

## LEADERSHIP IN A SUBORDINATE CHAPTER

To be a leader in a Subordinate Chapter you should be like a Boy Scout – “Be prepared”. How to be prepared you ask? You have the Ritual, Grand Chapter Constitution, Miscellaneous Instructions, and the By-laws of your Chapter to help you.

Don't wait until you are Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron to start to prepare. In most cases you have several years to do this.

Make an outline of your plans for the year you are to serve. You have traditional things in your Chapter; for example: Inspection, Officials, Friendship, Birthday, and Ambassador of Good Will visit. Collection: February – Heart Fund; April – Cancer Month; August – Rob Morris Home, and the Worthy Grand Matron's Objectives. We have musts, such as Rob Morris Program and Chapter of Sorrow in August, as well as Worthy Matron's reports of Grand Chapter, School of Instructions and OES Home Annual Meetings.

Remember to DELEGATE – you cannot do it all yourself and be a good leader.

You should be objective – it shouldn't always be your way. The members should be the ones to decide. You cannot have it your way or no way.

Being a leader is being responsible for the Chapter's well being – remember you lead for a year and then you too must return to the ranks.

Each Chapter needs a balance to have a successful year. You should have moneymakers, and you cannot rely on dues alone. Membership is the lifeline of a Chapter. We need new members, not just ones to put on our roll, but members that will come back and be a part. Make our new members feel welcome, give them a job. DON'T CRITICIZE – you were young in the Order once yourself. If you get new members listen to them and their ideas – take into consideration they are a new generation; don't ever say “We don't do it that way or we have never done it that way before”.

Always remember we have older members who may be shut-ins so let's keep them informed of the activities of the Chapter and let them know they are not forgotten. This also goes for your inactive members. Have a contact committee that give them a call or drop them a card or note. A newsletter from the Chapter will make them feel they are a part.

“You are the best Eastern Star someone knows”; make a good impression on your community. Take part in service projects. We are dedicated to “Charity, Truth, Loving Kindness”, how better to exemplify this than by “Serving Others”.

Do you like long meetings? I don't think anyone does. Start on time, have your meeting outlined, work with your Secretary a few days prior to the meeting so you know what business needs to be taken care of. A good Secretary can make a Worthy Matron's job a lot easier. Call your officers ahead of the meeting time so they know what is going on and to make sure they are going to be there. The officers should also notify the Worthy Matron as soon as possible if they are not going to be at the meeting so the Worthy Matron can have pro-tems lines up.

Make your meetings interesting. Don't have it said “You met, you eat, and you went home”. Again, it is a case of planning and being prepared.

It is wonderful to have refreshments with a social hour after the meeting or a dinner before the meeting; a time to socialize to become a family unit. We all love to eat and talk.

A good leader appoints good committee members. She tells them what she expects of them and relies on them to get the job done.

Many of our Chapters have leaders who have served more than once, maybe even over and over again. It may be difficult for them to get enthused about it, but the Chapter is depending on them. If you didn't love Eastern Star and your Chapter you wouldn't be doing it again. So give just a little extra of yourself.

A leader cannot expect anyone to follow if they don't give their best. This means knowing your ritualistic work, plan, build and imagine for the good of the Chapter. Study the rules and regulations, know what is legal and what is not and govern yourself accordingly.

Last but not the least, put your trust in God and He will walk beside you and with Him all things are possible.

Anne Payne Dukes, PGM

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