

GRAND CHAPTER OF TEXAS
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:01am at the Grand Chapter Office in Arlington, TX by Chairman Tamela Henington. The Chairman welcomed all present and those members attending by Zoom with an Irish Blessing

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

Members Attending by Zoom: Beverly Plante, District 3; Worthy Grand Patron; Mark Dieckmann; Associate Grand Conductress, Kathy Paschal; Past Grand Matron, Jerre Lucas; Past Grand Matron, Terri Rozell; Kelly Huffman, Caron Joseph, Tammy Andricak, and Lori Goldman.

Others present for the meeting were: Associate Grand Matron, Glenda Murphy; Grand Secretary, Ellen Pickrell; Grand Treasurer, Greta Spradling; Chris Elliott, Barbara Martin, Bruce Dalton, Jane Pyle, and Janet Travers.

Mary Medford presented a devotional on Easter and its importance. Several scriptures were shared: John 1:29, Luke 23:6, John 19:41 and 1 Peter 1:3.

A prayer was presented by Mary Medford at the end of the devotional.

Worthy Grand Matron Remarks:

The Worthy Grand Matron, Susan Dormady, was not able to attend as she was at the opening of the School of Instruction.

Worthy Grand Patron Remarks:

The Worthy Grand Patron, Mark Dieckmann, welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for having Zoom available. He thanked the Board for all that they were doing for Grand Chapter membership and all the visitors for attending.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

The following April Birthdays were recognized: Jesse Ramos and Dan Noe.

The were no April Anniversaries to be recognized.

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.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 17, 2024, Regular Board of Directors Meeting at the Grand Chapter Office in Arlington, TX were presented.

Joe Gilmore moved that the minutes of the February 17, 2024, Regular Board of Directors Meeting be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Wright. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board and adopted. Brenda McDaniel abstained as she was not present at the February meeting.

Email Vote Ratification:

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

February 22, 2024 – Vote to approve the lease agreement for the Grand Chapter Office.

March 13, 2024 – Vote to approve the request of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron to drive the van to New Mexico in March and April.

Joe Gilmore moved to ratify the email votes. The motion was seconded by Rick Taylor. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board and adopted.

Correspondence:

Cards sent by the Secretary, Brenda McDaniel, included: 8 Birthday Cards, 4 Get Well Cards, 9 Thinking of You Cards, and 7 Sympathy Cards, for a total of 29 cards.

Thank you card from the family of Ray Hargis for the floral arrangement for the funeral was read.

Inquiry as to everyone on the Board receiving Past Grand Matron Phyllis Macon's informational emails. Secretary Brenda McDaniel expressed her appreciation to Past Grand Matron Phyllis Macon for her emails regarding illnesses and deaths of OES members and their family.

Grand Secretary's Report was given by Ellen Pickrell.

Ellen Pickrell, Greta Spradling, and others have moved the filing cabinets from the Board Room. With the assistance of Dewy Teague and Jerry Boldin the new Grand Chapter trailer has been loaded. The pedestals and the Altar have been moved to the storage room.

Dues cards will be mailed to the Chapter Secretaries this week.

Endowed Membership checks will be mailed later this month.

Grand Chapter has received 27 applications for Educational Scholarships.

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 \$24,564,736.85 as of 3/11/2024.

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

Endowed Membership checks will be mailed later this month.

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

Unfinished Business:

Electronic Voting Devices information was presented by the Worthy Grand Patron.

The Chairman redacted the information that the devices were to be called Audience Response System. The devices will be referred to as Electronic Voting Devices.

Before the Worthy Grand Patron explained the plans for using Electronic Voting Devices, the Chairman of the Board gave a statement stating the support of the office of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worth Grand Patron, our obligation, and the importance of the Constitution and Code of Laws.

Code of Laws, Article 152M. Executive Committee for Grand Chapter Sessions – outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

The Chariman of the Board read a letter from the Waco Convention Center Bureau of Tourism. An email from the Worthy Grand Patron was read concerning the Grant.

The Waco Convention Center Bureau of Tourism has awarded a Grant of \$10,000.00 to the Grand Chapter of Texas for use at the Grand Chapter Session.

The Waco Convention Center Bureau of Tourism requested a Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification which has been completed.

Three bids were received by companies leasing Electronic Voting Devices and the lowest bid was from Turning Point.

The Executive Committee for the 2024 Grand Chapter Session has awarded the contract to Turning Point.

