

OUR EASTERN STAR FAMILY TREE



THE HEART OF THE ORDER IS "FAMILY"

Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, legally adopted daughters, mothers, widows, sisters, half-sisters, granddaughters, stepmothers, stepdaughters, stepsisters, daughters-in-law, grandmothers, great granddaughters, aunts, nieces, great nieces, mothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and 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 3 years or majority – of the International Order of Job's Daughters or the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, each of whom having attained to at least the age of 18, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

We hope this information brochure has answered some of your questions. If you are interested in adding a new and rewarding dimension to your life, desire more information or an application for membership, talk to a current member, contact the Secretary of the local Chapter or contact the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

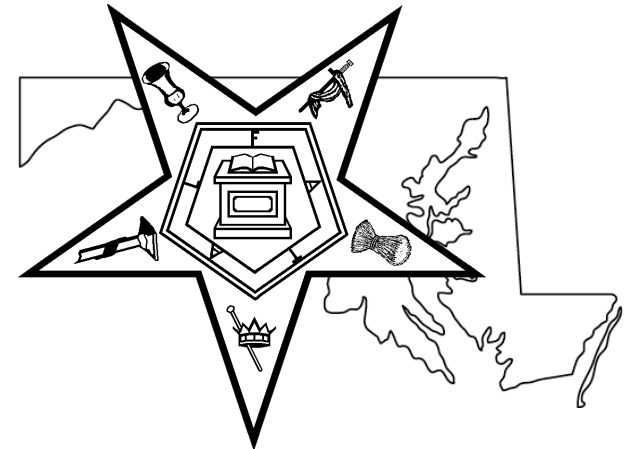
Local Chapter Information:

**Grand Chapter of Maryland
Order of the Eastern Star
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-527-1333**

**Email address: grsec@gcoesmd.org
www.gcmd.org**

Membership Committee of the Grand Chapter of MD 2005/2006

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



**SEEKING A FUTURE
FOR OUR ORDER**

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The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are concerned about the future of our Order and are determined not to see the Light of His Star grow dim. We are a living legacy to those members who charted the course of our beautiful Star so many years ago. However, through the years, there have been many misconceptions about the Masonic Fraternity and the Order of the Eastern Star. This pamphlet has been prepared to provide a better understanding of our beloved Order.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization to which both women and men can belong, with over 1 million members worldwide. Eastern Star shares with the Masonic Fraternity in giving to the world Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

PURPOSES AND GOALS

The purposes of the Order are: charitable; educational; and fraternal. Eastern Star provides a fraternal organization where women and men with high moral and social character can contribute time, energy and knowledge to our Order working together for Charity, Truth and Loving-Kindness for the good of all mankind throughout the world.

CHARITIES

The members of the Order of the Eastern Star dedicate themselves to supporting a variety of local and national charities. Examples include: the Alzheimer's Association, the Arthritis Foundation, Cancer Research, Diabetes Research, the Heart Fund, Military and Veterans, the Maryland Masonic Home and educational

scholarships to name a few. In addition, we support our own E.S.T.A.R.L. Fund (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership). Support is available to our Masonic family Youth Groups: the International Order of Job's Daughters, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

Since 1850, when Dr. Rob Morris conceived the Order of the Eastern Star, members have come from all walks of life and faiths. Their ages range from 18 to 100+. We live in small rural towns and big cities worldwide. The lessons of the Order of the Eastern Star teach Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love. As members of the Eastern Star, we strive daily to follow those lessons as we walk through the labyrinth of life.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

We encourage others to join us because we love our beautiful Order and want to see it continue to grow through the years to come. Both women and men join the Order of the Eastern Star to make friends, enjoy fellowship and have fun. Our members make a difference in their communities through the many charitable and social activities and make the world a better place.

SHOULD A MASON JOIN THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

The answer is "Yes." By joining the Order of the Eastern Star, a Mason can share in the benefits of being a member of a worthwhile organization dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving-Kindness. Joining the Order of the Eastern Star does not in any way diminish or alter the Mason's Masonic effectiveness. To the contrary, those men who have joined the Eastern Star have remained dedicated to their Lodges and the precepts of Masonry. Membership in the Order promotes the

concept of the Fraternal Family. It provides a wholesome atmosphere where families can fellowship and work together for the good of others. It is an enhancement to one's membership in the Masonic Fraternity. The Mason who joins is committed to the promotion of fraternalism and its positive influence on his family.

DISPELLING SOME POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

o The Order of the Eastern Star is NOT a "secret society." Secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community and on many web sites. We do, however, enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other and only members are allowed in closed meetings.

o The Order of the Eastern Star is NOT a religion NOR a cult. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. We have members from ALL religious beliefs. We only require a belief in a Supreme Being to become a member.

o Membership in the Order is affordable. There is a small initiatory/membership fee and nominal yearly dues. Our members come from all economic stations of life.

o There is no "required" obligation of time. After your Initiation into our Order, you may attend as your time permits. However, the more you participate and become involved, the more you will receive from our Order.

o There is no mandatory memory work except the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit another Chapter or if you become an Officer.

o We have a strong sense of patriotism and are taught to preserve the good order of our Country and strongly support the Government of the United States.