



First District Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 22, 2025
Lecture – Rooted in Gratitude, Rising in Power

Think of one moment you are grateful for that shaped your path. (Quiet Moment)
Not just a happy memory—but a turning point. A moment when your spirit whispered,
“You made it through.”
That is where we begin.

Gratitude as Foundation

Gratitude is not a weakness. It is not silence. It is a declaration: I am still here.
It honors the hands that held us, the voices that taught us,
the ancestors who dreamed of our becoming.
In the Order of the Eastern Star, gratitude is ritual.
It’s the way we honor Adah’s obedience, Ruth’s loyalty, Esther’s courage, Martha’s service, and
Electa’s love.

Each point of the Star reminds us: gratitude is survival, legacy, and light.

- Gratitude honors tradition and empowers teaching.
 - Gratitude is a radical act of survival and self-worth.
- “I come as one, but I stand as ten thousand.” — Maya Angelou

We don’t just say **thank you**. We **embody** it.
We wear it in our colors, our ceremonies, and our crowns.

Empowerment Through Identity

Empowerment begins when we stop shrinking.
When we say: **My story matters**.
My culture is not a footnote—it’s the headline.
My voice is not too loud—its legacy **amplified**.

In our Officer symbols:

- The Secretary’s pens remind us to write our truth.
- The Treasurer’s keys unlock our worth.
- The Conductress’s scroll carries our wisdom.
- The Marshall’s batons teach us: “**She who loves best, serves best.**”

*We are the mothers, daughters, sisters of resilience. The architects of beauty, boldness, and brilliance.
The keepers of sacred symbols and sacred truths. Empowerment begins with embracing your story,
culture, and voice.*

Success on Your Terms

Success is not a title. It’s not a seat at someone else’s table.
It’s the freedom to build your own.
To design a life that reflects your values, your joy, your divine assignment.

- Success = alignment with purpose, values, and joy
- It's when your work feels like worship.
- When your brand speaks your name before you do. In the Eastern Star, success is service. It's reclaiming and retaining our legacy. It's lifting as we climb, teaching as we rise.

Affirmation (in Closing)

So today, we honor the gratitude that grounds us,
the power that fuels us, and the purpose that guides us.
“We rise with gratitude. We lead with power. We succeed with purpose.”

***Fraternally,
Sister Joselyn Ortiz
Grand Lecturer
Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A.***