



**Board of Directors
Order of the Eastern Star
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Grand Chapter Office
8101 Valcasi Drive, Suite 101, Arlington, Texas
October 15, 2022**

Chairman Cindy Echols **called the meeting to order** at 9:00 a.m. and **welcomed** everyone with an Inspirational Thought.

Board Members present were Chairman Cindy Echols, District Two, Vice Chairman Darrell Albrecht, District Three, Secretary Brenda McDaniel, District Four, Joe Gilmore, District One, Rick Taylor, District One, Beverly Plante, District Three, Bill Henry, District Four, and Oscar Hairell, District Five.

Others present were Susan Dormady, Associate Grand Matron, Mark Dieckmann, Associate Grand Patron, Tom Brisko, Past Grand Patron, Sherry Dieckmann, Kay Gilmore, Carla Stringer, Deborah Van Cleave, Mary Medford, and two of our bankers, Lyndon Westerberg and Josh Biering.

Those attending by Zoom were Board Member Tamela Henington, District Two, Grand Treasurer, Greta Spradling, Past Grand Matron, Carolyn Martin, and Tammy Andricak.

Absent was Board Member Randy Martin, District Five, due to health reasons.

The **Devotional** was given by Joe Gilmore, explaining OES is like a donut, sweet on the outside, but the real goodness is on the inside. He closed with a word of prayer.

A **JP Morgan Bankers Presentation** was given by Lyndon Westerberg and Josh Biering. They presented and explained our Investment Booklet. We all know we have been through a most unusual time with a Global economic shutdown during COVID. Our workforce is still suffering. There have been a lot of early retirements. Businesses are still short of staff. We are having increased prices because employers are having to pay staff more to keep them. Inflation numbers will probably stay high, and with these inflation numbers rising, they are estimating it will be next year before these numbers may level out. Our funds are pretty stable through this technical “recession,” but we are basically conservative in our investing. Overall, our money gives high quality dividends. The conversation was that we are now aligned with our Constitution as far as our Constitution allows, and we cannot make too many major changes in our investments. We have a very conservative folder, but as we all know, if we become more aggressive, then of course, then we would become more at risk inclined in this very unstable time. It was discussed that the

Board needs to continue to have these discussions about where we would like to invest and how much risk we are willing to take. Sister Greta Spradling asked Lyndon Westerberg if we could increase more cash 30 Day Investments. Lyndon responded that is a very good possibility, and he would recommend it in about three to six months, but not right now. Chairman Cindy Echols asked to confirm our next meeting dates with the bankers, and they said they would confirm these dates soon with her. It was discussed we normally receive 25 booklets; we can reduce this number to 15. This information could also be sent electronically. The bankers said they will send it electronically to Chairman Cindy Echols, and she agreed she would forward it, as necessary.

Chairman Cindy Echols reviewed the **Housekeeping Rules** for our meeting with everyone.

Birthdays were announced:

Greta Spradling, Grand Treasurer	November 11 th
Carol Jackson, Grand Marshal	November 23 rd
Cindy Echols	November 30 th

No Anniversaries were announced.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes for the September 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting held at the Grand Chapter Office in Arlington were presented and reviewed. A correction was made to the spelling of Oscar Hairell's last name. Brenda McDaniel moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Oscar Harrell seconded, and motion carried.

Ratify E-Mail Votes – On the email dated October 3, 2022, Brother Randy Martin made the motion, which was seconded by Brother Oscar Hairell, to approve the Worthy Grand Matron's request to send \$2,500.00 Benevolent Aid to Florida to assist with the hurricane disaster recovery. It was approved with a vote of 8 in favor of approving (Brother Bill Henry voted via telephone call with the Chairman), and 1 member out of the country and unavailable. Joe Gilmore moved to ratify the email vote. Rick seconded, Darrell abstained, and motion carried.

Correspondence – Board Secretary Brenda McDaniel reported since our last meeting she had mailed 2 Anniversary Cards, 10 Birthday Cards, 7 Get Well Cards, 3 Sympathy Cards, and 2 Thinking of You Cards for a total of 24 Cards. She read the names of whom the cards were mailed to.

Brenda then read a Thank You Card from Worthy Grand Patron James Parker for the love gift that the board members gave him at Grand Chapter.

