

The following input came from the AB members.

Moving Forward - Meetings:

<p>G Secretary- Secretary Workshop</p>	<p>Minutes, Chapter Newsletters, ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter minutes to be brief, and to the point. - A newsletter could be sent out to all members informing them know of what is happening in the chapter (up coming events, milestones, birthdays, anniversaries etc.) - Shorter, abbreviated minutes - newsletter sent each month highlighting anything special from minutes - Send out correspondence and minutes to members on email - Members would like to see the opening shortened by making minutes and introductions less time consuming - Power point to share minutes and budget documents etc. - Allow minutes to be distributed digitally.
	<p>Correspondence could be circulated in advance by email, then at the meeting a brief overview can be made.</p>
	<p>We are working towards minimal reading of minutes, minimal reading of correspondence, to allow us to deal with the issues affecting our members</p>
	<p>introductions from seat when it is not a special night (conductresses might need the practice)</p>
	<p>Streamline by shortening introductions</p>
	<p>Encourage and allow the use of technologies such as Zoom to include members who cannot attend in person; power point to share minutes and budget documents etc.</p>
	<p>Allow meeting structure to change to accommodate events and outside speakers.</p>
	<p>It would be nice to have the Grand Officers and Committee Members spontaneously attend the chapter meetings – on other than Official Visits. Just attend the meetings and visit with the members. On O.V. the Grand Officers tend to sit together.</p>
	<p>Official visits should be about having fun. That might mean structuring the grand officers so that ritual schools and testing etc are done at a time other than an official visit and perhaps by someone other than the WGM. Could be a good use of past Grands of someone coming up the line.</p>
	<p>Encourage and allow use of zoom and similar technologies.</p>
	<p>Provide more flexibility for the WM & WP to move meeting times and places without requiring a dispensation.</p>
	<p>would like to bring back members by allowing Zoom to be added to our in-person meetings</p>
	<p>feels we have gone away from much of what made our chapter meetings more meaningful and interesting. We need much more than just a business meeting. It does not need to be fun and games although these things are important but it can be educational, in formative and include the broader community. Many chapters used to have two meetings a month, one for business and one for fun and work bees. Also, we used to do more addendums to add interest to the meetings. Chapters need to be more than business meetings.</p>
	<p>would have meetings packed with activities that draw in visitors and absentee members</p>
	<p>would like to see fun skits, addenda's or/and a game added to the meetings, before, during and after</p>
	<p>would like to make the meetings short and to the point, conduct the business that is requires and then spend as much time as possible getting to know our fellow members, their values, skill sets, and interests and efforts other then chapter activities.</p>
	<p>Recent events have made us aware that time is even more precious so let's bring and old fun tradition or a new one to meetings,</p>
	<p>profiling members – 2 people per meeting, 5 min</p>
	<p>Have a Friendship phone tree where members at meeting phone one person who was not in attendance</p>

Moving Forward - Education:

