent: Brenda McDaniel, District 4.

Members Attending by Zoom: Worthy Grand Matron, Susan Dormady; Worthy Grand Patron; Mark Dieckmann; Associate Grand Matron, Glenda Murphy; Grand Conductress, Glenda Klemm; Associate Grand Conductress, Kathy Paschal; Past Grand Matron, Terri Rozell; Past Grand Patron, Tom Brisko; Bob Royall, Burce Dalton, Kelly Huffman, Maverick Murray, Caron Joseph, and Ashu Kurkreja.

Others present for the meeting were: Grand Secretary, Ellen Pickrell; Grand Treasurer, Greta Spradling; Past Grand Matron, Carolyn Martin; Past Grand Matron, Phyllis Macon; Past Grand Patron, James Parker; Xanthe Parker, Chris Elliott, Lou Anne Elliott, Roy Parsons, Judy Parsons, Barbara Martin, Lyndon Westerberg, Gary Isham, Jane Pyle, and Janet Travers.

Oscar Hairell presented a devotional based on Lent and Ash Wednesday.  
A prayer was presented by Oscar Hairell at the end of the devotional.

Donna Noe was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem.

JP Morgan Chase (Bankers Presentation)

Lyndon Westerberg presented a Financial Review and Market Outlook for the Grand Chapter of Texas to the Board of Directors.

They provided copies of a detailed Financial and Investment Review for all Board of Director members and all Corporate Board members.

Worthy Grand Matron Remarks:

The Worthy Grand Matron, Susan Dormady, welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for conducting the business of Grand Chapter. She thanked the Board for the questions asked during the Bankers presentation.

Worthy Grand Patron Remarks:

The Worthy Grand Patron, Mark Dieckmann, welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for having Zoom available so members at the School of Instruction could join the meeting. He thanked the Board for all that they were doing for Grand Chapter membership.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

The following March Birthdays were recognized: Rick Taylor and Glenda Murphy.

The following March Anniversary was recognized Joe and Kathy Paschal.

The Chairman presented the following Housekeeping Rules for the meeting:

- Only Board Members speak during discussions.
- If a guest has a question, the guest should present the question to a Board Member so it may be brought before the Board.
- If a virtual guest has a question, the guest should text the question to a Board Member so it may be brought before the Board.
- Make eye contact with members in the room during the Mizpah Benediction.

Chairman thanked Joe Gilmore, Donna Noe, and Janet Travers for conducting the January meeting in Floresville in Brenda McDaniel's and her absence.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the January 13, 2024, Regular Board of Directors Meeting at the Lauro G. Deleon Floresville Event Center, Floresville, TX, were presented.

Joe Gilmore moved that the minutes of the January 13, 2024, Regular Board of Directors Meeting be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Rick Taylor and adopted.

**Email Vote Ratification:**

The next item of business was ratification of email votes conducted in January and February.

January 16, 2024 – Vote to accept the five hotel contracts for the 141st Grand Chapter Session.

February 3, 2024 – Vote to approve the request of the Worthy Grand Matron to reduce the price of the bears, necklaces, charms, bracelets, and Vet pins by half price.

February 3, 2024 - Vote to approve the request of the Worthy Grand Matron to reduce the price of the dress pins by half price.

Karen Wright moved to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Oscar Hairell and adopted.

**Correspondence: None**

Cards sent by the Secretary, Brenda McDaniel, included: 13 Birthday Cards, 1 Get Well Card, 9 Thinking of You Cards, and 6 Sympathy Cards, for a total of 29 cards.

Grand Secretary's Report was given by Ellen Pickrell.

The updates to the Historical Highlights have been finalized.

The Proceedings for Past Grand Matron Phyllis Macon and Past Grand Patron James Parker have been completed.

The Grand Chapter Audit has been completed.

The Grand Chapter Office lease has been negotiated and is ready for review and approval.

The Grand Chapter Candidates resumes have been received and are ready to be printed in the

**Bulletin.**

Ticket and Housing information for the Grand Chapter Session has been completed and is ready to be printed in the Bulletin.

Non-OES items for Auction have sold for the amount of \$100.00. Items not sold will be placed on E-bay.

Grand Treasurer's Report was given by Greta Spradling.

The Board has been provided with the Financial Reports as requested. The reports included: Grand Chapter Account, Balance Sheet Entries and the Profit/Loss Report.

Total Accounts/Assets in the amount of \$24,608,232.14 as of 2/14/2024.

This is a \$2,000.00 increase over funds at this time last year.

Board was provided with a monthly funds comparison for Grand Chapter.

The Board expressed their thanks for the monthly comparison spreadsheet.

The Board thanked Greta Spradling for setting up and conducting the Zoom meetings.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Past Grand Matrons Report:**

The Past Grand Matrons Report was presented by Past Grand Matron Phyllis Macon. Additional information was provided by Past Grand Patron James Parker.

The Past Grand Matron expressed her appreciation to the past and current Board of Directors that she served with from 2018 to 2023.

