

2022 Bylaw Amendment
Section 96. Bylaws of Grand Chapter – Election of Grand Officers

Currently reads:

Section 96.

- A. ANNUAL SESSION (no changes to this section)
- B. ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICES.
(See Constitution, Sections 12 and 13.)
 - 1. The Election shall be the first order of business on the first afternoon of the Annual Session, immediately following the FINAL Report of the Credentials Committee to Grand Chapter.
 - 2. Voting delegates SHALL remain in the Grand Chapter room during voting procedure.
 - 3. Tellers shall be appointed. Reports of tellers on ALL written ballots shall be made AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - 4. Officers shall be elected, SEPARATELY, in the following order: Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Trustee.
 - 5. The Presiding Officer will call for nominations from the floor for the first SEVEN (7) elective Officers in the above order, each separately. When there is only one nomination for the respective office, the Presiding Officer will call for a vote for election by acclamation. If there is more than one nominated, or if there is a negative vote on election by acclamation, a written ballot shall be used and the election of that particular Officer shall be completed BEFORE proceeding to the next ranking Officer.
 - 6. The Associate Grand Conductress shall be elected by written ballot. The Presiding Officer will read nominations, under the Seal of the Subordinate Chapter and in a sealed envelope to be opened at the time of election, presented or sent to the Worthy Grand Patron previous to the time for elections, listing an eligible Past Matron's name that will accept if elected, her Chapter name and number. The presiding officer will then proceed with the ballot WITHOUT nomination from the floor. The first ballot shall be considered a nominating ballot except when a majority is obtained by one nominee, constituting an election. Following the report of tellers on the first ballot, the nominees who will accept if elected, will go to the East and give their name, the name and location of their chapter. Nothing shall prohibit the election of any eligible member who has not been nominated on the first ballot, but is nominated on a subsequent ballot, and is present.
 - 7. The Grand Trustee shall be elected by nomination from the floor. The Presiding Officer will call for nominations from the floor. When there is only one nomination for this office, the Presiding Officer will call for a vote for election by acclamation. If there is more than one nomination, a written ballot shall be used with a simple majority of ballots cast constituting an election.
(Refer to Section 12 and 13 for eligibility)
 - 8. The above provisions MAY APPLY to election of officers in subordinate Chapters.
 - 9. Any member writing or distributing ballots for other members to deposit, or electioneering, either for one's self or for another, at any time or any place, shall be liable to charges of offense against the principles of the Order, and it shall be the duty of any member knowing of these practices to report the same to the Presiding Officer.
 - 10. No introductions or presentations are to be made during the Election of Officers; reports may be given. (If a report is in progress it shall be completed.)
- C. INSTALLATION. (no changes to this section)
- D. JEWELS AND BADGES. (no changes to this section)
- E. EMERITUS STATUS. (no changes to this section)

Change to read:

Section 96.

- A. ANNUAL SESSION (no changes to this section)
- B. ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICES.
(See Constitution, Sections 12 and 13.)
 - 1. The Election shall be the first order of business on the first afternoon of the Annual Session, immediately following the FINAL Report of the Credentials Committee to Grand Chapter.
 - 2. Voting delegates SHALL remain in the Grand Chapter room during voting procedure.
 - 3. Tellers shall be appointed. Reports of tellers on ALL written ballots shall be made AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - 4. Officers shall be elected, SEPARATELY, in the following order: Worthy Grand Matron,

Worthy Grand Patron, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Trustee.

5. The Presiding Officer will call for nominations from the floor for the first SEVEN (7) elective Officers in the above order, each separately. When there is only one nomination for the respective office, the Presiding Officer will call for a vote for election by acclamation. If there is more than one nominated, or if there is a negative vote on election by acclamation, a written ballot shall be used and the election of that particular Officer shall be completed BEFORE proceeding to the next ranking Officer.

6. The Associate Grand Conductress shall be elected by written ballot. The Presiding Officer will read nominations, under the Seal of the Subordinate Chapter and in a sealed envelope to be opened at the time of election, presented or sent to the Worthy Grand Patron previous to the time for elections, listing an eligible Past Matron's name that will accept if elected, her Chapter name and number. The presiding officer will then proceed with the ballot WITHOUT nomination from the floor. The first ballot shall be considered a nominating ballot except when a majority is obtained by one nominee, constituting an election. Following the report of tellers on the first ballot, the nominees who will accept if elected, will go to the East and give their name, the name and location of their chapter. Nothing shall prohibit the election of any eligible member who has not been nominated on the first ballot, but is nominated on a subsequent second or third ballot, and is present. When after three casts of ballots a majority has not been reached, the office of Associate Grand Conductress will remain vacant.

7. The Grand Trustee shall be elected by nomination from the floor. The Presiding Officer will call for nominations from the floor. When there is only one nomination for this office, the Presiding Officer will call for a vote for election by acclamation. If there is more than one nomination, a written ballot shall be used with a simple majority of ballots cast constituting an election.

(Refer to Section 12 and 13 for eligibility)

8. The above provisions MAY APPLY to election of officers in subordinate Chapters.

9. Any member writing or distributing ballots for other members to deposit, or electioneering, either for one's self or for another, at any time or any place, shall be liable to charges of offense against the principles of the Order, and it shall be the duty of any member knowing of these practices to report the same to the Presiding Officer.

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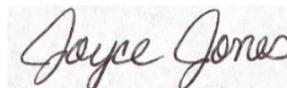
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Reason: In recent years we have occasionally not received a nomination under the Seal of a Subordinate Chapter and nominations from the floor have also not quickly resulted in an election by majority. It seems kinder and more appropriate to allow the position to remain vacant and allow additional time for a committed candidate to come forward rather than pressuring someone to accept who has not had time to thoughtfully consider the level of work required or the financial expenses. In the meantime, the WGM would be able to appoint a Past Grand Matron to fill the station until the next election. It might also be appropriate for Chapters to develop a plan to financially assist potential candidates who find the funds a stumbling block to advancement of their name to an elected line office.

Proposed by:



Sandra Vanneman, PGM, Grand Secretary



Joyce Jones, PGM



Karen Willis, Worthy Grand Matron