Grand Secretary's Report – Knowing that she was going to be absent from this meeting, Grand Secretary Ellen Pickrell emailed all of her reports to the board members prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Grand Treasurer's Report – Grand Treasurer Greta Spradling reported she emailed all the Financial reports prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. There were none. She also thanked the Secretary of a chapter for contacting her regarding the fact that an increase in the monthly payment of their long-term aid application had been approved in July; however, they did

not receive the new amount in September or October. This mistake will be corrected, and an additional check will be issued to the chapter.

Unfinished Business – Randy Martin had volunteered to order a new Sound System to be used at our Schools. It was reported that the sound system has been on backorder. Brother Randy was planning to purchase it, and then we were going to reimburse him, but this has not happened yet, because he has not been able to purchase it yet. Randy would let the Rockport School borrow his personal sound system, if needed.

New Business – Associate Grand Matron Susan Dormady and Associate Grand Patron Mark Dieckman and their Executive Team presented information for their 141st Grand Chapter Session. Sister Deborah Van Cleave, Executive Committee Chairman, explained details working with representatives from the City of Waco, Waco Chamber of Commerce, Grand Lodge of Texas, Lee Lockwood Library and caterers and hotels in Waco. They said it helped with the negotiations that Grand Conductress Glenda Murphy was also with them talking to Waco about having Grand Chapter there the following year. This is helping to get better prices and contracts. Sister Deborah Van Cleave said they are very pleased with the upcoming plans. They have applied and have been approved for a \$10,000 grant from Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau to be received in August 2024. Sister Deborah presented all board members with a copy of their two contracts from Lee Lockwood and Grand Lodge of Texas. Sister Deborah presented Chairman Cindy Echols with the original contract to be signed by Grand Secretary and the Contract Committee to review them.

Committee Reports:

- **Benevolent Aid** – Beverly Plante reported that \$5,450.00 was paid in long-term aid in September. For right now because of Randy Martin's illness, Cindy Echols is serving as Chairman of this committee and Beverly has offered whatever assistance possible, plus Oscar has offered to help too.
- **Museum & Facilities** – Brenda McDaniel reported she spoke to Museum General Chairman Konnie Harrell and they had nothing to report at this time. Sister Beverly Plante commented that she hoped someone would find Mary Ruth White's sheaf of wheat.
- **Titles, Deeds & Properties** – Rick Taylor reported he understood a new group has gone in for a visit to see what the workload will be; he does not think they have made any headway yet but suspect they will.
- **WGM's Special Projects** - Brenda McDaniel said we needed to express our appreciation to Grand Secretary Ellen Pickrell for our detailed monthly report for the Worthy Grand Matron's Projects. Brenda distributed another copy of the information Sister Ellen emailed to us. At this time, there are 16 of the 20 items showing a profit. Two items have had no activity. We compared the Cost/Expenses in Dollars (\$32,940.77) to the column of Profit/After Expenses (\$32,656.27). Only four items have not made a profit as of October 5, 2022. These sales should be commended with this being so early in the year.

Past Grand Patron Tom Brisko commented he knew how difficult it is to plan and predict the market for specific items, but he was very pleased with the items and sales of the items they had last year. He said by the end of the year, all of their items were in the black with over \$55,000 given to charities and very few items left over. The Board agreed and commended them for their efforts for a great year last year. Brother Tom also expressed his appreciation for the spreadsheet for explanation of items provided by our Grand Secretary.

- **TMRC Lady** – Beverly Plante reported Barbara Martin said she hated she could not attend today's board meeting because of illness. In talking to Suzanne, she has been giving Christmas gift ideas. Suzanne is doing well, but mask protocols are again being observed at this time for visitors.

Worthy Grand Matron Remarks – Worthy Grand Matron, Phyllis Macon, thanked the Board of Directors for their service and said to please let them know if they could help in any way. She expressed her appreciation for the van door repair. They were excited about having a great school at Floresville for District 5, Section 5 & 7. She said they are selling lots of merchandise, with a nice turnout with several first timers. She said they were saddened to hear about the death of Lorrie Owens, and when she hears about the arrangements, she will let us know.

