

Freemasonry and The Order of the Eastern Star

The Synergy of Fraternalism

Synergy may be defined as two or more things functioning together to produce a result not independently obtainable.

What is the Order of the Eastern Star?

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization to which both men and women belong who are devoted to the ideals of Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness.

What is the difference for a Mason for membership in Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star?

To join Freemasonry you need to be recommended by a brother and be of good moral character.

To join the Order of the Eastern Star, as a Master Mason, you must be a member in good standing of a Masonic Lodge

The common bonds between Freemasonry and Eastern Star is why it is so important that Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star work together to strengthen each organization.

Who are the members of the Order of the Eastern Star?

Members of the Order of the Eastern Star are Sisters and Brothers working together to promote Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness thereby enriching our lives and those around us. The Order is about charity, service and fellowship. In joining the Order you gain lifelong friendships and treasured experiences.

Did you know?

Dr. Robert Morris, the poet laureate of Freemasonry, founded the Order of the Eastern Star. It was in 1850 while confined to his home following an accident that Morris wrote the initiatory Degrees of the Order. He first initiated his wife and daughters and expanded to some neighbor ladies. The signs and modes of recognition given to them, he freely communicated to Masons so that they would be able to recognize the newly initiated women.

Robert McCoy, who came onboard in 1860, wrote the rituals of the Order. These degrees are centered on the lives of five biblical heroines, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and The Elect Lady with each one representing one of the five principles of the Order, which are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

What is the Mission of Eastern Star?

To help aid and support the widows, mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of Freemasons. To aid and support members in time of need and to give cheer in their happiness and sympathy in their time of sorrow.

What do we do?

Through our Individual Chapters...

- Sponsor the local International Order of Rainbow for Girls Assemblies.
- Support DeMolay Chapters.
- Participate in local food banks or other community services.
- Contribute to local homeless shelters.
- Support Veteran's shelters.
- Through outreach in our communities, we support many charitable organizations.

- Put on dinners for Masonic Lodges.
- Participate in local Masonic *myCHIP* events.
- Participate in Masonic Blood drives.
- Hold monthly breakfasts for the community.
- Family outings: e.g.: mini-golf, bowling, horseback riding and many other activities.
- Hold theme Table Chapters including a yearly Halloween theme, mystery dinner theaters and theme fun nights.

Through the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts...

- Support the local International Order of Rainbow for Girls Assemblies and DeMolay Chapters.
- Award Scholarships through our Grand Chapter, as well as individual Chapters. The Grand Chapter also awards scholarships to those specifically pursuing religious education.
- The Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund gives financial assistance to members, in a confidential manner, who have had a catastrophic event or illness that has placed them in sudden financial distress.
- The Eastern Star of Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Inc. gives assistance, in a confidential manner, for the various needs of our elder members, such as wheel chairs, eyeglasses, hearing aids, home health care, etc.
- Support the charity of choice of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron during their year of service.

Annual Statewide Events...

- Hold three balls/dances each year proceeds to support our scholarships or benevolences.
- Worthy Grand Patron's annual fun trips.
- Annual holiday party, including dinner and dancing.

Through the General Grand Chapter, Internationally...

- We support Service Dogs. In Massachusetts, we have adopted dogs through the *NEADS* program.

In conclusion, Freemasonry and The Order of the Eastern Star have a lot in common. We both want to enjoy our Lodges and Chapters by having fun times and we do hold similar values and purposes. The only significant difference is that in the Order of the Eastern Star, men may participate with their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters, thereby helping to strengthen the family and promote the fraternal life of good citizenship. An added benefit is to enjoy social, fraternal and charitable events with your female relatives, thus strengthening the family bond and synergy.

For further information

contact your local Chapter or the
Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of
Massachusetts Order of the Eastern Star

460 Newtonville Avenue
Newtonville, MA 02460-1925

617-964-0312

maoessec@gmail.com

*We invite and welcome you,
your family members,
and female friends to join the
Order of the Eastern Star
and continue the
Synergy of Fraternalism.*

Who may join:

- Men who are Master Masons in good standing of a Masonic Lodge.
- Women who are at least 18 years of age and relatives of past or present Master Masons in good standing of a Masonic Lodge*. The necessary relationship is by birth, marriage or adoption.
- Women who are majority members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls® or Job's Daughters International® or have been active for three (3) years, who have reached the age of 18.
- Women who are at least 18 years of age who are sponsored by two Eastern Star members, one Sister and one Brother.

**and in good standing at the time of their death.*

NOTE: A female with Masonic affiliation can join Eastern Star even if her Masonic affiliation does not belong to Eastern Star.



Membership Committee
of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts
Order of the Eastern Star

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