Before we start proceedings today, I want to welcome our visitors into the Chapter room and I would like to take a few moments to explain a few things about our wonderful Order and what you may expect in today’s meeting.

The Order of the Eastern Star was originally created by a Master Mason around the middle of the 19th Century. Most Worshipful Brother Dr Robert Morris wanted an organisation, that female relatives of Freemasons would be able to share the same common bond and principles that existed in Freemasonry. Although created by a Mason, the Order is not MASONIC, but is part of the wider family of associated Masonic Orders.

Our Order in Australia exists today in most States and Territories and is governed by The United Grand Chapter of Australia. As members, we are committed to sharing, learning and community service. We enrich our lives by helping the community and each other and we believe there is a higher purpose for all of us … for all of humanity.

Today, you will witness a ceremony that occurs each year, when we hand over this Chapter to a new Board of Office-bearers who will continue our good work and lead us through whatever the path of life takes us in the next 12 months. While you witness today’s ceremony, you are asked to respect the use of the gavel. 3 raps ….. calls everyone to stand. 2 raps, calls the office-bearers only to stand, and 1 rap …. Calls the Chapter to order or seats everyone in the Chapter Room.

Again, thank you all for taking the time to come along today and support our special occasion. We hope you enjoy it.