

Chapter Secretaries—the following is the third 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.

PER CAPITA – What is it?

It is the amount the Members pay for the services we receive from California Grand Chapter.

The total Per Capita per person for 2010 is \$12.55. And what do you get for your money?

- ❖ **\$4.00 - GRAND CHAPTER OFFICE - pays for the running of the Grand Chapter Office.**
 - The Grand Chapter Office keeps the records for the 32,000 active members of the Order in California. Your individual record includes the information on your Eastern Star Life, your dates in Eastern Star, your Chapter(s), your offices, your address', your awards, i.e. your OES life.
 - The Grand Chapter Office is the official record keeper of all four entities; Grand Chapter, Senior Living Community, Foundation, and Eastern Star Professional Plaza.
 - They collect the money and pay the bills for all four entities.
 - They keep up with the laws of our C&L, the State of California, the IRS, and the General Grand Chapter. They keep us legal with all governing bodies.
 - They are the link between the WGM & WGP, Grand Chapter Committees, Chapters and us. They notify the Chapters of our appointments and awards, of upcoming events, and of the deaths of our Past Grand Officers. They communicate with other states regarding Grand Representative appointments. They research family histories for our members.
 - They distribute supplies, answer the questions of the members and chapter officers, and keep us informed.

- ❖ **\$2.00 - HOME MAINTENANCE FUND – is for the maintenance of our Home.**

The Home Board oversees the running of the Senior Living Community with funds from the Endowment Fund. This portion of our Per Capital tax is our annual contribution to the cost of the maintenance of the Home.

- ❖ **\$0.45 - BENEVOLENT FUND - assists our members in a time of need.**

The Benevolent Fund is for the support of our members in need and is there to help solve a financial problem.

- ❖ **\$0.25 - CONVENTION FUND - to pay for the annual session of Grand Chapter.**
 - This includes the costs of building rent; the use of equipment, furniture, sound, lights, etc.; the security; City Licenses; and the Convention Staff to provide these items; etc.
 - Does it include rooms for Officers, members, etc. – NO!
 - **Why have an annual session?** It is required by the C&L! We, the members, are the governing body of our Order. It is our “Annual Meeting”. It is our duty and responsibility to vote on our elected officers and our laws.

- ❖ **\$0.10 - SCHOLARSHIP FUND - to provide scholarships.**

We assist our members and the youth with scholarships to continue their education!

- ❖ **\$5.75 – INSURANCE – to protect us in many ways.**
 - Property insurance for the chapter paraphernalia, etc. from fire, flood, earthquake, etc.
 - Liability insurance in case of an accidents.
 - Worker's compensation for our employees, both at the Grand Chapter office and in our Chapters.
 - Directors and Officers errors and omissions insurance, to protect all our officers.

The total is currently is \$12.55 per member per year. A very small amount, only \$1.05 a month, for everything it covers. Can you even buy a cup of coffee or a cup of tea or a soda once a month for this annual fee?

Unfortunately, this small amount is no longer sufficient to cover our expenses. The Grand Chapter has cut their expenses to the bone and yet we have had to dip into our reserves the last two years and will continue to do so if we do not raise our per capita.