



# THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA Order of the Eastern Star

HAVING JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

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WORTHY GRAND SECRETARY  
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26th September 2022

To: Grand Secretaries : District Grand Secretaries : Chapter Secretaries

Dear Sisters and Brothers

## **CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND LAWS FROM NOTICES OF MOTION APPROVED AT 18TH SESSION OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA – JUNE 2022**

I set out below the changes to the Constitution & Laws from the Notices of Motion that were passed at the Business Session of the 18th Session of The United Grand Chapter of Australia in Sydney in June 2022.

Replacement pages to the existing Constitution & Laws will be issued in due course.

**NOTE:** All references to **Subordinate Chapters** will be replaced with **Chapters** on pages printed for distribution following each Session

### **Law U.3(c)(i) (page 6) to read:**

retain the District Grand Committee provided there are a minimum of three (3) Chapters remaining within the defined District boundaries, if approved by Grand Chapter, or

### **Law U.3(c)(iv) (page 6) to read:**

retain the District Grand Committee provided there are a minimum of three (3) Chapters remaining within the defined District boundaries, if approved by United Grand Chapter, or

### **Law U.5(d) (page 7) to read:**

At all Sessions of the United Grand Chapter the quorum shall be equal to 8 per cent of the number of Financial / Assured / Life Members registered on the roll first day of January of the Session year

### **Law U.9(b) (page 9) to read:**

The advancing Worthy Grand Office-bearers referred to in Law 9(a), should they wish to advance to higher office, shall forward to the Worthy Grand Secretary to reach her/him in the ordinary course of mail by end of February of the year following the Biennial Session at which they were installed into their current positions, advice of such desire and forward a copy of such notification to the governing level of their respective States.

### **Law U.10 (page 12) to read:**

(a) All Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Past Worthy Matrons or Past Worthy Patrons under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Chapter are eligible to be selected for office.

- (i) If a State does not have an eligible member available and willing or should any such member be deemed not suitable by the United Grand Committee, then the State may select an eligible member from another State.
- (b) Only clear members of the United Grand Chapter may nominate, second, vote or be voted upon in the selection of Worthy Grand Office-bearers or members of Committees of the United Grand Chapter.

**Law U.29 (page 22)**

**Paragraph 1 to read:**

The affairs of the United Grand Chapter shall be administered by a United Grand Committee, which shall consist of the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron, Immediate Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, Immediate Past Most Worthy Grand Patron, Past Most Worthy Grand Matrons, Past Most Worthy Grand Patrons, Worthy Grand Office-bearers, Emeritus Worthy Grand Office-bearers (as ex-officio members), Assistant Worthy Grand Office-bearers and two (2) representatives per State elected for a term of four (4) years.

**Paragraph 6 – delete:**

~~It shall be permissible for each Assistant to a Worthy Grand Office-bearer to attend meetings with her/his Worthy Grand Office-bearer as an observer.~~

**Law U.37 (page 28) to read:**

The business of the Petitions Committee shall be ....

**Law U.37(b) APPEALS (pages 29-31)**

**Delete all text from the end of the Petitions section to Law U.38.**

**Law UGO.3 (page 36) to read:**

It shall be the duty of the Most Worthy Grand Matron or her duly appointed deputy (who shall be a Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, Past Worthy District Grand Matron of the State, Past Deputy Grand Matron of the State, or an elected female Worthy Grand Office-bearer) to visit at least once per term all the Chapters under the direct supervision of The United Grand Chapter of Australia and, in addition to having the right to preside therein, enquire into the state and condition of such Chapters and, in conjunction with the Most Worthy Grand Patron, or his duly appointed deputy, correct discreetly any errors found in the work of such Chapters so visited (which work shall include at least the complete Initiation Ceremony, if the Chapter has not performed an Initiation Ceremony in the last twelve (12) months as witnessed by the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron).

**GRAND CHAPTERS (Page 37)**

**Insert the following:**

GRAND CHAPTER OF VICTORIA

22/07/2016

The formation of Grand Chapters subsequent to 8th June 1985 is governed by Law U.3 of THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA.

Unless they contravene these Laws, all Rulings of the Grand Chapter of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory, the Grand Chapter of Queensland and the Grand Chapter of Victoria current at the date of adoption of these Laws remain valid within their respective jurisdictions, until amended.