	<p>Masonic / Fraternal Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about Masonry and how it applies to our Order. - Guest speakers from Masons - We want to have more educational presentations about our Masonic history - Open House--all bodies--explaining what they are all about - hopes we can learn more about our concordant bodies by having guest speakers. - Jobies and DeMolay to come and do one of their ceremonies - Speakers: Masons, Nile, Shriners, ...
	<p>OES education, quizzes, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussions on our Ritual, on our Symbols and how it fits in with our Order (mentorship, quizzes or addendums would be fun ways to do this) - short quizzes on the ritual and constitution--with prizes - Eastern Star Jeopardy -Who's line is that? (From the ritual) - Members would like to learn more about the <u>OES</u>. And the significance of some of the traditions we follow. - Incorporate five-minute trainings at meetings to refresh knowledge or process - Eastern Star education - We want to have more educational presentations that allow us to learn about OES ritual - Set the chapter up with the regalia in the wrong places/pedestals. Place the various officers' badges/collars on the wrong chairs. If anyone mentions it ahead of the meeting – just caution them to say/do nothing. Then – the WP or designate/some other officer invites the AC to invite the officers in – they take their stations. Then announce that there are several things wrong with the set up and ask everyone to put things/collars back in the correct places. The Bible is not open, so everyone can walk around and get the chapter organized. Once the chapter room is put back in order – perhaps each of the Star Points or the Education/Instruction person could say what the correct way their Star Point Emblems should be placed – ie – Adah's sword points to the Altar. Then the chapter can be opened. Hopefully in future members will be more observant/cognizant of the chapter set up. Only 1 or 2 should know this one ahead of time so it is more fun. - An alternative to the above idea: place only 3 items (maximum 3 – might be only 1 or 2) in the wrong places. When the officers are invited in – before the Bible is opened – say that there are 3 items in the wrong place or missing altogether ie – Esther's Scepter missing, open Ritual on one pedestal – ask everyone to 'fix' it. Perhaps you could have a 'treat' for the person who finds them. - Another alternative to above: Seat the chapter, before the Bible is opened – announce that this is Initiation meeting – several things are missing – ie – small white Bible on Altar, coloured ribbons/flowers for each Star Point Officer. - Workshops (Star Points-learn how to do your sign, The veil and crown for Adah's and Esther's lectures. Associate conductress how to exemplify the ballot, Conductress-introductions and floor work for Initiation- Incoming Worthy Matrons etc) - We need more ways to making ritual more meaningful in today's world. Consider costumes, skits, teaching marching, meaningful addendums and five-minute reminders of things we should already know...signs, examinations, etc. - Multi Chapter Events - Workshops (Star Points-learn how to do your sign, The veil and crown for Adah's and Esther's lectures. Associate conductress how to exemplify the ballot, Conductress- introductions and floor work for Initiation- Incoming Worthy Matrons etc) - Provide membership guides that spell out what to expect when you join and the responsibilities of each position with room for individual chapters to alter to fit their needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold regional training sessions on ritual, fundraising skills, business meetings, public speaking, use of technology for newsletters. - These speakers could also bring information on the history of chapters and the order.
	<p>Guest Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have a diverse membership, who could speak on health, finance, travel and community events. - What I would like to see is a second meeting be held each month (or every other month). Those meetings could be more of a social / education event where speakers would be brought in. I would be very interested in hearing from some of the charity recipients. - Guest speakers from Worthy Matron's charity - I would be very interested in hearing from some of the charity recipients. - Instead of just mailing out our donations to the various groups/agencies – have a time at or after the meeting to have them attend – each recipient could have 5 minutes or so to explain their agency and service, - Women's Health – Research on Women's health. Research on strokes and heart attacks; cancer; cooking; music; choral; storytelling; poetry. - Should reflect the needs and interests of the Chapter covering topics such as dementia & caregivers, mental illness, family issues such as raising children as a grandparent, dealing with grief or loss, freebies to seniors etc. Other topics might include how to save money with coupons, home maintenance, and how to downsize efficiently and effectively. - Other thoughts: Why not tap into the resources within a chapter. Each member brings skills and experiences that could be shared. For example: a gardener might offer to hold a session on starting seedlings, a massage therapist on how to massage your or your partner's feet for good health. Someone who is good at baking pies might hold make pie lessons on a weekend. - Members give a talk about themselves (or another member) as we have interesting people - profiling members – 2 people per meeting, 5 min - We want to get to know our members whom in many cases we are unaware of their interesting lives and what they have done over the years - We want to have more educational presentations that allow us to learn about matters of interest to our members to enhance their personal lives and awareness of their community and its needs. - If we want to attract younger members, we need to hold sessions that they see as valuable in their lives such as how to develop personal and professional skills. - Perhaps provide for guest speakers, tours, sight seeing performances. Health care and other senior's issues to encourage more members to come to our meetings and events.
	<p>Technical skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making use of all the other computer programs for our younger members: Facebook, Podcasts, Linked-in, Instagram - Teach members how to use technology
	<p>Official visits should be about having fun. That might mean structuring the grand officers so that ritual schools and testing etc are done at a time other than an official visit and perhaps by someone other than the WGM. Could be a good use of past Grands of someone coming up the line.</p>
	<p>From the perspective of what can Grand Chapter Do For Us.....we can only say that we want to work with the Grand Chapter and they have to start asking for input on a proactive basis versus a reactive basis. Case in point is a matter that came up at our last meeting when the Worthy Patron highlighted a couple of the Notice of Motions that were a bit in the "gray area" that will be coming forth at the next Grand Chapter in June. The one pertaining to the</p>

