

Chapter Secretaries—the following is the first in a series of informational postings from the Grand Chapter Finance Committee. We would really appreciate it if you would include this in your Chapter's newsletter or have someone, such as the Worthy Patron, read it during Good of the Order. Thank you for your help in this.

Do you know what your dues pay for? For the cost of 1 or 2 nice dinners out, you help to pay the necessary costs of operating your local Chapter and the Order of Eastern Star in California for a year. But what value do you obtain from your membership? Each member probably has a slightly different answer to that question but following are some of the obvious and maybe not-so-obvious answers to that question.

- Opportunity to form lasting friendships with like-minded Sisters and Brothers in the largest fraternity in the world to which both men and women can belong
- Spiritual lessons and teachings which will help to build moral character and high principles
- Frequent activities to attend which further cement the friendships formed (including plenty of meals, many of which exceed, in quality and enjoyment, those you might otherwise use your dues to purchase at a restaurant!!)
- Aid for needy members from the Benevolent Fund and Outreach Program
- Assistance for cancer-stricken members in need of financial assistance
- Availability of scholarship funds for members wishing to pursue further education
- Opportunity to live in the Senior Living Community during retirement

Every member can certainly add to this list of values obtained from their membership. And just think—all this comes at less than the cost of your yearly newspaper subscription or a coffee drink once or twice a month. Pretty good deal when you think about it!!