**Law G.1 (bottom of page 38)**

**Replace (c) Deleted 1997 with:**

The Grand Chapter of Victoria shall have jurisdiction over any District Grand Committees instituted within the State of Victoria.

All Chapters in Victoria currently fall under the direct jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Victoria.

**Law G.7, second last paragraph (middle of page 42) to read:**

Two (2) copies if by post, or one (1) copy if by email of such Bye-Laws shall be submitted to The United Grand Chapter of Australia for consideration and approval before same may commence to operate.

**Law G.17(a), fourth star point (page 45) to read:**

- \* grant Dispensations to the Chapters under the direct supervision of the Grand Chapter, where good and sufficient reasons exist, for the following purposes, as appropriate –

**Law G.22, eleventh star point (page 48) to read:**

- \* issue approvals, where good and proper reasons exist, for temporary change of time, date and/or place of meetings of Chapters under the direct supervision of the Grand Chapter and report thereon to the Worthy Grand Matron;

**Law G.27 (page 50) to read:**

The affairs of each Grand Chapter shall be administered by its Grand Committee, which shall consist of Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Past Worthy Grand Matrons, Past Worthy Grand Patrons, Worthy District Grand Matrons, Worthy District Grand Patrons, Worthy District Grand Matrons Designate, Worthy District Grand Patrons Designate, Grand Office-bearers, Emeritus Grand Office-bearers, District Grand Secretaries, Emeritus District Grand Secretaries, including Emeritus District Grand Secretaries of dormant District Grand Chapters, District Grand Treasurers, Emeritus District Grand Treasurers, including Emeritus District Grand Treasurers of dormant District Grand Chapters, Past Worthy District Grand Matrons and Past Worthy District Grand Patrons of the dormant Melbourne District Grand Chapter as ex-officio members, and one (1) duly qualified representative to be elected by each Chapter within its jurisdiction at its Election Meeting or other meeting designated by the Grand Chapter in accordance with Law S.43.

**Law G.28(b) (page 50) to read:**

- (i) Laws and Bye-Laws Committee
- (ii) Finance Committee
- (iii) Petitions Committee

each consisting of the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Immediate Past Worthy Grand Matron, Immediate Past Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Associate Matron, Grand Associate Patron, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer as ex-officio members, together with five (5) elected members.

**Law G.29, third paragraph (page 51) to read:**

Two (2) copies, if submitted by post or one (1) copy if submitted by email of new Bye-Laws or proposed alterations must be sent to the Grand Secretary for distribution to the members of the Committee. The Committee shall consider all Bye-Laws of District Grand Committees and Chapters under its direct supervision, and shall approve, recommend amendment or disapprove of same. A copy of all Bye-Laws and amendments thereto, when approved and printed, must be sent to the Worthy Grand Secretary and Grand Secretary.

**Law G.30, (paragraph at top of page 52) to read:**

Of the minimum of two (2) signatories on Cheques or payments drawn on the Bank, Building Society or Credit Union Account(s) of the Grand Chapter one (1) or two (2) of those signatories must have signed the Payment Voucher.

**Law D.1 (page 59) to read:**

Each District Grand Committee shall consist of a Worthy District Grand Matron, Worthy District Grand Patron, Past Worthy District Grand Matrons, Past Worthy District Grand Patrons, Past Deputy Grand Matrons, Past Deputy Grand Patrons, Emeritus District Grand Secretaries of the dormant District Grand Chapter, Emeritus District Grand Treasurers of the dormant District Grand Chapter, Past Worthy Matrons, Past Worthy Patrons, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons,

Associate Patrons and a maximum of two (2) members – if available and willing – elected by each Chapter of the District at an appropriate time in accordance with Law S.43.

**Law D.13(a) (page 66) to read:**

The Worthy District Grand Matron shall be assisted and advised in the performance of her duties by the District Grand Committee. All members of the District Grand Committee must be financial members. A quorum at any meeting of the District Grand Committee shall be stipulated in the District Grand Committee Bye-Laws and include at least one (1) of the Worthy District Grand Matron or Worthy District Grand Patron.