The \$20,000.00 provided from Grand Chapter for the 2022-2023 year has been repaid.

The Past Grand Patron expressed his appreciation to the past and current Board of Directors.

Donna Noe moved to accept the report of the Past Grand Matron for the 140th Grand Chapter Session. The motion was seconded by Mary Medford and adopted.

**Charities Foundation meeting with Board of Directors:**

This meeting has been postponed until April 20, 2024.

The Foundation will have a meeting in March.

**Parliamentary Procedure Article for Bulletin.**

This article is being finalized for printing in the Bulletin.

**New Business:**

**Investment Committee:**

The Investment Committee report was presented by Past Grand Matron Carloyn Martin.

Members of the Committee include Past Grand Matron Janie Yengar and Bob Royall.

The committee reviews the audits and investments of Grand Chapter and makes recommendations to the Board and/or the Worthy Grand Matron.

Investments are going well at this time and there are no additional recommendations.

**Audit Report:**

The Grand Chapter Audit Report for 2022-2023 was presented by Gary Isham of Isham & Ramirez PLLC.

Jane Pyle presented the procedures and processes conducted to develop the Audit Report.

Gary Isham provided an overview of the report pointing out key findings.

Joe Gilmore moved to accept the Audit Report for 2022-2023 for Grand Chapter. The motion

was seconded by Donna Noe and adopted.

Special thanks were given to Jane Pyle and Gray Isham for working on the Audit.

#### Committee Reports:

Benevolent Aid: Beverly Plante reported on Benevolent Aid for December 2023 and January 2024.

For the month of February, the Grand Chapter issued checks in the amounts of:

Long Term Aid	\$3,400.00	7 Chapters
Temporary Aid	\$ 500.00	1 Chapter
Emergency Aid	\$1,500.00	1 Chapter

A total of \$5,400.00.

Year to Date a total of \$28,400 has been provided to members for Benevolent Aid.

Special thanks was given to Ellen Pickrell and Jane Pyle for their assistance with Benevolent Aid.

Museum and Facilities: Mary Medford reported on Museum and Facilities.

Grand Secretary Ellen Pickrell, reported on second group of non-OES items.

Total amount received from Auctions at this time is \$180.00.

Titles, Deeds, & Properties: Rick Taylor reported on the Titles, Deeds and Properties.

Production of oil wells remains the same. These leases bring in an income of approximately \$6,000.00 a month.

Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects: Karen Wright reported on the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Projects.

All projects are showing a profit. Rob Morris auctions are bringing in a profit and have increased by \$5,000.00 in the last month.

TMRC Lady: Donna Noe and Barbara Martin reported on our TMRC Lady.

Our TMRC precious lady is doing well. Barbara Martin recently visited her. Suzanne Walters wants the Board to know that she appreciates all they have done for her.

#### Retirement Party:

Donna Noe, Mary Medford and Karen Wright are working on the Retirement Party. The date for this event is July 19, 2024, at Southside Lodge in Fort Worth.

#### Miscellaneous:

Ray Hargis has passed away.

Board of Directors to honor Ray Hargis as he was a member of the Board, Executive Director for the 140th Grand Chapter Session, Past Patron of several Chapters and Chair of various Grand Chapter and General Grand Chapter committees.

#### Grand Chapter Office Lease:

A new lease has been negotiated. The lease will be reviewed by the Board and voted on by email vote or at the next meeting.

Grand Chapter Website:

The Grand Chapter Website Committee is appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron. Suggestions for additions and deletions should be sent to Ashu Kukreja.

Legislation:

The Board will be working on legislation recommendations next month.

District Reports:

District 1: Joe Gilmore and Rick Taylor reported on the following happenings:

Chapters have been having initiations and wonderful programs.

Member Ray Hargis passed away.

District 2: Tamela Henington and Mary Medford reported on the following happenings:

Chapters have been having initiations.

Schools of Instruction will be starting in March.

There will be a Candidates Forum in Midland after the Schools of Instruction are finished.

Queen Esther Chapter will be having a Fraternal Visit on April 9th.

District 3: Beverly Plante and Donna Noe reported on the following happenings:

Chapters have been having initiations.

District Deputy is conducting visits to Chapters.

There has been no consolidation or demising of Chapters.

March 4th there will be a meeting to Honor the School Officers.

District 4: Bill Henry reported on the following happenings:

Schools of Instruction are underway and doing well.

There are several interesting programs that have been posted in the Bulletin will be happening.

District 5: Oscar Hairell and Karen Wright reported on the following happenings:

Schools of Instruction are finished.

Past Grand Matron Betty Friend, husband, Jack Friend, is in hospice.

Executive Session Report: The Chairman reported on items discussed in the Executive Session: Ratified Benevolent Aid requests, discussed legislation procedures, honoring Ray Hargis, Grand Chapter Website, briefly electronic voting, and upcoming meetings.

All the visitors were thanked for attending the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Travers  
Recording Secretary