

Chapter Secretaries—the following is the second 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.

The responsibilities that come with being a member of the Order of the Eastern Star are many. During your initiation into the Order, you were instructed that the Order is dedicated to Charity and Fraternalism. Eastern Star of California has many charities.

Did you know that the California Eastern Star Foundation is responsible for and maintains the following Charities: Benevolent Fund, Cancer Research Fund, Disaster Fund, Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership (ESTARL), Gerald P Cashion Fund, Grand Chapter Heart Fund, J. Clifford Lee Memorial Cancer Fund, Marguerite Rennie Memorial Fund, Medical Research Fund, Eastern Star Patient Comfort Program Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Scholarships Endowment Fund?

Did you know that the Eastern Star Homes of California, governed by the Board of Trustees, was established to provide care and support of our aged or infirmed members of the Order? Did you know that The Board of Trustees may grant Outreach Services to those members who are not residents of the Senior Living Community? Did you know that the Life Sponsor Membership-Eastern Star Home was established to provide maintenance of the Eastern Star Home?

Did you know that every donation, every gift whether it be monetary or real property is tracked through the Grand Chapter Office? Did you know that all Subordinate Chapters report to the Grand Chapter Office with membership and tax information? Did you know that the Grand Chapter Office responds to the many inquiries by members and Chapters? Did you know that membership supplies are purchased from the Grand Chapter Office? All this work goes through a small office staff of seven employees. Each employee has specific duties to guarantee that our Order is accountable for these services while maintaining the level of service requested by our members.

As members of the Order of the Eastern Star, it is our responsibility to ensure our charities have the needed monies to be charitable to our members. It is also our responsibility to help maintain the services rendered by the Grand Chapter Office to each member, subordinate Chapter, and other Jurisdictions. Every member of our Order in California contributes to these responsibilities through the annual per capita paid by your Chapter dues. Did you know that only \$4.00 of your per capita maintains the operations of the Grand Chapter, that's just a little over a penny a day.

Did you know that over the years a surplus fund had been set aside for a "rainy day" to help finance the Grand Chapter if the budget could not be met? Did you know that we have had to use some of this money to fund our shortfalls? Did you know that if we continue to use this fund in three short years, the fund will be depleted?

As members of the Order, we have to share in the responsibility of ensuring that our Grand Chapter Office has the funds required to meet their obligations. And, for just an extra penny a day, or the price of an extra cup of coffee, just think what a difference you could make.