

2023 Bylaw Amendment

Section 106. Bylaws Governing Subordinate Chapters – Purchased Life Membership

Section 106. PURCHASED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Currently reads:

1. Members in good standing of a Subordinate Chapter may purchase a “Purchased Life Membership”, if they so desire, subject to the rules. A memorial “Purchased Life Membership” may be purchased by any person for a deceased Eastern Star Member by following the same rules procedure as outlined.

2. The “Purchased Life Membership” fee shall be equal to twenty (20) times the amount of the annual dues of that Chapter at the time of the purchase, or Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), whichever is greater. The member’s annual dues must also be paid one year in advance.

3. The Purchased Life Membership from a member shall be paid to the Secretary of the Subordinate Chapter, who will make a record and forward the fee to the Grand Secretary.

4. The Grand Secretary will issue permanent “Purchased Life Membership” cards to “Purchased Life Members” and each year Subordinate Secretaries shall issue current dues cards to “Purchased Life Members”.

5. The Grand Chapter Trustees shall establish a “Purchased Life Membership” fund and invest all “Purchased Life Membership” fees from the Subordinate Chapters in such fund.

6. The Trustees shall annually authorize payment from the “Purchased Life Membership” fund to the Subordinate Chapters an amount equal to sixty-seven percent (67%) of the interest earned that year. The remaining thirty-three (33%) shall be paid to the Grand Chapter in lieu of Grand Chapter dues for the Purchased Life Members. In the event of the death of a member having Purchased Life Membership or if a Memorial Purchase Life Membership is purchased for a deceased Eastern Star member the same percentage payments shall apply.\*

7. Transfers of a “Purchased Life Member” to another Subordinate Chapter within the state of South Dakota shall have their “Purchased Life Membership” account transferred to their new Chapter, with the new Chapter accepting the “Purchased Life Membership” as previously paid. If a Chapter consolidates, or has its charter revoked the funds credited to that Chapter in the “Purchased Life Membership” fund shall follow the members according to the relevant section of the Grand Chapter By-Laws dealing with Consolidations and Revocation of Charters. Annual fees, in accordance with Section 106 b. 5., of deceased Life Members whose Chapters subsequently has its Charter revoked for whatever reason and does not consolidate shall become that of Grand Chapter, until such Chapter shall be reinstated.

\* 2014 Grand Chapter housekeeping

8. A Sister or a Brother who holds plural\* membership within this Grand Jurisdiction may purchase a “Purchased Life Membership” in each Chapter in which they hold membership. If members purchased a “Purchased Life Membership” in only one Chapter the member shall be subject to all provisions of dual membership as stated in Section 108.\* **Grand Session 2016**

9. Life Members who are suspended or expelled in accordance with the Grand Chapter By-Laws shall be required to surrender their “Purchased Life Membership” card to the Subordinate Chapter Secretary until they are re-instated and the funds shall remain in the “Purchased Life Membership” Fund and apportioned as specified in Section 106 b. 5.

10. The Worthy Grand Matron shall establish a “Purchased Life Membership” in perpetuity program committee as a standing committee. Said committee shall consist of five (5) members, two (2) of whom shall be Grand Trustees. The other three (3) may be any Eastern Star member in good standing in this Grand Jurisdiction and shall be appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron in cooperation with the Worthy Grand Patron. These three shall initially be appointed for one, two and three year terms. Thereafter, one committee member shall be appointed each year for a three-year term. It shall be the duty of the committee to meet once annually, to evaluate

procedures and implement changes as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the program. The members of the committee shall attend one of the Grand Trustees meetings during the year.

11. These rules may be modified or amended at any time by the "Purchased Life Membership Committee"; subject to ratification by the Grand Chapter and that no changes may affect "Purchased Life Memberships" in effect at the time of such change.

12. In the event of demits, "Purchased Life Memberships" are not refunded but remain in the fund.

#### **CHANGE TO READ:**

~~1. Members in good standing of a Subordinate Chapter may purchase a "Purchased Life Membership", if they so desire, subject to the rules. A memorial "Purchased Life Membership" may be purchased by any person for a deceased Eastern Star Member by following the same rules procedure as outlined.~~

~~2. The "Purchased Life Membership" fee shall be equal to twenty (20) times the amount of the annual dues of that Chapter at the time of the purchase, or Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), whichever is greater. The member's annual dues must also be paid one year in advance.~~

~~3. The Purchased Life Membership from a member shall be paid to the Secretary of the Subordinate Chapter, who will make a record and forward the fee to the Grand Secretary.~~

~~1. 4. The Grand Secretary will issue permanent "Purchased Life Membership" cards to "Purchased Life Members" and e Each year Subordinate Secretaries shall issue current dues cards to "Purchased Life Members".~~

~~2. 5. The Grand Chapter Trustees shall establish maintain a "Purchased Life Membership" fund and invest all "Purchased Life Membership" fees from the Subordinate Chapters in such fund.~~

~~3. 6. The Trustees shall annually authorize payment from the "Purchased Life Membership" fund to the Subordinate Chapters an amount equal to sixty-seven percent (67%) of the interest and dividends earned that year. The remaining thirty-three (33%) shall be paid to the Grand Chapter in lieu of Grand Chapter dues for the Purchased Life Members. In the event of the death of a member having a Purchased Life Membership or if a Memorial Purchase Life Membership is purchased for a deceased Eastern Star member, the same percentage payments shall apply.\*~~

~~4. The Purchased Life Membership Committee will determine the amount owed to each chapter as of May 1 of the current fiscal year. Chapters will be notified by June 1. The amount due to the chapter will then be subtracted from the per capita owed to Grand Chapter.~~

~~5. Chapters will annually receive a credit of four dollars (\$4.00) for each Purchased Life Membership purchased by a member of their chapter (living and deceased) from the Purchased Life Membership Fund. This amount will be included in a credit given to chapters owed to Grand Chapter for per capita. Grand Chapter will receive two dollars (\$2.00) for each living Purchased Life Member from the Purchased Life Membership Fund, which will then be forwarded to General Grand Chapter.~~

(7. through 12. remain the same, but would be renumbered accordingly.)

#### **Rationale:**

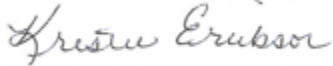
The original intent of the Purchased Life Membership was for chapters to receive enough money to cover Grand Chapter fees and assist their chapters. Under the current system this is not happening. Chapters do not get enough funds from the Purchased Life Membership to help their membership at this point. We are fortunate to have invested and received more dividends at this time, but it still does not replace the income from dues for most chapters. Unfortunately, the

dues paying members are left to make up the shortfall in chapters. This will also help Grand Chapter by paying the monies owed to General Grand which will not have to come from Grand Chapter general fund.

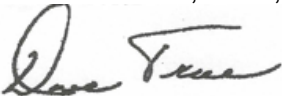
This plan will gradually deplete the Purchase Life Membership Fund, but it will take 70 years at this rate, which should well outlive any current PLM. No PLM will be responsible for paying dues.

By crediting the chapters, we will avoid creating warrants and mailing checks, which will save that expense to Grand Chapter.

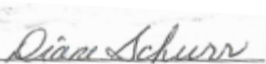
Respectfully submitted



Kristie Erickson, PGM, Grand Trustee



Dave True, PGP, Grand Trustee



Diane Schurr, PM, Purchased Life committee member