Worthy Grand Patron Remarks – Worthy Grand Patron, James Parker, expressed his appreciation for the service of the Board of Directors. He said he wished he and the Worthy Grand Matron could be at the board meeting, but yet, he wished the Board could have been at the school.

Miscellaneous:

- Chairman Cindy Echols announced our next Board Meeting will be Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the Grand Chapter Office in Arlington; Sister Brenda McDaniel will give the Devotional; Sisters Glenda Murphy, Grand Conductress, and Carolyn Martin, Past Grand Matron, will present information on the 142nd Grand Chapter Session.
- Board Secretary Brenda McDaniel reminded the Board Members to send her the information of anyone who they would like for her to mail a card to on behalf of the Board members. She asked to please include their address if they are not in the Who's Who, because sometimes it is difficult for her to find addresses for members or families of members.
- Sister Brenda reported that October 22 is the 90th Birthday of Pat Wicker, Tamela Henington's mother, and she was sending a card on behalf of the Board but knew Sister Pat would appreciate individual cards too. Sister Pat has been an Eastern Star member for over 60 years.

District Reports:

- **District One** – Joe Gilmore and Rick Taylor reported special events going on in their district plus those who were ill. Prayers for Susan Hunter.

- **District Two** – Cindy Echols reported they were encouraged and excited about recent new members initiations, and they were excited about 50-year members being surprised to receive their certificates at the Lubbock School.
- **District Three** – Beverly Plante reported that the Lodge in Cleburne was sold, but she did not know where they are meeting. She heard it was at Rio Vista. She has attended several Anniversary Teas and was excited to visit with members who were 55 to 80 year OES members. Sister Beverly said she also attended the TMRC day. They are having several initiations and lots of Deputy Grand Matrons Official Visits. Recent deaths reported were Lorrie Owens and Shirley Martindale. Brother Darrell Albrecht said he has been going to the Deputy's visits and that Crescent Chapter has several new members who have either pluralized or joined them. They also have had several people contacting them about joining.
- **District Four** – Bill Henry and Brenda McDaniel reported they are still having lots of Deputy Grand Matron Official Visits and several chapter anniversaries and special events. They are encouraged with several initiations for new members.
- **District Five** – Oscar Hairell reported everyone has been working hard for their Schools. Our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's teachings are being well received and appreciated. Oscar asked everyone to keep Randy Martin in their thoughts and prayers. He said he felt Randy's health was very volatile at this time. Randy was still not getting much clarity from the doctors of what his problem is, so please keep Randy and Susan in your prayers. Also, Oscar reported the death of Lorrie Owens is a great loss for District Five. Continued prayers for Past Grand Matrons, Annette Curry and Betty and Jack Friend.

Executive Session Report – Chairman Cindy Echols reported that during the Executive Session one of our Long-Term payments had been revised, and we approved a Temporary Benevolent Aid Application.

Greetings from Tom Brisko – Past Grand Patron Tom Brisko said he had enjoyed attending the board meeting. He thanked the Board for their hard work. He knew that even during COVID this board did still function and did continue to get the necessary work done. He said he recently attended TMRC Day, and they were encouraged because they had new members becoming active and were also encouraged to have successful fundraising at this event. He has been busy attending many Eastern Star events and Chapter Anniversaries. He also wanted to thank everyone who attended our Grand Chapter Session in Beaumont. So many members worked so hard to make this Grand Chapter a success. He said he is very excited about the idea of having Grand Chapter in Waco at Grand Lodge, and he said he felt like this is a great thing for both Eastern Star and Grand Lodge.

Greetings from Carolyn Martin – Past Grand Matron, Carolyn Martin, said she enjoyed attending the board meeting by Zoom. It was a very interesting meeting. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for their continued hard work, plus she expressed her appreciation to Brother Bill Henry for attending their Deputy Grand Matron Official Visit in Crockett Chapter.

Comments from Greta Spradling – Grand Treasurer Greta Spradling paid tribute to Lorrie Owens. When Sister Lorrie was Grand Treasurer, she did a lot of work to help us digitalize our Eastern Star banking records, whereas now we use QuickBooks. Sister Lorrie will be greatly missed and appreciated for her hard work as Grand Treasurer.

Mizpah Benediction was repeated by all.

Meeting was **Adjourned** at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda McDaniel
OES Board Secretary