

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men can belong. Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry, conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850. He created the degrees of the Eastern Star around the lives of five biblical women – Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa, each of whom are examples of heroic conduct and moral values. The heroines represent the tenants of the Order which are FIDELITY, CONSTANC, LOYALTY, FAITH, and LOVE.

Our **purpose and goal** is to provide an organization where women and men with good moral and social character, through uplifting and elevating associations of love and service and also through precept and example, build an Order which is truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

**Eligibility for Membership:** Master Masons in good standing and the following female relatives of Master Masons 18 years or older:

Wives – Widows – Daughters – Sisters -- Mothers  
Step-Mothers – Half-Sisters -- Step Daughters  
Step-Sisters – Grandmothers – Granddaughters  
Nieces – Mothers-in-Law -- Great Granddaughters  
Legally Adopted Daughters

Members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or the International Order of Job’s Daughters  
(Active for 3 years or have reached their majority)

The Master Mason does not need to belong to the Order of the Eastern Star in order for a woman to join. A petitioner should be of good moral character, believe in a Supreme Being, be willing to assume the obligation of the Order and be able to attend the Ceremony of Initiation

A woman may use her affiliation with a Master Mason that has passed away, providing the Master

Mason was a member in good standing at the time of his death.

**The Order of the Easter Star is not a religion.** It does not pretend to take the place of a religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. The Order only requires a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

**What does the Order have to offer?** Each of us has an inner need to do something for others. The Order of the Eastern Star provides us a way of expressing compassion and concern for our Sisters and Brothers and loyalty to our friends, our country and our God. This organization is truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

The local chapters usually meets once a month and have various activities or fundraisers for charitable purposes. The State “Grand Chapter” also has social activities for all members, their families and friends, including bus trips, group shows, dinners, and the annual Grand Ball.

**Youth Groups:** The Order of the Eastern Star in Rhode Island provides moral and financial support to members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Order of DeMolay.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Is the Order of the Eastern Star a secret society?**  
No, secret societies are underground and hard to find. The members of the Order of the Easter Star are easily found within the community. While only members are allowed to attend a closed meeting, non-members, family and friends are always welcome at an Open Installation of Officers and other social events.

**Are there expenses with membership?** Each member is required to pay annual dues to their chapters. All other expenses are optional.

**Is there memory work?** There is memory work only if you become an officer in your chapter

**Is Eastern Star time-consuming?** After your initiation in the Order of the Eastern Star, you may attend meetings as time permits. However, the more you participate and become involved, the more you will receive from our Order.

### How to Join

To start the process of joining the Order of the Eastern Star, please complete the petition on the back of this pamphlet and return it to either the person who gave you the petition or to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, Order of the Eastern Star.

Your petition will be forwarded to the Worthy Matron or Secretary of the Chapter in our area, who will contact you to discuss this petition. Your petition for membership will be read at the next stated meeting of the Chapter. An investigating committee, comprised of three members, will be appointed by the presiding officer. The members of this committee will meet with you to ask you a few questions, provide you with an opportunity to ask questions, and to verify your Masonic affiliation. The report of the investigating committee will be given at the next stated meeting of the Chapter and a ballot will be taken on the acceptance of the petition. The Secretary of the Chapter will notify you of the results of the election, along with a suggested date for your initiation ceremony.

# Petition for the Degrees

Order of the Eastern Star

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Worthy Matron, officers, and members of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Rhode Island, Order of the Eastern Star.

The undersigned respectively petitions to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star and become a member of this Chapter. If accepted, I pledge myself to cheerful obedience of the laws of the Order.

I have lived in the jurisdiction of the chapter for (length of time): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe in a Supreme Being: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you petitioned any other Chapter and been rejected within the past two months: \_\_\_\_\_

If the petitioner is a Majority Rainbow Girl or Job's Daughter or was active for three years (Copy of the Majority Certificate or proof of three years membership must accompany this petition) Masonic relationship is not required, simply mark N/A in that area below, and complete the following:

I am a Majority Girl in the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or Job's Daughters or I was a member for a minimum of three years at: Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_ Located: \_\_\_\_\_

Masonic Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge  
F&AM No: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended By: \_\_\_\_\_

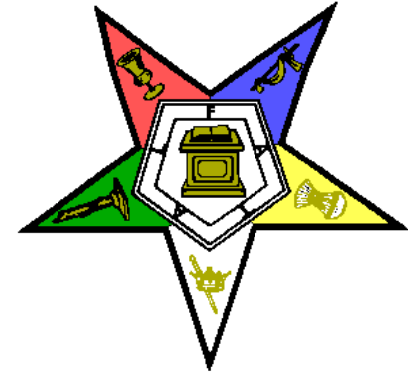
The undersigned, the committee appointed to investigate and report upon the above petition, respectfully state that they have discharged the trust placed in them and report \_\_\_\_\_ favorably. (Print your name on left, sign at right)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presented: \_\_\_\_\_ Elected: \_\_\_\_\_ Initiated: \_\_\_\_\_

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This booklet was created as a joint effort of the 2006-2009 VisionQuest coordinator, and the Membership Committee of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island for use by the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island and its subordinate chapters

# Rhode Island Order of the Eastern Star



## Follow the Star For a Better Way of Life

**For further information contact:**

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