

# **Official Circular**

## **Excelsior Grand Chapter**

### **Order of the Eastern Star**

**Tennessee Jurisdiction | Prince Hall Affiliation**



**2021 – 2022 Masonic Year**

**Sister Robbie R. Pillow**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron**

**Brother Willie L. Jackson, Sr.**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Patron**



December 23, 2021

To: Grand Chapter Officers, District Deputy Grand Matron, Associate District Deputy Grand Matrons, All Appointed Grand Chapter Officers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons (past and present), Officers and members of the Subordinate Chapters,

***“This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice in it.”***

Greetings,

I would like to thank you for electing me to serve as your 29<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron for the 2021 – 2022 Masonic year. I am truly honored by the trust and faith that you have placed in me.

I am excited to be working with such a great group of Sisters and Brothers, and I look forward to our working together as one cohesive family in love.

Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Willie L. Jackson, Sr., and I have a sincere desire to visit each District for Grand Visitation, and will make every concerted effort to be available should you need any need assistance.

Thank you again and be blessed,

Witness my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2021.

Robbie R. Pillow  
Grand Worthy Matron

Alisha M. Senter  
Attested By: Alisha Senter  
Honored Grand Secretary

Willie L. Jackson, Sr.  
Grand Worthy Patron



## Revenue

The revenue of Excelsior Grand Chapter shall be received from the following sources as stated in this Annual Official Circular. These are fees owed to Excelsior Grand Chapter.

Administrative Degree (To include Handbook) .....	\$35.00
Annual Grand Taxes Per Member (Breakdown below) .....	\$20.00
a. Taxes .....	\$15.00
b. Aid to Black Colleges .....	\$2.00
c. Scholarship .....	\$3.00
Chapter Representation Fee .....	\$50.00
Demit Fee (Members within TN) .....	\$5.00
Demit Fee (Members coming from other jurisdictions).....	\$15.00
Dispensations (Charitable/Community Service).... No Cost / Dispensations (Fundraiser)....	\$5.00
Dues Card .....	\$15.00
Esther Day .....	\$5.00
Healing Fee.....	\$125.00
Late Fee for Returns/Taxes (After due date) .....	\$25.00
New Charter .....	\$50.00
New Member Fee Bloodline (Sister).....	\$50.00
New Member Fee (Brother).....	\$25.00
Non-Bloodline Member Fee ( If applicable) .....	\$125.00
Reactivate a Chapter.....	\$125.00
Reinstatement Fee.....	\$50.00
Relief Fund .....	\$10.00
Replacement Charter .....	\$25.00
Visitation Fee (Per Chapter and made payable to the Grand Worthy Matron).....	\$20.00

## Supplies

Amaranth Member Certificate .....	\$3.00
Amaranth Ritual .....	\$15.00
Burial Ceremony Booklet .....	\$5.00
OES Constitution .....	\$10.00
OES Member Certificate .....	\$3.00
OES Ritual .....	\$16.00
Palm Sunday Ceremony Booklet.....	\$5.00
Queen of the South Member Certificate .....	\$3.00
Sunbeam Ritual .....	\$5.00

**Pre-Paid orders** may be picked up during Grand Session. These pre-paid orders **Must** be accompanied by a copy of the Chapter's invoice received from the HGS to receive your order. If you have already **pre-paid** and are not present to pick up your order, there will be a \$5.00 shipping fee added to your invoice balance.

If you have order items and need them to be shipped before or after Grand Session, the following shipping fees will apply:

Large Box.....	\$20.00
Medium Box.....	\$15.00
Small Box.....	\$15.00

## Directives

Please read the following directives that shall continue this Masonic year and please adhere to them. District Deputy Grand Matrons, Associate District Deputy Grand Matrons and Worthy Matrons, please share this information with all Chapter officers and members.

### **Directive from Most Worshipful Grand Master L. Lamont Banks - Balloting/Denial Letter**

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN and Excelsior Grand Chapter OES, PHA is comprised of men and women of good rapport and strong moral values. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN has placed in its governing code and constitution the method for all new members to be accepted into the Lodge or the Chapter.

