



# 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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To: Grand Secretaries : District Grand Secretaries : Chapter Secretaries

Dear Sisters and Brothers

### **CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND LAWS FROM NOTICES OF MOTION APPROVED AT 19TH SESSION OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA – JUNE 2024**

I set out below the changes to the Constitution & Laws from the Notices of Motion that were passed at the Business Session of the 19th Session of The United Grand Chapter of Australia in Cairns, Queensland in June 2024.

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.21, page 21\* (five) amend plus add a new asterisk on page 21 to read as follows:**

- \* pay all accounts due by the United Grand Chapter after the same have been checked and payment authorised by the Finance Committee, ensuring that all Payment Vouchers are signed by at least three (3) **of the members in attendance at the meeting who can vouch that the accounts were passed for payment** including the signatory that made the payment;
- \* Payment Vouchers and relevant documents are to be presented for audit;

#### **Law U.29, page 22 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph 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 (**as ex-officio members**), and two (2) representatives per State elected for a term of four (4) years.

#### **Law G.7 last paragraph, page 42 to read:**

Alteration of such Bye-Laws shall not be competent unless Notice of Motion in respect of same has been printed in the Circular calling the meeting at which the alteration is to be considered and the Motion for alteration is carried by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members voting, **or the recommendation from the Grand Chapter Bye-Laws Committee, printed in the Circular calling the meeting, is approved by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members voting (Refer G.29)**, and same is approved by the United Grand Chapter.

**Law G.23, page 50, \* five plus create a new asterisk – this change is consequential to Law U.21 change - to read as follows:**

- \* pay all accounts due by the United Grand Chapter after the same have been checked and payment authorised by the Finance Committee, ensuring that all Payment Vouchers are signed by at least three (3) **of the members in attendance at the meeting who can vouch that the accounts were passed for payment** including the signatory that made the payment;
- \* Payment Vouchers and relevant documents are to be presented for audit;

**Law G.27, page 50 to read as follows:**

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, Grand Office-bearers, Grand Office-bearers Emeritus, District Grand Secretaries, District Grand Secretaries Emeritus, including District Grand Secretaries Emeritus of dormant District Grand Chapters, District Grand Treasurers, District Grand Treasurers Emeritus, including District Grand Treasurers Emeritus 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 Subordinate Chapter within its jurisdiction at its Election Meeting or other meeting designated by the Grand Chapter in accordance with Law S.43. **Where there are twenty (20) or fewer Chapters within the Grand Chapter jurisdiction, a maximum of two (2) qualified members may be selected.**

**Law D.1 page 59 to read as follows:**

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, District Grand Secretaries Emeritus of the dormant District Grand Chapter, District Grand Treasurers Emeritus of the dormant District Grand Chapter, Past Worthy Matrons, Past Worthy Patrons, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Associate Matrons, Associate Patrons **as ex-officio members**, 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. 4 renumber D.4 to D.4 (a) and insert to D.4(b) (page 60) which is to read as follows:**

It shall be in the power of each District Grand Committee to confer the distinction of emeritus rank on members of the District Grand Committee who have rendered special or outstanding service to the District Grand Committee. Such rank would entitle members to all privileges of a District Grand Committee member.

**Law D.11 renumber D.11 to D11 (a) and insert to D.11(b) (page 64) which is to then be read as follows:**

D.11 (a) A District Grand Secretary and District Grand Treasurer shall be elected from the members of the District Grand Committee at the meeting of the District Grand Committee ~~held following~~ **immediately prior to the Installation of the Worthy District Grand Matron and Worthy District Grand Patron.**

**D.11 (b) That the District Grand Secretary and District Grand Treasurer be invested with their Badges of Office at the District Grand Installation after Committee Members' Obligations but prior to the Investiture of the Committee Members.**

**Law D.12(b), \* 6th asterisk (page 64) \* plus create a new asterisk – this change is consequential to Law U.21 change - to read as follows:**

- \* pay all accounts due by the United Grand Chapter after the same have been checked and payment authorised by the Finance Committee, ensuring that all Payment Vouchers are signed by at least three (3) **of the members in attendance at the meeting who can vouch that the accounts were passed for**

**payment** including the signatory that made the payment;

- \* Payment Vouchers and relevant documents are to be presented for audit;

**Law S. 14 paragraph 2 on page 77 amended and to read as follows:**

~~The Office-bearers must be nominated and elected individually. All the Office-bearers (with the exception of the Immediate Past Worthy Matron, Immediate Past Worthy Patron and the five Points) shall be elected by secret ballot.~~

**The Office-bearers (with the exception of the Immediate Past Worthy Matron, Immediate Past Worthy Patron and the five Points) must be nominated and elected individually. Election for any office with more than one nomination shall be by secret ballot.**

**Law S.19(a) on page 79**

Any member, other than the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, may hold office in another Chapter.

However, the Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron of a Chapter, ~~with the permission of the local Governing Level, after investigation of the need and in appropriate circumstances,~~ may be permitted to hold office, except that of Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron in another Chapter of which she/he may be a member.