**Law D.6(a), third asterisk, first paragraph (page 61) to read:**

- \* visit annually in her official capacity all the Chapters under the direct supervision of the District Grand Committee and, in addition to having the right to preside therein, enquire into the state and condition of such Chapters and, in conjunction with the Worthy District Grand Patron, correct discreetly any errors found in the work of such Chapters so visited (which work shall include at least the complete Initiation Ceremony, if the Chapter has not performed an Initiation Ceremony in the last twelve (12) months as witnessed by the Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron);

**Appropriate change must now be made to Law U.16(a) fifth asterisk, first paragraph (page 16) to read:**

- \* It shall be the duty of the Most Worthy Grand Matron or her duly appointed deputy (who shall be a Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, Past Worthy District Grand Matron of the State, Past Deputy Grand Matron of the State or an elected female Worthy Grand Office-bearer) to visit at least once per term, Grand Chapters and all the Chapters in States under the direct supervision of The United Grand Chapter of Australia and, in addition to having the right to preside therein, enquire into the state and condition of such Chapters and, in conjunction with the Most Worthy Grand Patron or his duly appointed deputy, correct discreetly any errors found in the work of such Chapters so visited (which work shall include at least the complete Initiation Ceremony if the Chapter has not performed an Initiation Ceremony in the last twelve (12) months as witnessed by the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron).

**Appropriate change must now be made to Law G.17(a) third asterisk, first paragraph, (page 44) to read:**

- \* visit annually, or duly appoint a deputy (who shall be a Past Worthy Grand Matron) to visit annually all the Chapters under the direct supervision of the Grand Chapter and, in addition to having the right to preside therein, enquire into the state and condition of such Chapters and, in conjunction with the Worthy Grand Patron, correct discreetly any errors found in the work of such Chapters so visited (which work shall include at least the complete Initiation Ceremony if the Chapter has not performed an Initiation Ceremony in the last twelve (12) months as witnessed by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron);

**Law D.6(a) (page 61)**

**After the third asterisk, fourth paragraph, add the following sentence:**

Should a participating Chapter have a candidate for initiation, that Chapter will host the combined meeting.

**Law D.8(c) (page 63) to read:**

Attend a Chapter in official regalia with formal entry, unless a written invitation has been extended and accepted, through the District Grand Secretary. Attendance in official regalia without formal entry is permissible if District Grand Committee Members are to be invested at the Meeting.

**Law D.20(f) (page 69) to read:**

The meeting at which each Chapter under its jurisdiction shall -

- \* seek expressions of interest for the offices of Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron for the ensuing term
- \* select the Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron for the ensuing term
- \* elect its representative(s) to District Grand Committee

**Law D 20 (bottom of page 69) to read:**

Two (2) copies if by post, or one (1) copy if by email of such Bye-Laws shall be submitted to the United Grand Chapter or Grand Chapter (where such exists) for consideration and approval before same may commence to operate.

**Law S.30(b)(i), third paragraph, (page 86) to read:**

In hot or uncomfortable weather conditions Brothers may wear "summer dress" substituting a white or black Eton jacket in lieu of a black dinner jacket. With the discretion of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and/or Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brothers forming part of a visiting delegation of the United Grand Chapter may wear "summer dress".

**Law S.31 – (page 87) to read:**

(a) Each Chapter shall hold three (3) copies of Confidential Material (Secret Work) consisting of:

- \* "Secret Work"
- \* Affiliate's Obligation
- \* Honorary Member's Obligation
- \* Diagram of Labyrinth
- \* Copy of Signet
- \* Directions on Signs , and
- \* Three (3) copies of the Prompt Ritual.

(b) Each copy of the Confidential Material or Prompt Ritual must be signed for by the Office-bearer concerned, in the Chapter's Inventory Book. A copy of the Prompt Ritual shall be made available to the Associate Conductress at each meeting for the purpose of prompting.

(c) The Secretary must produce all copies for inspection at the Chapter's Official Visit. Same shall be renewed if necessary.

**Law S.44(d) (page 94) to read:**

(d) Two Receipt books:

- (i) One for Annual / Country Members' Dues, and Initiation / Affiliation / Re- admission and Assured Membership Fees
- (ii) Second for all other items of income as well as receipts for income from the "Members' Dues Receipt Book".

**Law S.63(d) (page 101) to read:**

At the expiration of one (1) year a member who is in arrears of Annual Dues shall not be entitled to receive Circulars calling the meetings of the Chapter. At the commencement of the second year of her/his non-payment of Annual Dues the member shall be classified as unfinancial in the Books of the Chapter.

**Addenda No. 1 (page 111) to read:**

**A.1 Passing through the Star:**

- (a) Subject to the following, passing through the Star is a privilege that is reserved for the Most Worthy Grand Matron/Patron and Past Most Worthy Grand Matrons/Patrons.