	proposed dress code had a lot of discussion....both pro and con...which is good. Bottom line....an item like this whether it gets approved or not at the Grand Chapter should be a matter the Grand Chapter should keep on the forefront for further discussion over the foreseeable future to keep the Chapters and members involved so a good input can be brought forth from members, not just from those attending and voting at Gr. Chapter.
	All Committees should be challenging the Chapters on matters that affect us to ensure they are in tune with the wishes of the members.

Moving Forward - Mentoring

	I was fortunate in that I knew some members prior to being initiated and feel I had good support. I am not sure that all our new members feel that way and the ceremony of initiation can be overwhelming. After sitting through a couple of initiations I finally understood what the responses were for each star point. Having a workshop for new members a month or two after their initiation would be very helpful.
	When I first joined, I remember attending a session where some of us were instructed in how to leave and return when Chapter is in session, as well as attitude of prayer, etc.
	I would like to see a buddy system set up for new members. One that would see a member phone them within a week after their initiation to see if they had any questions as well as calling them to remind them of the meetings and asking if they are coming.
	In regards to education a no frills no mess mentorship assignment can answer questions, open doors, raise enthusiasm, by welcoming new sisters individually on a one-on-one basis. New members would be assigned a mentor either by a complex decision through a committee or, simply an ad hoc, whoever is available choice or anything in between, each chapter would decide as needs be.
	The program would not require additional space and scheduling because Mentors and their protégés personal and available technology makes communication between mentor and protégé continuously available regardless of time constraints. Data gathered by the mentors could result in mentors compiling a collection of questions asked. The questions could be shared in a once-a-year mentors meeting resulting in a list of guest speakers for the year.
	Additionally new officers could sign up for a mentorship program. Mentorship would not need to be only technology, personal meetings, if desired, could take place in a post pandemic world.
	Personally, as an idea for fun and dialogue, I would choose to visit a sister chapter with a mentor.
	Have a friendship/contact phone tree – members who attend the meetings contact members who do not come out on a regular basis - “just staying in touch”.
	Have a ‘Star friend’ – it could be a ‘secret/mystery friend’ - one person contacts the other with cards, wishes, visits, etc. So you would have a member contacting you, and you would have another member that you contact. Members who regularly attend chapter would contact members who do not attend chapter – it would keep the absent member in touch with the chapter and events.
	Training for a mentorship program
	we need to find a spirit of adventure that allows our members to step forward with an idea that might seem way out there without expecting the powers that be to squash it before it’s even been tried. Our goal should be “how can we make this happen without taking away from what we already have?”.
	tips for our chapters are just being back in chapter and doing the things that have made the chapter successful. The members have always been open to new ideas and accepting change.

