EASTERN STAR

Training Awards

for

RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

He made the stars, also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven, to give light upon the earth.

Genesis 1:16-17

O.E.S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY
The General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, cognizant of one of the greatest needs of our times, approved the establishment of Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. By actions taken at the General Assembly in Milwaukee in October 1952, the By-laws of the General Grand Chapter were amended to assign specific responsibility for this project to the Educational Committee of General Grand Chapter. The elected officers of the General Grand Chapter are committed to continuing support of this undertaking and join in urging all Grand Chapters, subordinate Chapters and members of the Order to give enthusiastic and generous support to this program which aims to encourage an increasing number of our ablest youth to dedicate their lives to full time religious service and to help with their preparation for this service through the establishment of Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership, ESTARL.

This bulletin attempts to tell you of the details of this challenging forward step in recruiting and training the youth of today for the spiritual leadership of tomorrow.

There is a "time for all things." In order to reap a harvest of spiritual growth in the vast realm of human achievement, the seeds must be planted at a tender age, by parents, relatives, teachers, or friends, who are themselves dedicated to a life of remembering God and striving to keep His Commandments. Thus it follows that children raised in an atmosphere of unselfishness and love of fellowman, will endeavor to continue in adult life to follow the path their preceptor's feet have trod.

Parents—Leave no stone unturned in your teaching and example of God's love to your children.

Teachers—Seek out those in your classes who, by their daily lives and actions, prove themselves fitted for Religious Leadership. Acquaint them with the O.E.S. Training Award Program.

Students—The Order of the Eastern Star is anxious to assist you in selecting and preparing yourselves for full time Religious Service. Men and women of honor and integrity are needed today as they have never been needed at any other time in the history of the world—men and women whose lives will reflect the precepts of their Heavenly Father.

Members—The principles and teachings of the Order of the Eastern Star should cause each member to support an effective program looking to the enlistment and support of an increased number of our able youth committed to full time religious service.

Publicizing this program is the duty of every member of the Order.
I. Procedure

A. A committee shall be appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron of each Grand Jurisdiction to consist of not less than three members. This committee which may be the Educational Committee, or may be called the Religious Leadership Training Committee or some other suitable descriptive title, will be responsible for the promotion of the program of ESTARL in its grand jurisdiction; solicitation of funds; screening of candidates on basis of academic record, citizenship, character, and financial need; selection of individuals for awards; presentation of awards; contacts with individuals in training, and public relations connected with the program. These committees are to cooperate with the General Grand Chapter Educational Committee.

B. A committee shall be appointed by the Worthy Matron of each Chapter under the supervision of the General Grand Chapter, to consist of not less than three members. These committees are to be named as suggested for Grand Chapter Committees and will act in the same capacity. They will cooperate directly with the General Grand Chapter Educational Committee. It is the desire of the sponsors that many students will apply from these “faraway places” where the Eastern Star sends its light.

C. The money raised for this project in each jurisdiction is to be used to benefit applicants in that jurisdiction. It is suggested that each Grand Chapter forward all funds collected to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary so that proper credit may appear in the records of the General Grand Chapter. This money will be returned immediately to the Grand Chapter for support of the ESTARL program in their own jurisdiction.

Gifts of money collected for this project by subordinate chapters under the jurisdiction of General Grand Chapter may be sent to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary, who will hold such funds in trust. When a sufficient amount has accumulated to make an award, and an application is received, the chapter committee may present the matter to the Chairman of the General Grand Chapter Educational Committee. Upon consultation with the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron she may grant the award, provided, however, that no money contributed by another subordinate chapter in an area or country may be used without consultation with the Educational Committee of that chapter.

We must anticipate that the maximum need of these funds will come five or six years after
establishment, as the program receives further publicity.

D. Time—It is desired to have this program in operation the fall school term of 1953. Prompt action is earnestly requested from all Worthy Grand Matrons, Worthy Matrons and Committee Members.

II. Applicants

A. Eligibility will be determined entirely by the Committee in each Grand Jurisdiction and each Chapter under the General Grand Chapter.

B. Candidates for awards may be chosen from the senior classes in high school so that all plans and commitments will be completed at the time of college entry.

C. At least three character references should be required—at least two from ministers or church leaders, along with the official endorsement of the religious group in the organized body in which the student wishes to serve, and one from friend or school personnel.

D. An applicant need not be of Masonic or Eastern Star affiliation.

E. Full academic record of applicant should be furnished to the Committee.

III. Awards

A. The awards are to be made to students preparing for leadership in various fields of religious service, including:
   1. Ministers
   2. Missionaries
   3. Directors of Church Music
   4. Directors of Religious Education
   5. Directors of Youth Leadership

B. Awards may be variable in amount determined by the Jurisdiction or Committee, on the basis of funds available, number of applicants, and need of individuals.

C. Awards are to be made for one year, subject to renewal on basis of total record.

D. Awards are to be made in the form of a certificate presented to the student. The student is free to select the accredited school of his choice. A check in the amount of the award is sent to the school for the use of that particular student while he is pursuing his studies in preparation for full time religious service. The money is to be issued as needed for books, tuition, board, clothing, or medical aid.
Should the Committee desire, a Chair in some field of religion may be established in an accredited college for a designated amount.

E. The General Grand Chapter Committee will send the Chairman of each Grand Chapter Committee and each subordinate chapter Committee under General Grand Chapter, a special test which may be used by the members of the Committee in making final selections. Grand Chapter Committees and Committees of Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter will set up procedures for the administration of these tests. It is preferable that the tests be given in a central location. The winners will be notified by the receipt of a certificate and a letter of congratulations through the mail. First and second choice of accredited schools are to be placed on the test paper by the applicant.

F. The various Committees should see that the awards are announced through secular and religious press whenever possible. Public presentation of the awards should be made by the Worthy Grand Matron, or Worthy Matron or her representative, or by a member of the Committee making the awards at public assembly when possible.

IV. Responsibility of Committees

A. General Grand Chapter Educational Committee

1. Is responsible for national promotion and publicity.

2. Is to help in the organization of the program on the state level and the international level.

3. Will cooperate with national officers of various religious groups, with the National Council of Churches of Christ, and similar organizations to give maximum publicity to the program.

4. Will furnish a set of selection and elimination tests.

5. Will be responsible for collection of information about the progress of the campaign in the several Grand Jurisdictions and present a report to the Triennial Assembly, with participants of the program present for national and international recognition if possible.

B. Grand and subordinate Chapter Committees

1. Are responsible for state and local promotion and publicity, and raising of funds.
2. Are to set up program for the selection of candidates.

3. Are to inform the Most Worthy Grand Matron, the Right Worthy Grand Secretary and the Chairman of the Educational Committee of the General Grand Chapter, the names and addresses of the chairman and members of individual committees immediately upon appointment.

4. Should make full report twice a year—in April and September—of all activities and accomplishments to the Chairman of the Educational Committee of the General Grand Chapter.

5. Instruct the proper officers to issue checks to accredited, designated colleges (after securing the support of these schools to the program).

6. Make decisions as to the continuation of the awards in each case, under their jurisdiction, beyond the one-year period.

Other calls have gone out through the centuries. This call, we pray, will echo around the world, making a decisive appeal to fine young men and young women to dedicate their lives to the spiritual service of mankind.

We ask for your prayers to guide us over this pioneer trail. With His Holy Book as our compass and guide, the Order of the Eastern Star will continue to cast its “light upon the earth,” to the benefit of all mankind. There will we come to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

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