

## Additional Facts

- ◆ The Order of the Eastern Star is not a “secret society.” The members do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other, and only members are allowed in a closed meeting.
- ◆ Your financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.
- ◆ Members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.
- ◆ There is no mandatory memory work, except on the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination may be required.
- ◆ Members are patriotic. We strongly support the government of the United States of America.

## Contact Information

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## The Order of the Eastern Star



The Order of the Eastern Star is one of the largest fraternal organizations which both women and men with high moral character, a desire to work for the betterment of others and a drive to make the world a better place can contribute their time, energy, and wisdom for the good of all mankind.

## Who Can Join Eastern Star?

- ◆ Women 18 years and older with Masonic Affiliation
- ◆ Women 18 or older who have been members for three years in the International Order of Jobs Daughters’ or the International Order of Rainbow For Girls
- ◆ Men who are Master Masons from a recognized Masonic Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Delaware AF&AM
- ◆ Believe in a Supreme Being
- ◆ Are of good moral character
- ◆ Have resided in Delaware for at least one year
- ◆ Have not be convicted of a felony under the law of any state or of the United States

## The Formation of the Order of the Eastern Star

Doctor Rob Morris, the “Poet Laureate of Masonry” conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850. Doctor Morris created the degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women: Jephtha’s Daughter, who he called Adah; Ruth; Esther; Martha; and from the Second Epistle of John, the Elect Lady, whom he named Electa. The lives of these five women exemplified the sublime virtues, the tenets of the Order: *Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love.*

Even though the ritual is based on heroines from the Bible, the Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion or to serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. Petitioners from all faiths are welcome.

## A Way of Life in Eastern Star

In these days of moral uncertainty in our communities, members in the Order of the Eastern Star provide an avenue to express our compassion and concern, not only for our Sisters and Brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but also for others who benefit from our efforts as well.

Each of us has an inner need to do something for others. Sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin.

The women and men who join our Order make friends and enjoy the fellowship of fraternal Sisters and Brothers who share similar goals, while being afforded the opportunity to utilize their charitable nature to benefit others. In addition, the Order provides structure, resources, and support for accomplishing benevolent objectives.



Most importantly, the Order of the Eastern Star takes good citizens and makes them even better. We strive to remain in the forefront in the development of the American promise of human opportunity and personal fulfillment.

## Eastern Star Charity Projects

Some of the charitable endeavors the Grand Chapter of Delaware and its Subordinate Chapters support are:

- ◆ Special Needs Children of Delaware
- ◆ Cancer Research Fund
- ◆ ESTARL (Eastern Star Training Awards in Religious Leadership)
- ◆ Charitable activities within the local community.

## Becoming A Member

- ◆ Contact the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Delaware for name, address, and other contact information for a Subordinate Chapter in your area.
- ◆ Obtain a petition from the Subordinate Chapter you intend to join. Fill it out completely, including having a two members sign it as recommenders for you.
- ◆ Submit the completed petition to the Subordinate Chapter.
- ◆ An Investigating Committee will contact you and ask a few simple questions; provide you an opportunity to meet some Subordinate Chapter Members; and verify your Masonic affiliation.
- ◆ This information is reported to the Chapter; you are then voted upon and if the vote is favorable you will be notified to appear to receive the Degrees of the Order.