Moving Forward – Recognition: Community & fraternal orders

	More photo opportunities with the recipients and they possibly could give a short presentation to the chapter.
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	Social Events and sponsorship of events open to the community (examples listed below)
	Instead of just mailing out our donations to the various groups/agencies – have a time at or after the meeting to have them attend – each recipient could have 5 minutes or so to explain their agency and service, and then we give them the donation. They will have an opportunity to see the people who work hard to raise this money, rather than just receiving a cheque in the mail. These people should also stay for refreshments and fellowship.
	Speakers (Masons, Nile, Shriners, A representative from the Worthy Matron’s charity, Service Dogs, Mental Health Support)
	Give money to the local schools (awards)
	Bake Sale, Book Sale, Chocolate Almonds at various places (Walmart, Canadian Tire, Hospitals, Malls)
	Farmers Markets
	Trade Shows
	Club Sign ups
	Advertising at local Movie Theatre
	Sponsoring Hot Lunches at the Local Schools
	Sponsoring Public Swim at the Local Swimming Pool
	Floats for Canada and Santa Claus parades
	Members, for the most part, think we need to make ourselves more visible through our charity work and other types of volunteer work.
	feels chapters must have a larger presence in the communities
	To prevent Alberta OES extinction, the most pressing issue is increased membership in all Alberta chapters. Since a Masonic tie is required for new OES petitions, the solution is a united Alberta -Fraternal Fun Day. That is, include all fraternal families, their families and most important, potential new members to the largest Fraternal party Alberta has ever experienced. Let the hot sun, once again, usher an abundance of new OES members to a bigger and better Order of the Eastern Star in Alberta.
	this is the time to renew our relationships with our local Masonic Lodge. In the next year I would like to see our chapter reach out and make that connection. By doing this, I believe, our masonic families future and our communities future would be brighter and stronger.
	would like to see our members supporting more OES events outside of their chapters
	would love to see the communications open up between our Eastern Star and our Masonic brothers. I believe if we could host a social function that would be of interest to the Masons and their wives, it might give us some potential members to help our chapters grow.

Moving Forward - General Membership

	Demit night- members on demit asked to a coffee party
	Demitted members allowed to Affiliate with Grand Chapter to keep their membership
	Hold a central meeting for chapters in an area.
	Twin chapters so people get to know each other
	We need to get out and meet our sisters and brothers, adding encouragement rather than being judgemental.
	Time is a finite item and we need to learn to appreciate each other
	wishes that each current member would commit to signing the petition for one new member from their family or friendship list
	The men need to know that they are a partner in the organization and not just simply window dressing for a WM or WGM.

Moving Forward - Public Relations / Social Media

	We really need someone to do marketing for us - articles to the newspapers or other magazines to highlight what we do.
	making use of all the other computer programs for our younger members: Facebook, Podcasts, Linked-in, Instagram
	Public relations-Help Chapters develop public relations skills and give them the tools for letting the community know what they do. Develop p.r. templates for news coverage
	Teach members how to use technology
	Encourage and allow use of zoom and similar technologies.
	Encourage members to take interesting photos that could be used in promotional materials. Group photos are nice but they don't tell an interesting story.
	Chapters need more use of electronic technology
Website (Deb Buxton) Newsletter (Fred Allan)	<p>Website / OES Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website and local newspapers are under utilized; photos and articles could be submitted. - Looking at our website, it is very businesslike - meeting dates, forms, etc. How about adding a section of photos that show what we do - both formally and informally? - Redesign of the Newsletter with content that is relevant to members, quizzes, ideas for making ritual more meaningful. - Lastly, we recognize we need members. Potential qualified candidates are easy to recognize...but to move the sale forward we need a clean simple Web Page that can be referred to the potential member so they can begin their homework in order. The current page is quite good but does not have our version of what the Star is or does. Would give a consistent message to those discussing our order with potential members.

Moving Forward - Uncategorized:

	Recently I have heard members say "I am not going to Grand Chapter because there is nothing there for me" – ie – especially for those who are not officers or committee members or Grand Representatives. All the meals are for officers, etc, except for the Saturday banquet. Where do the others eat during the day? Grand Chapter is a business meeting with reports, rooms for draws, etc. Yes – there is some ritual work. But how does Grand Chapter engage the 'regular members'? Are there other social events. Tours, etc?
	Don't lose our ritualistic options by having too many social functions.
	feels we can sustain the Order of the Eastern Star by continuing to develop constructive plans of action. With the uncertainty of the future, we all need to have positive attitudes and enjoy life today. As time moves forward, we too must move forward by adapting to change
	would like to focus on bringing in new members to join, and reach more members who are unable to attend.

Defeated motions from Grand Chapter

	dress code amendment.
	<p>The following "rejuvenation" ideas also refer to dress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dress code needs to be updated to reflect today's expectations and practices. Grand Representative appointments need to be responsive to the honour. When one fails to interact with a counterpart, everyone loses. - For chapter renewal she wishes the dresses for appointments weren't so expensive. She feels this does not make us very inclusive. She would prefer a white or black skirt and the top could be what was chosen for the year.