

MASONIC CHARITY AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

Many of us “mature” Nebraskans occasionally think about charitable giving as a part of our estate planning. Some of our choices are providing a contribution right now, by check, for example. For others, we might consider providing for a charitable gift in our will or trust. At the end of this article, to aid your planning process, are the official names and addresses of many of our statewide Masonic charitable entities.

For many members of the Masonic Family, we want to provide assurance of payment of our final expenses, but we also want to assure the continuation of our fraternity’s programs and edifices. We are asked to donate to so many good causes, but the press of current expenses sometimes makes that difficult.

It is now possible, with a monthly payment, to provide an amount for your final expenses (funeral services, purchase of plot, headstone, etc.) as well as to provide for a Masonic charity’s needs that will assure that charity can continue to do good work far beyond our lifetimes. This is a way to leave a lasting legacy AND provide assistance to your loved ones in managing our final expenses.

Depending on your family’s desires, needs and individual situation, you might consider a life insurance policy, an annuity, a bequest in a will or trust, or even a charitable remainder trust.

A number of families are excited to learn of the possibility to purchase a life insurance policy that would be divided, on your passing, to your family for final expenses, and to one or more Masonic Charities. Some are allowing ownership of the policy by the Masonic Charity of their choice, in case they forget to pay a premium or choose to discontinue payment in the future, in case the charity wants to keep the policy in force.

For example, a Mason or his wife, aged 60, could purchase a \$15,000 policy for \$70-85 per month, designating \$5,000 for final expense and \$10,000 to Masonic charities of their choice. A \$25,000 policy could be purchased for \$126.27 to \$158.36 per month!

Please consider contacting a life insurance agent of your choice to consider purchasing a policy like the ones described above.

Contact your attorney and request adding a bequest to your will or trust to include a Masonic Charity in your estate plan.

Some of the Masonic Charities you might consider (all of which are 501 C (3) tax exempt entities) are listed below. You will want to provide to your insurance advisor or attorney this information:

Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children, 2415 N. Main, Fremont, NE 68025
Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation, 1300 Avenue D, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
Nebraska Masonic Endowment Fund, 301 N. Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68505
Nebraska Masonic Foundation, 301 N. Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68505
OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. PO Box 6571, Lincoln, NE 68506-6571