**Law S. 31, on page 87**

Delete seventh \* from (a), insert a new clause (b) and renumber current (b) and (c).

(a) Each Chapter shall hold three (3) sets of Confidential Material, each set consisting of:

- \* Confidential text
- \* Affiliate's Obligation
- \* Honorary Member's Obligation
- \* Diagram of Labyrinth
- \* Copy of Signet
- \* Directions on Signs, and
- \* ~~a Prompt Ritual.~~

**(b) Each Chapter shall hold one (1) copy of the Prompt Ritual. One (1) or two (2) additional copies of the Prompt Ritual may be purchased by a Chapter on application to the Worthy Grand Secretary.**

(c) 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.

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

**Law S36. 1st \* asterisk (page 89 to 90) – this change is consequential to Law U.21 change - to read as follows:**

- \* operate the Chapter's separate Accounts for the General Fund and the Benevolent/Distress Fund in a Bank or Banks, Building Society / Societies or Credit Union(s) approved by the Chapter. Subject to the following proviso the signatories for such Accounts shall be the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Secretary and Treasurer for the time being. Payment Vouchers for withdrawals shall be signed by at least three (3) of the signatories **members in attendance at the meeting who can vouch that the accounts were passed for payment** including the signatory that made the payment. Payment Vouchers and relevant documents are to be presented for audit. In Chapters without a Worthy Patron, the Immediate Past Worthy Matron, whom failing, the Associate Matron, shall be the fourth signatory to such Accounts. However, as it is not permissible for any such Office-bearers who are related by blood, marriage or co-habitation to jointly sign

cheques etc., in such circumstances, or in any other circumstances under which an additional signatory or signatories may be deemed necessary by it, an additional member or members may be delegated by the Chapter as an additional signatory or signatories;

\* The Payment process will include at least two (2) signatories on cheques or on electronic payment transactions;

**Law S. 36, 6th \* asterisk on page 90**

- \* hand to the Secretary a duly audited Statement of Accounts showing all moneys received and disbursed during the previous twelve (12) months, **which includes the Statement of Accounts for the previous year**, within forty-five (45) days of
- \* 30th June in each year, or
- \* the Election Meeting

and submit same for approval of the Chapter by the third Regular Meeting thereafter;

**Law S. 43 (a), page 93-94 – this change is consequential to Law G.27 change - to read as follows:**

Chapters operating under the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter and/or District Grand Committee, at the meeting (or meetings) designated by such Grand Chapter and/or District Grand Committee, shall elect duly qualified Representatives, one (1) as a member of Grand Committee, **or a maximum of two (2) if there are twenty (20) or fewer Chapters within the Grand Chapter jurisdiction**, where a Grand Chapter exists, and a maximum of two (2) as members of District Grand Committee, each of whom shall commence their duties at the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the relevant Grand Chapter or District Grand Committee.

**Law S. 57, (b), (i) page 99**

**The Bye-Laws of the Chapter may state that Assured Membership is not available or may state the number of years' Annual Dues, between fifteen (15) years' and twenty-five (25) years,' that Members can make in a single payment to obtain Assured Membership.**

~~Members may obtain Assured Membership of the Chapter by making a single payment of not less than fifteen (15) years' nor more than twenty-five (25) years' Annual Dues as prescribed in the Bye-Laws of the Chapter.~~

**Law S. 57, (c), page 100**

Delete the following text:

~~Unless otherwise determined by the governing level of the State, it is permissible for a member who has paid full Annual Dues for not less than twenty (20) consecutive years and complies with other requirements, if any, stipulated in the Bye-Laws of the Chapter, to be granted a free Life Membership of the Chapter.~~

And replace with:

**It is not permissible for a Chapter to grant free Life Membership of the Chapter to any Member.**

**Law S.67(a) (vii) page 105 - Delete this clause as the change is consequential to Law S. 57**

**Law S.67(a) (viii) page 104-105 – the text to be deleted is consequential to the change to Law S.14**

Delete the following text: ~~“and, if open vote is permitted by the governing level of the State, the method of election of Office bearers (i.e., secret ballot or open vote):”~~

**and the clause should then read:**

Month of Election (and consequentially Installation) Meeting;

**Law S.67(a) Insert a new (xii) after (xi) and renumber the current (xii) as follows:**

(xi) Expenditure of funds without Notice of Motion (Law S.69);

(xii) **Month of Collection for Benevolent Fund (Law S.40) and month(s) of Collection for Governing Level(s) (Law U.35 and Law G.33)**

(xiii) Any other matters requiring to be specially provided for.

**Addenda 4. 15. (vi) page 137 – this clause is consequential to the change to Law S.57**

Insert the following text Assured Membership fee, **if offered**, (cannot be less than 15 or more than 25 years' Annual Dues)

As previously stated, replacement pages to the existing Constitution & Laws will be issued in due course.

Yours in Star Friendship

*Beth Littler*

Worthy Grand Secretary

The United Grand Chapter of Australia