

New Mexico Order of the Eastern Star

BENEVOLENT BOARD

January 12, 2010

Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Sisters & Brothers

The “Beacon of Hope Session” of the 2009-2010 Grand Chapter Year has many of the same programs from the past still in place. One of the most significant to members of our Order is the Beacon of Hope provided to our Sisters and Brothers in their time of need by your Benevolent Committee. While our committee’s charge, **“To receive and review all applications for assistance”**, is a simple one it holds great significance to those individuals and Chapters in need of these services. Needless to say we can not meet our charge unless we have the continued support, both spiritually and financially, from you as individuals and Chapters as a whole.

There is a continued need for contributions to the Grand Chapter Benevolent Fund. Over the years monies received from contributions and fund raisers have not offset funds disbursed to members in need. For the years 2001-2009 the total disbursement to those in need averaged \$18,697 per year. This figure has dropped over the last five years to an average of \$12,780 per year. Still this amount exceeds income to the Benevolent Fund. If every Chapter in New Mexico pledged themselves to conduct fund raisers and overall Chapter contributions averaged \$375 our Benevolent Fund could become an even brighter Beacon of Hope for our members in need.

The purpose of Grand Chapter Benevolent funds is to provide limited financial assistance for any member encountering severe financial hardship for circumstances beyond their personal control. These funds are available for “Short Term” assistance and are in no way intended to be an ongoing annuity program. It is only to assist the member with basic necessities while other appropriate agencies are being identified and requested to provide on-going assistance.

Each Chapter should have a committee in place to identify and contact member(s) in need. The committee determines the nature and amount of assistance required and assists in identifying and applying for assistance from appropriate agencies. After implementation of these actions the committee should prepare a report with complete details and submit it along with an application for assistance to the Benevolence Board. The Board reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The application is valid for a six month period and must be resubmitted in May and November of each year. New applications may be submitted to the Board any time.

Please contact a member of the Board with any questions and for assistance.

Our fraternal thanks,

Dan Sutcliffe, Chairman

Tenna Bradshaw

Angela N. Keiter

Cc: Worthy Grand Matron
Worthy Grand Patron