

We Depend On You

Good afternoon: We depend on all of our positions in the Chapter to perform their duties with proficiency. Today, I will focus on the following four positions that are very important to the Chapter. They are 1) the Marshall in the East; 2) Marshall in the West; 3) Conductress and 4) Associate Conductress.

On the subordinate Chapter level, I as the Worthy Patron depend on you Marshall in the East to take charge of the Line of March and to set a positive, upbeat tone and pace for the Line of March as well as the meeting.

I depend upon you Associate Conductress to invite the Worthy Matron and other officers into the Chapter room. I depend upon you Marshall in the East to direct our flag bearers to the East and then return to the anti room to direct the other officers into the chapter room. I depend upon you Conductress and Associate Conductress to escort the Worthy Matron to the East so that I may present her with the Gavel, her badge of office, the highest emblem of authority so she can begin to preside over the meeting.

The Worthy Matron depends upon you to return to your places and stations to resume the active duties of the Chapter. The Worthy Matron and Associate Matron depend upon the Conductresses to ascertain and report if all Sisters present are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. They are confident that you will diligently approach every Sister present and obtain the correct password. You have the power, the responsibility and the obligation to report if a female is not entitled to be in the Chapter room. Even though this is a rare occurrence, do not assume that every female present is entitled to be there. Do not take this duty lightly.

The Worthy Matron depends upon you Associate Conductress to approach the Altar and display the correct verse, Matthew chapter 2, verses 1 and 2 of the Bible upon the Altar. She also depends on you to recite the passage “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his Star in the East and are come to worship him.”

This passage is coincidentally in line with our upcoming holiday. I would like to take this time on behalf of the Grand Lecturer and myself to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and the richest blessings the Holiday Season may bring. Keep in mind the Reason for the Season – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Worthy Matron depends upon you Marshal in the East and Marshall in the West to keep the flow of movement in the Chapter to a minimum (i.e. distributing committee reports and items from the Secretary, supplying water to members, collecting charity, etc.).

The Worthy Matron depends upon the four of you to retire to bring Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand Worthy Matrons, Past Grand Worthy Patrons and the Most Worshipful Grand Master into the Chapter room. She depends that the Marshall in the East will obtain all the information (i.e. names and titles) while outside the Chapter room to correctly introduce officers.

Based on your report, the Worthy Matron and the Worthy Patron can welcome them in the proper manner and then have them directed and/or escorted to the East and other places about the Chapter room as appropriate, given the situation.

The Worthy Matron depends on you Conductress to tend to the Altar during the ritualistic closing. She depends upon the Marshall in the East to direct the retiring of the flags and to direct the flag bearers back to their stations.

Have I said we “depend” on you enough? Does it sound redundant? Well if it does, it was intended to be that way. I cannot emphasize enough, the vital role you play in the work of the Chapter as well as with large numbers of new members who have come into the order. Our new members will observe you. Your work can be the inspiration for them to study and pursue those positions.

On the Grand Chapter level, the Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron depend upon these four positions in the same way. To truly behold how beautiful the floor work and team work are displayed, attend Oziel Grand Chapter’s Grand Session. There we receive our own Past Grand Worthy Matrons and Past Grand Worthy Patrons as well as members from visiting jurisdictions including Canada, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island to name a few.

The way they are greeted with smiling faces and friendly attitudes makes them feel at home and glad that they travelled from afar to attend Oziel Grand Chapter Grand Session.

This is the same way visitors should feel when they attend your Chapter meeting. Remember WE DEPEND ON YOU! Thank you.

Brother Clifton J. Hardy, Grand Assistant Lecturer

District No. 1 – Riverside, New Jersey

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