



Paul E. Turner
General Grand Chapter Committee Member
Service Dogs

To the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Worthy Grand Warder, General Grand Chapter Appointees, Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons, Grand Officers, Officers and Members of the Subordinate Chapters, Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With the permission of the Worthy Grand Matron, I am sending this letter to all Chapters in Virginia asking it be read in its entirety, to request help with the Service Dog Committee.

The Order of the Eastern Star is dedicated to enriching the lives of others through charitable acts of kindness, one of which is financial support to qualified service dog organizations.

I have been appointed the important task of raising funds for the state of Virginia. The Service Dog Committee is now a permanent committee for our General Grand Chapter. It is my goal to make it one of Virginia's standing committees in the near future. All monies raised in our state will stay in our state. It is my hope that we can raise enough each year to support the training of one or more dogs. From my research I have been told it takes from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00 to train one dog.

I am new to this committee, but I plan to disseminate information via the Towncrier as I learn more about the Service Dog project. I hope to be able to set up a visit to a training center within the next year and hope to have examples of some trained dogs at Grand Chapter in May,

It is my hope that each Chapter in Virginia will do one of two things:

- (1) Have a fundraiser each year with all profits going to the Service Dog Committee or make a Chapter donation to the Service Dog Project.
- (2) Encourage our membership when making year-end charitable donations to put Service Dogs on their list. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Donations are to be sent to the Grand Chapter Secretary made out to VESPA with "Service Dogs" on the memo line. This will ensure your taxable donation.

Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy project. If anyone has questions, I can be reached at pturner2014@aol.com or on my cell 703-899-8102. Thank you for "Leaving Paw Prints on the Hearts of Others".

Fraternally,

Paul E Turner, PGP