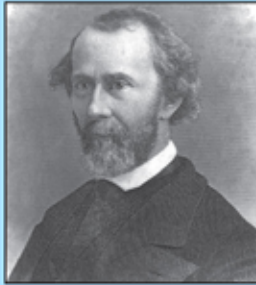


Stardom Began in 1850

The origins of the Order of the Eastern Star date back to the mid-19th century.

Dr. Rob Morris, the Poet Laureate of Masonry and a past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, is acknowledged as the “master builder” of the Order. A teacher and school administrator, he wrote more than 400 poems and several books which continue to be valued references in today’s Masonic libraries. He also made it his mission to share the tenets of Masonry with women.



Dr. Rob Morris

With the help of his wife, Charlotte, Dr. Morris developed the beautiful initiatory degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850. The ceremony focuses on selected women of the Bible who demonstrated heroic conduct and high moral values. The five degrees use these examples to teach the Masonic principles of charity, truth and loving kindness -- qualities that are as necessary in today’s world as they were in the 1800’s.

While the Order of the Eastern Star has evolved over time, it remains rooted in charitable endeavors and fraternal fellowship and offers its members a wide variety of opportunities for personal growth and community involvement.



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You Can Be a Star

If you are looking for a way to help others, and have a great time in the process, you should consider membership in the Order of the Eastern Star, where you can find fun and fellowship with people who want to give back to the community -- people like yourself.

Eastern Star is a unique organization with many qualities you won't find anywhere else -- beautiful ceremonies, meaningful lessons that focus on moral values, and the friendship of sisters and brothers around the world. Members find that, wherever their jobs or circumstances take them, they can be assured of a warm welcome in an Eastern Star Chapter.

Would you like to know more? Here are some of the reasons why the Order of the Eastern Star is so very special.

We Are Coeducational

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong with more than 650,000 members worldwide. In Eastern Star Chapters, Masons and their female relatives promote the values and charitable purposes that are such an important part of the Masonic fraternity. Male petitioners must be members in good standing of a regular Masonic lodge. Female petitioners must be at least 18 years of age and be related to a Master Mason. A woman always serves as the presiding officer of an OES chapter, but Masons are there to advise and support.

We Are Inter-generational

An Eastern Star Chapter has members of all ages. Some are young men and women who are in college or just beginning their careers. Some are "Baby Boomers" or "Gen-Xers," and still others have been members of the Order of the Eastern Star for 50 years or more. It is an amazing mix that results in shared wisdom and ideas as members grow to appreciate and learn from the knowledge and talents of their sisters and brothers, both young and old.

We Believe in God

Like the Masonic fraternity, membership in the Order is open to members of all religious affiliations, but petitioners must profess belief in a Supreme Being. The Order is not a substitute for religion but, rather, a complement to each member's church and faith. The initiation ceremony features character-building lessons based on Biblical characters found in the Old and New Testaments.

We Do Good Works

OES chapters serve their communities in a variety of ways. They collect food for needy families, donate school supplies to disadvantaged students, offer scholarships, support Little League teams and hospitals, participate in walkathons to fund research to cure cancer and other deadly diseases, and sponsor Masonic youth organizations (Order of Job's Daughters, the Order of the Rainbow for Girls and the Order of DeMolay). Chapters also work together to support several statewide charities, including the Ohio Eastern Star Home and a long-standing OES scholarship program for future pastors and other religious leaders.

We Share Good Times

Eastern Star members have an active social life, as well. Activities range from road trips, dinners and dances to Christmas parties for children, picnics and pot lucks.

We Support One Another

Eastern Star members call each other Sister and Brother because the organization is very much like a family. In the Order of the Eastern Star, members become fast friends who not only work together for good causes, but also support one another in good times and bad.

We'd Like to Make You a Star

The Order of the Eastern Star is always on the lookout for adults of all ages who are trying to better themselves and the community around them. If you would like to add your light to this Star, contact a member of a local chapter, or go to the Ohio Eastern Star Web site: www.ohiooes.org. The Web page includes details on membership eligibility and a list of chapters in Ohio, as well as more information about the tenets and purposes of the Order of the Eastern Star.