Worthy Grand Matrons/Patrons and Worthy District Grand Matrons/Patrons also have that privilege in their own jurisdictions.

Past Worthy Grand Matrons/Patrons, Past Worthy District Grand Matrons/Patrons and Past Deputy Grand Matrons/Patrons also have that privilege in the jurisdiction in which they have served as the Presiding Officer or in any other jurisdiction in which they may take up membership in a Chapter.

Subject to Law D.13, their rank does not confer on Past Worthy Grand Matrons/Patrons, Past Worthy District Grand Matrons/Patrons and Past Deputy Grand Matrons/Patrons an automatic right to membership of the Grand Committee or District Grand Committee of the second jurisdiction referred to above.

The Worthy Matron should be escorted through the Star when proceeding to the dais, prior to opening of the Chapter and on leaving after the Chapter is closed. The Immediate Past Worthy Matron shall follow the Worthy Matron. Worthy Patrons who retire with the Worthy Matron after the Chapter is closed, pass through the Star followed by the Immediate Past Worthy Patron.

- (b) Prior to the opening of the Chapter, the Conductress, when proceeding to the West to conduct the Worthy Matron to the dais, walks in front of the Office-bearers, passing behind the Worthy Matron; she must not cross the Star between the dais and the Altar after conducting the Worthy Matron to the dais.
- (c) Members entitled to pass through the Star on entering into or retiring from the Chapter room proceed as follows:
- \* Sisters: to the East, entering the Star between Esther and Martha, and leaving same between Electa and the Altar;
  - \* Brothers: to the East, entering the Star between Esther and Ruth, and leaving same between Adah and the Altar;
  - \* Sisters: from the East, entering the Star between the Altar and Electa, and leaving same between Martha and Esther.
  - \* Brothers: from the East, entering the Star between the Altar and Adah, and leaving same between Ruth and Esther.
- (d) A Sister entitled to pass through the Star is conducted through the Star to the Altar for Affiliate or Honorary Member's Obligation, or for any special purpose, from the East, passing in front of Electa to the Altar. After completion of the Obligation the Sister is conducted to the Secretary's desk passing in front of Ruth and Adah. After signing the Roll Book the Sister is escorted to the East, entering the Star between the Altar and Adah, passing west of the Altar and leaving the Star between the Altar and Electa.

A Brother entitled to pass through the Star is conducted through the Star to the Altar for Affiliate or Honorary Member's Obligation, or for any special purpose, from the East, passing in front of Adah to the Altar. After completion of the Obligation the Brother is conducted to the Secretary's desk passing in front of Ruth and Adah. After signing the Roll Book the Brother is escorted to the East.

#### **Addenda No. 2 (page 124)**

**Insert the following paragraph after the star points and before the table:**

The action to be taken will be dictated by the seriousness of the policy breach, the remorsefulness of the Complaine and whether this is a repeat offence. The Most Worthy Grand Matron will make the final judgement on behalf of the United Grand Chapter in regard to the action to be taken but such action could be as follows:

**Addenda No. 5 – NEW, to read:**

**CLUBS and ASSOCIATIONS**

**PRESENT and PAST GRAND REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA**

1. Members of the Order of the Eastern Star in Australia who have been granted a Grand Representative Commission by another Grand Jurisdiction on recommendation of the Most Worthy Grand Matron in conjunction with the Most Worthy Grand Patron are eligible for membership of this Association. (Law U.16(a), 5th\*).
2. This Association will have and maintain a set of Bye-Laws; any changes to these Bye-Laws once approved at the Association's Biennial Session Meeting are to be forwarded to the Worthy Grand Secretary for ratification by the United Grand Committee.
3. Meetings of the Association will be in accordance with the Bye-Laws and shall be the responsibility of the President and Secretary. Expenses incurred by The United Grand Chapter of Australia during the Biennial Session on behalf of the Association, excluding venue hire, will be met by the Association.
4. A copy of the audited and approved annual Statement of Income and Expenditure together with the Association Balance Sheet will be forwarded to the Worthy Grand Secretary by 1st September each year.
5. It shall be the duty of the President, or her/his representative, to preside at all meetings of the Association and report in writing to the Worthy Grand Secretary for the information of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron as to the current status of the Association and any other matter of interest.

Yours in Star Friendship

*Elizabeth Taylor*

Worthy Grand Secretary Emeritus  
On behalf of Beth Littler  
Worthy Grand Secretary