Each Voting Member will be issued an Electronic Voting Device at Registration of the Grand Chapter Session. This device will be clipped to the Registration Name Tag Lanyard.

The cost for a lost device is \$65.00 and will be paid by the member who lost the device.

Information on how the Electronic Voting Device will work will be published in the May, June and July Bulletins.

Since this is an project of the Executive Committee for the Grand Chapter Session, there is no vote needed by the Board of Directors.

Answers to the questions from the Board of Directors to the Worthy Grand Patron were reported.

Shuttle Service at the Grand Chapter Session:

There will be no shuttle service between the hotels and Grand Lodge.

There will be shuttle service between the Lee Lockwood Center and Grand Lodge.

New Business:

Purposes and Policies:

Purposes and Policies for the 2024 – 2025 Grand Chapter year was presented by Associate Grand Matron, Glenda Murphy.

The items for projects that needed to be funded were presented.

A review was given as to the projects that did not need to be funded and the Humanitarian program.

Oscar Hairell moved to accept the Purposes and Policies for 2024-2025 as presented by the Associate Grand Matron. The motion was seconded by Brenda McDaniel. The vote was conducted by roll call of the Board and adopted.

Legislation:

There will be a Legislation Workshop at the end of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Oscar Hairell will chair the meeting.

Smith County Lawsuit information was presented by Rick Taylor.

The Lawsuit has been brought against the Grand Chapter of Texas and 20 other owners of a piece of property in Smith County. The property consists of 49.9 acres.

The lawsuit by Mr. Andrews for \$250,000.00 is to force the consolidation of land into one entity and be sold.

The OES attorney for this case is Kilgore and Kilgore.

The Grand Chapter on pays taxes on 1/29th of this land.

Bankers New Schedule:

The Bankers schedule to meet with the Board of Directors has changed. Since the meeting with the Bankers was delayed from January to February, it has been decided that the July meeting with the Bankers will be cancelled. The next meeting with the Bankers is in May.

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	\$ 0.00	
Emergency Aid	\$3,000.00	2 Chapters
A total of \$6,400.00.		

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 \$500.00.

Ellen Pickrell and Greta Spradling were thanked for the rearrangement of the Board Room.

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

An informal agreement was reached between Grand Chapter and the Charities Foundation in September 2023 to assign over the Gas and Oil Properties belonging to the Charities Foundation. There are 25-30 forms for properties that need to be signed and notarized.

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

All projects are showing a profit. Most of the merchandise has been sold except for jewelry items.

TMRC Lady: Donna Noe and Barbara Martin reported on our TMRC Lady. Our TMRC precious lady is doing well. Barbara Martin will be visiting her. Suzanne Walters has received a hearing aid.

Miscellaneous:

Electronic Voting Devices Clarification: Past Grand Matron, Terri Rozell clarified that she had meetings with the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Patron concerning the electronic voting devices. The Jurisprudence Committee was not involved.

April meeting:

The Board will finalize legislation.

Karen Wright will provide the devotional.

There will be an informal lunch with the Charities Foundation.

May meeting:

Bankers presentation.

Associate Grand Matron and Associate Grand Patron will present the budget for the 2024-2025 Grand Chapter Year.

Budget Workshop to be held at the conclusion of the Regular meeting.

District Reports:

District 1: Joe Gilmore and Rick Taylor reported on the following happenings: Cindy Brisko's mother passed away. Cindy's mother was a hero of World War II.

District 2: Tamela Henington and Mary Bedford reported on the following happenings: Schools of Instruction are being conducted. There will be a Candidates Forum after the Schools of Instruction are finished.

District 3: Beverly Plante and Donna Noe reported on the following happenings: Chapters have been having initiations. District Deputy Grand Matron has finished conducting visits to Chapters. Beverly Plante had hip surgery and is now in rehab.

District 4: Bill Henry reported on the following happenings: Chapters have been having initiations and wonderful programs.

District 5: Oscar Hairell and Karen Wright reported on the following happenings: Schools of Instruction were successful. Past Grand Matron Betty Friend, husband, Jack Friend, has passed away. Past Grand Matron Linda Winn-Christenson, husband, Victor Christenson, has passed away.

Executive Session Report: The Chairman reported on items discussed in the Executive Session: Ratified Benevolent Aid requests, discussed legislation procedures, electronic voting, Smith County Lawsuit and upcoming meetings.

All the visitors were thanked for attending the meeting.

There was no further business to be brought to the Board.
The Mizpah Benediction was repeated in unison.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Travers
Recording Secretary