

# **ESTARL**

## **Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership**

The Order of the Eastern Star does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin or religious belief in the administration of its scholastic program.

At the 1952 General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly in Milwaukee, WI, approval was given for the establishment of the Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious leadership, for the purpose of giving financial support to college students pursuing a religious education. The Grand Chapter of Washington at its next annual session concurred with wishes of the members and added Section 704 to the By-Laws that provide for the ESTARL Education Fund. Paragraph 1 of the aforementioned section reads “The ESTARL Education Fund shall consist of contributions from Chapters and members and will be for the purpose of giving assistance to young men and women who desire to enter various fields of religious service: namely, ministers, missionaries, directors of church music, directors of religious education and directors of youth leadership.”

Since the creation of ESTARL several millions of dollars have been contributed and distributed to qualifying students. In recent years during each triennium of General Grand Chapter the cumulative total usually exceeds \$2,000,000. We are pleased that the Grand Chapter of Washington often figures in the top ten contributors. The impact of this philanthropy can best be told in the words of one of the recipients from our own Washington: “You are to be commended for your vision and motivation. Offering this type of aid to future church leaders will allow you to literally change the course of human history. It is remarkable to find your kind of dedication to a long-range goal. In the process you bless and encourage many lives. Thank you for blessing my life and that of my family.”

In the establishment of this project the General Grand Chapter Educational Committee provided for the appointment of a committee in each Grand Chapter for the promotion of the ESTARL program. They, in turn, requested that the Worthy Matron of each Chapter appoint a committee for the purpose of solicitation of funds. Screening applicants on the basis of academic record, residence, character and financial need. Eligibility for awards is determined entirely by the Grand chapter committee. Under the

headings “New Application Procedures” and “Application Information”, you will find the regulations adopted by the Grand Chapter of Washington.

Each year following our Grand Chapter session in June, a check for the ESTARL funds (Chapter contributions and memorials collected prior to the closing of books by March 31) is sent to the General Grand Chapter (in accordance with their regulations) for recording. The funds are then returned to our Grand Chapter for distribution to those selected to receive awards for the year ahead.

This is an active fund. As nearly as possible and/or practical, ALL funds received each year are disbursed to eligible applicants, except in case of bequests or large endowments. (See Grand Chapter By-laws, Article VII, Section 704). The check is sent to the college or seminary where the awardee is enrolled prior to the start of the school year by the chairman of the STARL committee with the request that the registrar administer the award for books, tuition and fees. Should the student not remain in school the entire year, the balance is refunded and this amount is then available for the use of other students.

Since 1956 each Chapter in Washington has been asked to assume a quota of twenty-five cents per member thereby being eligible for listing on the Grand Chapter ESTARL Honor Roll of 100 percent Chapters.

## **MEMORIAL PROGRAM**

ESTARL has a fine memorial program. Each chapter secretary has memorial blanks that are filled out to designate a memorial and sent with the money to the Grand Secretary. A memorial card is then sent to the designated party by the Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee to indicate to the bereaved family that such contribution has been made. The Chapter of the member making the contribution is credited with this amount thereby increasing the Chapter total. Many Chapter use an ESTARL Memorial instead of sending flowers, especially where funerals are out of town. Contributions for memorials made by non-members of a Chapter are not credited to the chapter even though sent through proper channels. It is also suggested that contributions to ESTARL be made in place of sending flowers to hospitalized friends and/or as a special birthday remembrance. Because of the necessary paperwork involved in each transaction it is recommended that the minimum memorial contribution be set at \$5.00. For lesser amounts no memorial card will be sent.

## **NEW APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The most important qualifications for applicants are 1) High moral character, 2) Satisfactory academic record, 3) Capacity for leadership, 4) Good citizenship, 5) Good personal presentation, 6) Sincerity of purpose, 7) Honesty.

The processing a new application is a Chapter responsibility. However, there is no expense to the sponsoring Chapter. An Eastern Star member desiring to sponsor a student shall assemble the following data:

1. Name.
2. Address. Applicants must be residents of Washington State. Out-of-state students attending colleges or universities in Washington cannot be considered.
3. Year in accredited\* college or seminary. (Student must have completed two (2) years of college or attending or entering an accredited seminary.

\*Must be listed in U.S. Education Directory, Part 3, and higher Education: accredited by one of the six regional associations; or an accredited member of the American Association of Theological Schools. If help is needed to know if the institution is accredited, the Grand Chapter ESTARL Chairman has the current information on file as do most school counseling offices or public libraries. This verification before application is requested to save time, work, postage and disappointment.

The Chapter ESTARL chairman and committee should investigate and check with the applicant on the given data then bring the results to the Chapter at a regular meeting for a vote on the sponsorship of the applicant. The secretary of the Chapter will then send a letter reporting the action taken at the meeting to the Grand Chapter ESTARL chairman, along with all of the above noted information regarding the applicant and a request for application forms. The chairman will then check the data for eligibility and, if qualified, will send the necessary application forms to the Chapter secretary.

The student will complete and return to the Chapter Secretary:

- 1) Application forms, 2) Four letters of recommendation, 3) Grand transcript, 4) A photograph/snapshot. When all of the required material is assembled the complete file is sent to the Grand Chapter ESTARL chairman.

Awards are not given to students attending schools outside the United States.

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Students need not have Masonic or Eastern Star affiliation.

All new applications and re-applications must be received by May 1 to be considered for awards. Late applications may be considered if funds are available.

Applicants in the junior or senior years of college must be in a program of study for a degree which will admit them to an accredited theological seminary for pursuance of further study for the ministry, directors of church music, youth leadership or religious education but not for teaching in universities, colleges or for social work. Due to the number of new applications, awards are given only to those seeking a degree of bachelor or master of divinity or theology, not for those seeking a doctor of theology.

An applicant must be sponsored by an Eastern Star Chapter, preferably one in the vicinity of the home of the student rather than one from the area where the student is attending school.

The financial status of the awardee is considered when the award is being made. However, no Chapter action is necessary after the initial application. Re-application blanks are sent by the Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee Chairman to previous awardees. Awards are made in variable amounts with students who are already in seminary receiving first consideration.

## **GRAND CHAPTER ESTARL COMMITTEE**

Please check your current Grand Chapter Blue Book for the names and addresses of your Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee. Inquiries relative to sponsorship applications and general information should be addressed to the chairman. Information about the memorial program and Chapter standings may be obtained from the second-year committee member. Any member of the committee may be contacted regarding a speaker on ESTARL for Chapter meetings that will assist in educating new members to this very important Grand Chapter philanthropy. Also, copies of this brochure are available upon request from any member of the committee for the distribution and information purposes of the Chapter secretary.

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