

**Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey PROPOSED By-laws Change  
March 1, 2022**

*Current law:*

**Chapter 15: Districts**

**Section 15.1. District Meetings – Date, Cost and Planning**

**15.1-(a)** The Subordinate Chapters in each District, under the supervision of the Worthy District Deputy, shall hold annually, on a date to be assigned by the Most Worthy Grand Matron, a District Meeting, at which time the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron and the staff of Grand Officers will officially visit the District.

**15.1-(b)** The planning of the District Meeting shall be vested in the Worthy District Deputy and the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, and Associate Matrons of the District. The expense of the District Meeting shall be borne proportionately per capita by the Subordinate Chapters of the District. The Worthy District Deputy, within thirty days after the District Meeting, shall give to each of the Subordinate Chapters of the District a detailed report of receipts and disbursements and shall rebate proportionately per capita any unexpended portion.

**15.1-(c)** The District Meeting shall be opened and closed according to the ritualistic form for opening and closing District Meetings as found in the Standard Authorized Ritual.

**15.1-(d)** The presence of a Charter is not required unless the initiatory work is being performed to initiate new members.

**15.1-(e)** Whenever the Altars of Subordinate Chapters in the District are draped for a Past Grand Matron, Past Grand Patron, or Grand Officer, the "mourning cloth" shall be placed upon the Altar of the District Meeting prior to the opening and remain on the Altar until after the meeting is closed.

**15.1-(f)** The place of District Meetings shall receive the approval of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and no place shall be approved except the secrecy of the Ritualistic requirements of the meeting be maintained and the dignity and welfare of the Fraternity be reasonably preserved.

**15.1-(g)** Past Grand Matrons or Past Grand Patrons participating in the opening of the District Meeting shall limit their remarks to no more than 5 minutes each.

**15.1-(h)** With the permission of the Worthy District Deputy, photographs may be taken during the District Meeting.

**15.1-(i)** Worthy District Deputies may, with the consent of their Official Family, request permission from the Most Worthy Grand Matron to hold a District Meeting jointly with another District.

**Section 15.4. Reception at a District Meeting**

**15.4-(a)** A Subordinate Chapter of the Order may, subject only to the approval of the Worthy District Deputy and the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons Associate Matrons of the District, hold a reception for one or more Grand Officers in conjunction with the District Meeting.

**15.4-(b)** The reception shall be recorded in the records of the Subordinate Chapter as a "Special Meeting."

**15.4-(c)** No dispensation shall be required.

*Proposed recommendation:*

**CHAPTER 15 – DISTRICTS**  
**Section 15.1 District Initiation Day**  
**Section 15.1(a)**

The Most Worthy Grand Matron shall schedule each District's Initiation Day date and designate a host Chapter. The host Chapter would be responsible for this Initiation Day.

**REASONING/Interpretation:**

There was much discussion in my District about the waste of money to hold a District Meeting and that our Official Visits, due to lack of Officers, is a visitation of the members of our District.

The Initiation Day would replace an Official Visit of each Chapter in the District. The expense of the Initiation Day may be borne by the Subordinate Chapters of the District or the host Chapter. (This is like a Grand Officer Night for the District.)

This would take effect 2025-2026. Prior to this change, a committee shall look at the Law and Instruction books to be sure all have been corrected (regarding WDD and District Meetings).

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	<b>Name &amp; title</b>		<b>Chapter Name &amp; Number</b>
Signature	<u>Jane Ann Scussier</u> <sup>pam</sup>	Chapter	<u>Jessika # 134</u>
Signature	<u>[Signature]</u> RWGT	Chapter	<u>Morning Star 27</u>
Signature	<u>Kathy Flanagan</u> wm	Chapter	<u>Little Falls # 224</u>
Signature	_____	Chapter	_____