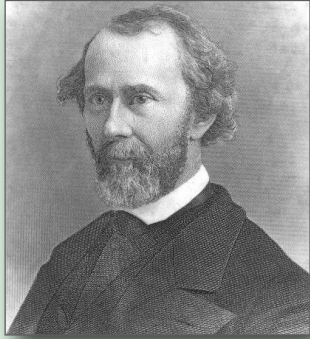


What Is Eastern Star?

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

The organization was created in the United States in 1850 by Dr. Rob Morris, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky (1858-59) and “Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.”

Dr. Morris felt that all the good in Masonry should not be confined to men. Along with his wife, Charlotte, he developed the Order, based on selected Biblical women who demonstrated heroic conduct and moral integrity.



Because of Masons like Rob Morris, Masonry has become much more than a fraternity. It reaches out to the whole family in organizations like Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, Rainbow, and DeMolay.

Dr. Morris would be proud to know that the Order of the Eastern Star continues today, with more than 650,000 members in over 5,000 chapters throughout the world

Today's Eastern Star members promote and follow the same principles of brotherly love, relief and truth that are taught in the Masonic lodge.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



The Blue Lodge and The Order of the Eastern Star



Can Masons and Eastern Star Members Build Partnerships?

Dr. Rob Morris created the Order of the Eastern Star as an organization where men and women could work together. In communities where there is a Masonic Lodge and an Eastern Star Chapter that work well together, both organizations benefit.

In most cases, the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star chapter meet in the same building and they share a common interest in promoting the image of Masonry in the community.

Many Blue Lodges and OES Chapters in Ohio also collaborate in a wide variety of charity projects, social events, and fund-raising activities. Some examples include:

- ★ sponsoring Masonic youth groups and local youth sports teams;
- ★ hosting Christmas parties, dinners and dances, and charity walk-a-thons;
- ★ collecting food and clothing for needy families and school supplies for needy students;
- ★ hosting Red Cross blood drives;
- ★ manning booths at county fairs and local festivals;
- ★ working on clean-up crews along local roads, or coffee safety breaks at highway rest areas;
- ★ providing scholarships to local students;
- ★ recognizing community servants;
- ★ organizing an “open house” in the Masonic Temple.

Who May Join?

The Order of the Eastern Star is open to both men and women. As in Masonry, prospective members submit a petition to the Eastern Star chapter they wish to join.

Male petitioners must be Masons who are in good standing with their lodge.

Females must be 18 years of age or older, and related to Masons in good standing. If the Masonic relative is deceased, he must have been in good standing at the time of his death.

Approved Masonic relationships include:

- ★ wives
- ★ daughters
- ★ legally adopted daughters
- ★ mothers
- ★ widows
- ★ sisters
- ★ half sisters
- ★ granddaughters
- ★ stepmothers
- ★ stepdaughters
- ★ stepsisters
- ★ daughters-in-law
- ★ grandmothers
- ★ great granddaughters
- ★ nieces
- ★ great nieces
- ★ mothers-in-law
- ★ sisters-in-law
- ★ aunts
- ★ first and second cousins

In addition, women who were/are active members of the International Order of Job's Daughters or the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls may petition for membership. These petitioners must be at least 18 years of age and must have been active in their youth group for at least three (3) years or have reached “majority.”

How Can Eastern Star Benefit Me and My Lodge?

Masons are always seeking more light. The lessons portrayed in the Eastern Star initiation are appropriate for both men and women, and provide an opportunity for Masons and their female relatives to “attend chapter” together.

Many active Masons agree that Eastern Star membership has helped their wives and other female relatives to understand the process of initiation, the vows taken, the ritual work, and the general activities of the organization. They also can understand the benefits of traveling to other lodge and chapter meetings.

In addition, many men and women have found Eastern Star to be an opportunity to make new friends, practice leadership skills, and participate in the many philanthropies organized and supported by the local chapter as well as the statewide organization, the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

How Do Men Participate?

A woman always serves as the presiding officer of an OES chapter, but a man stands by her side to advise and support. These chief officers of an Eastern Star chapter are called Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. The Worthy Patron also conducts a large portion of the initiation ceremony. Certain other Eastern Star offices are open to men, as well.

For More Information....

More information about the Order can be found on the Ohio Eastern Star web site, www.ohiooes.org.