

To Our Prospective Members

We realize that in today's world you have an abundance of alternatives to occupy your time and talents, but we feel that the Order of the Eastern Star merits your special attention.

Each of us has an inner need to do something for others and sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin. The Order of the Eastern Star offers that guidance and provides an outlet, as well as serving as a resource center and support group.

Both women and men join a Fraternal Order to make friends and enjoy the fellowship that is displayed. Members and their families can enjoy interacting with others who share their beliefs.

Membership in this organization does require an investment of your time and goodwill, but its rewards are legion.

We who have the privilege and pleasure of membership realize that through our Ritual and its lovely message, we share a thing of beauty.

We too, would share it with you.

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; but we do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other. Only members are allowed to attend regular meetings.

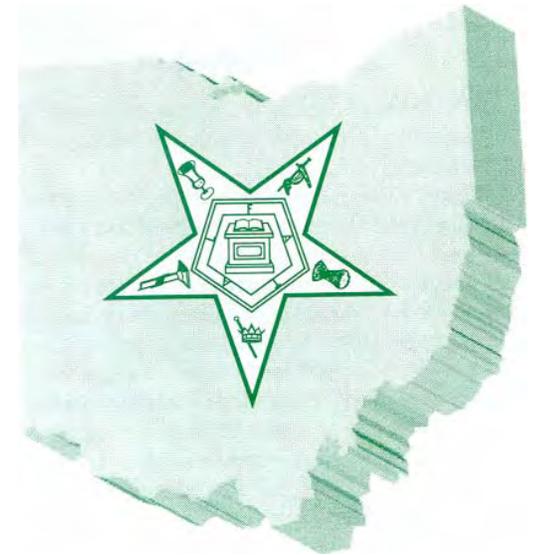
Q. Can I afford membership in the Order of the Eastern star?

A. Yes. Financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.

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

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

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



SERVING HUMANITY

Web site: www.ohoes.org

Grand Chapter of Ohio
Order of the Eastern Star

Heritage

In 1850, Dr. Rob Morris, an educator pastor and Master Mason, created our Ritual. Dr. Morris created the Degrees of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women. They were Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. The reason was, that each of these Biblical examples stands for one of the tenets of the Order. They are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love. Through his foresight and understanding, we share the priceless lessons of our religious heritage. We are humbly grateful for his inspiration and competence.

Purpose

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong.

Eastern Star is a social order comprised of persons with spiritual values but it is not a religion. Its appeal rests the true beauty of the refreshing and character-building lessons that are so sincerely portrayed in its ritualistic work. A deep fraternal bond exists between its members. It is the wholesome relationship of sisterly and brotherly love brought about through high principles exemplified in our lives that make us near and dear to each other.

While this is an Order composed of people of deep spiritual convictions, it is open to all faiths, except no faith. The personal welfare of our members is vital to all of those in the Eastern Star and it is considered a privilege to help another member whenever we can.

Eligibility for the Degrees

Affiliated Master masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, legally adopted daughters, mothers, widows, sisters, half-sisters, granddaughters, stepmothers, step daughters, stepsisters, daughters-in-law, grandmothers, great granddaughters, nieces, grand nieces, mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased, were in good standing at the time of their death, as well as members – either active for three (3) years or majority – of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or of the International Order of Job's Daughters, each of whom having attained the age of eighteen (18) years, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Membership of Ohio

The State of Ohio proudly claims more than 200 Chapters, with a total membership of over 45,000.

The Order of the Eastern Star allows members opportunities to enjoy fellowship, build friendships, and have fun. Our fraternal bond allows us to make a difference in our communities through social activities and charitable causes.

Benevolence

The Order of the Eastern Star is an organization where women and men with high moral and social character, can contribute time, energy, and wisdom through our Order with Charity, Truth, and Loving-Kindness for the good of all mankind throughout the world.

The Order of the Eastern Star provides us with a means of compassion and concern, not only for our fellow sisters and brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but to our country, our faith, and ourselves. In addition, it enters us into a way of life that all of us inwardly want for our families and ourselves.

Our Generosity is our Greatest Source of Pride

In recent years, Ohio Eastern Star members have given:

ESTARL

Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership. Over \$100,000 per year has been given to assist many college and seminary students.

Cancer Research

Grants for cancer research and cancer patient assistance totaling over \$20,000 per year.

Heart Fund

In 2004, there was over \$16,000 raised from donations, projects, and chapter sunshine collections to fund a grant on how women respond to heart attacks. In total, since 1980, the Grand Chapter of Ohio has donated over \$525,000 in support of critical heart disease research.

The Ohio Eastern Star Home at Mount Vernon

The members of Ohio's Order of the Eastern Star continue to support and love the residents at the OES Home in Mount Vernon. The Home and Health Care Center provide a wide range of services. Ohio's members take a great deal of pride in the Ohio OES Home.

Our Fraternal Youth

To our vigorous youth organizations: The Order of Rainbow for Girls, Job's daughters, and DeMolay, we continue our support of their scholarship programs, as well as, awarding deserving individuals with scholarships directly through our Grand Chapter Youth Committee.

In Addition

Eastern Star Members have helped the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. The International Peace Garden, and the International Temple in Washington, D.C. Members also support the efforts of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Masonic Home in Springfield. To each of these worthy causes, generous donations have been made. Our Chapters also help with local community projects through volunteer hours and financial support.

District 3 maintains their own Eastern Star Home. The generosity of their members has made this possible.

The humanitarianism expressed through these unselfish gifts of love is what The Order of the Eastern Star is all about.