



Service and Therapy Dog Committee Nebraska Grand Chapter

The Service and Therapy Dog Committee of Nebraska Grand Chapter was formed in 2017 as a Special Committee and was recognized as a Standing Committee in Nebraska in 2018. The Committee consists of five members who serve for five-year terms. A new member is appointed by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron each year as a member completes their term.

As service and therapy dogs were designated as the primary and permanent identifying charity at General Grand Chapter in 2015, one of the main goals of the Nebraska Service and Therapy Dog Committee is to advocate for the service and therapy dog philanthropy. This goal is attained within Nebraska by:

- 🐾 Providing education to Eastern Star members, as well as their communities, about the value and merits of service and therapy dogs to individuals, groups, and organizations who have a need for a trained dog.
- 🐾 Raising funds through a variety of projects to support qualified Nebraska organizations that train service and therapy dogs and potentially to assist in the expenses of dogs that have been placed. These organizations now include OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc.
- 🐾 Advocating to all Nebraska Chapters and their members to promote and encourage their support of the Service and Therapy Dog Project.
- 🐾 Coordinating efforts with Nebraska's General Grand Chapter Committee member and supporting the newly formed OES Star Dogs of Nebraska public charity.

Since the Committee was formed, funds raised have been donated each year to four qualified organizations that train and place service and therapy dogs. Funds were donated to the newly formed public charity OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. during the most recent fiscal year. Funds have also been designated the past two years for the care and maintenance of therapy dogs placed at the Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont and the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. The children, residents, and staff of these two facilities have shared the joy and benefit they receive from the presence and support of these dogs in their homes.

This Committee desires to assist and support the Nebraska Eastern Star Chapters whenever possible, so please reach out with questions and opportunities for the Committee to serve your members.