## **Article IV – Balloting**

**Section 3-** If on casting a ballot for an applicant for the degrees or membership, it appears that he (she) is rejected, no member or visiting brother (sister) shall inquire into, or discover by **ANY MEANS** whatsoever, who opposed his (her) election, **NOR** improperly divulge the proceedings of the Lodge. (Chapter)

By the power invested in me, as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of TN, I L. Lamont Banks, do hereby **Direct** that the afore listed section of the Prince Hall Masonic Code and Constitution be always adhered to and effective immediately. I further **Direct** that only the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN approved letter of rejection be used to notify applicants of rejection. It is a serious Masonic Crime to inquire how another may have balloted, divulge how you balloted, or reveal what happened in the lodge or chapter meeting illegally. These crimes carry the penalty up to and including expulsion and will be addressed accordingly. Please contact your District Deputy Grand master or District Deputy Grand Matron for additional clarity or to report violations.

**\*All District Deputy Grand Matrons have a copy of the OES Denial letter and they are to ensure that all Chapters utilize this form.**

## **Chapter Dues**

**Effective as of June 30, 2020**, all Chapter members are required to pay your Subordinate Chapter dues **one year in advance** in full. Your membership dues are due April 30, 2022.

## **Chapter Activities/Condolences**

Please forward **Chapter activities, condolences, special recognition etc.** to our Communication Director:

Sister Ardree Studdard  
[ardreestuddard@gmail.com](mailto:ardreestuddard@gmail.com)

Please forward all **condolences only** to the following:

Sister Makita Brown  
2317 Bailey Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37202 | [makitabrown22771@yahoo.com](mailto:makitabrown22771@yahoo.com)

## **Directive from the Grand Worthy Patron – Master Masons**

- A Master Mason is only required to pay a debt that the Chapter will incur for the Master Mason regarding Grand Chapter taxes and District taxes/dues within their district.
- All other money that the Master Mason pays will be a donation of his own free will and accord.
- A Master Mason shall pay ½ of the new members fee that the Grand Chapter assesses for new members. (Fee is \$50 for sisters | \$25 for brothers)

- A Master Mason shall pay ½ of their local Subordinate Chapters' new member fee/initiation fee. (If applicable)
- A Master Mason does not require a background check through the Chapter. They are not required to pay the \$25 charity fee (payable to the Arvin W. Glass Foundation).

Chapters, please review your bylaws and if anything listed is contrary to this decision, that portion/clause of said by-laws are null and void. You will need to make changes and follow the Grand Chapter process to update them.

### **OES Bloodline Waiver – (Pending)**

### **Returns**

Excelsior Grand Chapter voted to submit Annual Returns only once a year. Therefore, your Annual Returns are **due April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year**. A late fee of **\$25.00** will be assessed for all returns not **received by April 30<sup>th</sup>**. All annual returns received 30 days after the April 30<sup>th</sup> due date will be assessed **an additional \$25.00 late fee**.

Please use the correct form. Incorrect Annual Return forms will be returned (returns and money will be returned to your chapter). **No exceptions.**

All Chapters are automatically assessed \$5.00 for Esther Day and \$10.00 for the Relief Fund on your Annual Returns form.

### **Directive from Most Worshipful Grand Master L. Lamont Banks – Social Media Policy**

It has come to my attention that several inappropriate topics are taking place on the internet. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN has internet policies that are being violated and causing a great deal of confusion. Additionally, suspended brothers and sister are not being removed from the sites and groups that belong to the Lodges, Chapter, Courts, etc.

Therefore, I Most Worshipful Grand Master L. Lamont Banks, direct that no information that is not able to be discussed with a non-member shall be discussed on the internet. I further direct that all suspended members shall be immediately removed from all sites and groups that are owned or controlled by the organization. This is to include GroupMe, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and any existing or future social media sites. This directive in no way affects your non-organization owned or controlled sites and groups. I highly recommend that everyone revisit and review the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge internet policy to ensure that you not in violation.

*Note: It is our sincere request that this document and other documents with their appropriate attachments be disseminated from the Grand East to the subordinate Chapters in your Districts.*