

### Dispelling Some Misconceptions

- 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, but we do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other. Only members are allowed in a closed meeting.
- You can afford membership in Order of the Eastern Star. Financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic strata of life.
- Members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in a Supreme Being.
- After your initiation into our Order during a regular meeting, you may attend as your time permits. There is no "required" obligation of time.
- There is no mandatory memory work except the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination is strictly voluntary, but encouraged.
- Members are taught an allegiance to preserve the good order of their country. We strongly support the government of the United States.

### Why Should I Join This Fraternal Order?

All members have their own reasons for joining this organization.

The Order of the Eastern Star allows us opportunities to enjoy fellowship, build friendships and have fun.

Our fraternal bond allows us to collectively make a difference in our communities through social activities and charitable causes.

The Indiana Masonic Home is a retirement community located in Franklin. Living environments include independent cottages and duplexes, large and small independent apartments, assisted living and nursing home care. Your membership in Eastern Star can make you eligible to live there. Each year there are fund raising efforts for a special project to benefit the residents of our Home.

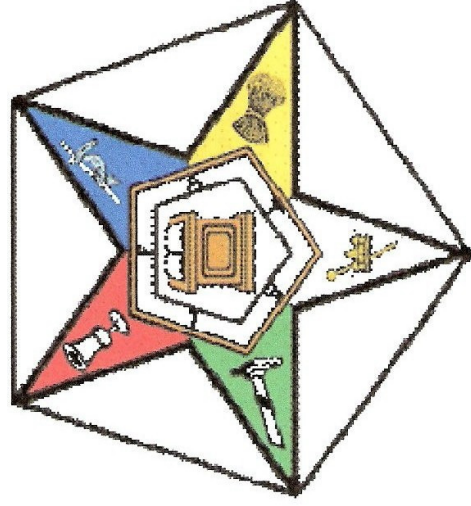
**COME & JOIN US!**

**We have a chapter near you!  
For more information contact  
the Grand Secretary's Office:**

**317-736-4487**

Indiana Grand Chapter Webb Page:  
<http://www.indianagranchapters.com>

# What So



# *Eastern Star*

## WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR?

### Foundation

We are the largest worldwide fraternal organization for both women and men. Our teachings are based on the Bible, however, the Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion and is neither secret nor political. Our symbol is the Star of Bethlehem with the five-pointed star as our accepted emblem. Our lessons of brotherly love, relief and truth are portrayed through biblical heroines in our initiation ceremony. Business meetings are conducted with an open Bible on the altar and the flag of our country displayed.

### A Way of Life in Eastern Star

In these days of troubled times and moral conflict, Eastern Star provides us with an avenue of compassion and concern, not only for our fellow Sisters and Brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but for ourselves, our Country, and our faith. In addition, it enters us into a way of life that all of us inwardly want for ourselves and our families.

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 organization to make friends and enjoy the fellowship that is displayed. Members and their families can enjoy interacting with others who share their beliefs.

Most importantly, the Order of the Eastern Star takes *good citizens and makes them even better*. We continue to be central in the development of the American promise of human opportunity and personal fulfillment.

### Youth Group Support

The Order of the Eastern Star supports the activities and members of the International Order of the Rainbow Girls, the International Order of Jobs Daughters and the Order of DeMolay. These fine young people who are training themselves to be leaders are likely prospects to become valued members of the Eastern Star. The Order of the Eastern Star and the Masonic fraternity are highly rewarded by their support of and interest in these youth organizations.

### Projects

Concrete evidence of the charitable nature of the organization as it affects others is the millions of dollars which have been raised within the membership to support ESTARL (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership), Cancer Research Project, Heart Fund, Shriner's Hospital for Children, Knights Templar Eye Foundation and many other Charities within each state (Grand Jurisdiction).

### Membership—Eligibility

Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, the wives, daughters, legally adopted daughters, mothers, widows, sisters, half sisters, grand daughters, stepmothers, stepdaughters, step-sisters, daughters-in-law, grandmothers, great granddaughters, nieces, great 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 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.

### How Does One Belong?

Those desiring membership must petition to do so. Petitions are carefully read, eligibility investigated and election to membership must be by unanimous vote. The Order strives to select persons of mental, moral and spiritual quality who will work together in harmony to perform its objectives.

To join Eastern Star, you must:

- Be of good moral character
- Believe in a supreme being
- Be at least 18 years old
- Believe in the laws of the United States
- Be willing to assume the obligation of the Order and participate in the ceremony of initiation
- Not be convicted of a felony under the laws of any state in the United States.
- Meet eligibility requirements

### Meaning of Membership

The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good. It gives them the opportunity to give a part of their time to many projects that benefit mankind.

The Eastern Star Chapter meetings are interesting and important. We need the energies of our members to increase the membership of our Order.

We are proud of our Order's heritage. Thousands of our members have contributed their time, energy and wisdom in unselfish service to our Order and for the good of the world. It is through this fraternal service to humanity that together we build a better life for all.