

BENEVOLENCES

Q. Does the Order of the Eastern Star have any special charities?

A. Yes. The members of the Order of the Eastern Star support the Eastern Star of Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Inc., the Educational Fund, E.S.T.A.R.L. (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership) and the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund. We also support the Shriners Hospitals, Cancer Research, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, Heart Research and many other charities.

YOUTH GROUPS

Q. Does the Order of the Eastern Star give support to any affiliated youth groups?

A. Yes. The Order of the Eastern Star in Massachusetts provides support to members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls (ages 11- 21). The Masons sponsor DeMolay for Boys (ages 13- 21). The purpose of these youth groups is to teach these fine young citizens to be leaders in the Community.

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS

Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star a secret society?

A. No. Secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community. Only members are allowed in a closed meeting.

Q. Are there expenses involved with being a member of the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. Yes. Each member is required to pay annual dues to their Chapter. All other expenses are optional.

Q. Is my religious faith allowed in the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. Yes. Members of all religious faiths may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Q. Is there any memory work?

A. Only if you become an Officer in your Chapter.

Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star time consuming?

A. After your initiation into the Order of the Eastern Star you may attend meetings as your time permits. However, the more you participate and become involved, the more you will receive from our Order.

For further information contact...

Name: _____
P.O. Box: _____
Street Address: _____
Apt #/Suite: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: _____

-or write-

Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter
of Massachusetts
Order of the Eastern Star
P.O. Box 600583
Newtonville, MA 02460-0006

Phone: 617-964-0312
E-Mail: maoessec@verizon.net

Website: www.oestar.org

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

A WAY OF LIFE



“TOGETHER WE BUILD
A BETTER LIFE”

REVISED 1/06 by the Membership Committee of
the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the
Eastern Star.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Q. What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest Fraternal Organization in the world to which both Women and Men can belong.

Q. What are the purposes and goals of the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. To provide an organization where women and men with good moral and social character can sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love, and the desire to work together in Charity, Truth and Loving-kindness for the benefit of all mankind throughout the world.

Q. Who is eligible for the Degrees and Membership?

A. Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, Legally adopted daughter, mothers, widows, sisters, half sisters, granddaughters, step mothers, stepdaughters, stepsisters, daughters-in-laws, grandmothers, great-granddaughters, nieces, great-nieces, mothers-in-law, sister in law, and daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standings at the time of their death, as well as to members-either active for three years or majority - of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or of the International Order of Job's Daughters, each of whom have attained the age of eighteen years, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. A Petitioner should be of good moral character, believe in a Supreme Being, be willing to assume the obligation of the Order and be able to attend the Ceremony of Initiation.

Q. Must the Master Mason belong to the Order of the Eastern Star before a woman can become a member?

A. No.

Q. May a woman use as her affiliation a Master Mason who has passed away?

A. Yes, provided the Master Mason was a member in good standing at the time of his death. A letter of verification from his Lodge or Grand Lodge will be required before the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star may be given.

Q. When was the Order of the Eastern Star formed?

A. Dr. Rob Morris, the Poet Laureate of Masonry conceived of the Order of Eastern Star in 1850.

Q. What is the basis of the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. Dr. Morris created the Degree of the Eastern Star around the lives of Five (5) Biblical women: Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and "the elect lady" (Electa). Each of these Biblical heroines stand for one of the Tenets of the Order, which are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star a religion?

A. No. The Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion, nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. It is open to all faiths except those who do not believe in a Supreme Being.

Q. Just what is Fraternal Life?

A. The Order of the Eastern Star provides us with a way of expressing compassion and concern for our Sisters and Brothers and loyalty to our friends, our Country, and our God. In addition, it offers us a way of life that all of us inwardly want for ourselves and our families.

Q. What does the Order of the Eastern Star have to offer?

A. Each of us has an inner need to do something for others; however, sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin. The Order of the Eastern Star offers that guidance and provides an outlet and support group. We are truly dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving-kindness.

Q. Is there any social involvement?

A. Yes, the presiding officer usually plans some type of activity after each meeting. The Chapter also has numerous social activities for all members, their families and friends.

MEMBERSHIP

Q. How may I express a desire to become a member of the Order of the Eastern Star?

A. You may contact the person whose name appears on the back of this brochure or, if you are not familiar with anyone in a Chapter in your area, you may contact the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts (P0 Box 600325 Newtonville, MA 02460) for the name, address and phone number of a member of a Chapter in your area.

Q. What procedure should I follow when I have decided that I would like to join a Chapter?

A. A member of that Chapter will provide you with a Petition, which you must fill out completely. It should be returned to the Chapter Secretary as soon as possible with the appropriate fees.

Q. What happens after I submit my Petition?

A. Following the reading of your Petition at a Chapter meeting, an Investigating Committee comprised of three (3) members of the Chapter will be appointed by the presiding officer. Shortly thereafter, the members of the Investigating Committee will contact you to set up a time to meet with you. This is done to: (1) ask a few simple questions, (2) provide you an opportunity to ask and receive answers to any questions you might have, and (3) verify your Masonic affiliation. The information the Investigating Committee receives will be reported to the Chapter.

Q. What will be the next step?

A. If all the information is in order, the report of the Investigating Committee will be submitted to the Chapter at a Stated Meeting and a vote taken. If favorable, you will have been elected to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Secretary will notify you of the results of the election and the date of your initiation.

Q. How long after the election will that be?

A. Most Chapters meet once a month, therefore, you should be initiated at the next meeting.