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GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

January 2, 2025

General Grand Chapter Trustees
All Elected and Appointed General Grand Chapter Officers
All Past Most Worthy Grand Matrons and Patrons
All General Grand Chapter Committee Chairman
Grand Chapter Secretaries

Sister and Brothers:

To All Grand Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, and Their Subordinate Chapters

And

To All Subordinate Chapters Under the Jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At the recent General Grand Chapter Session in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the voting delegates adopted Resolution #42, which expands the qualifications for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star to include a female petitioner sponsored by one Brother and one Sister who submit a letter of recommendation on the petitioner's behalf. Since then, we have received several questions from members asking if Grand Chapters have the authority to reject Resolution #42 or refuse to allow a sponsored female petitioner to submit a petition for membership in the Order. We have prepared this letter to provide answers to those questions and guidance to the Grand Chapters and to the subordinate Chapters under the direct jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

The Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star provides in Article VII, section (d), that the General Grand Chapter has exclusive authority over determining the qualifications for membership in the Order. Therefore, Grand Chapters do not have the authority to reject Resolution #42, and do not have the authority to restrict or expand the qualifications for membership. Furthermore, subordinate Chapters may not refuse to accept a

petition for membership in the Order from a sponsored female petitioner so long as the required paperwork and initiation fee accompanies the petition. Finally, to the extent that any Grand Chapter has a provision in its governing documents that prevails with the sponsored membership language in Resolution #42, then the language of Resolution #42 controls, and the conflicting Grand Chapter provision is of no effect.

Thank you all for your support and for your continued dedication to the Order of the Eastern Star, and we look forward to seeing you during our travels over the next three years!

Sincerely and fraternally,



Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron



Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron

