

Progressive Order of the West

Memphis Lodge No. 286, a branch of the National Order of the Progressive Order of the West, was organized September 17, 1916, by the late William Fortas, with the first meeting at Carpenter's Hall. Thirty-eight charter members enrolled, of whom 15 are still active workers. The late J. Applebaum was the first president.

Other original officers were Max Goldberg, first vice-president, now residing in Shreveport, La., and holding the office of twelfth vice-grand-master; Sam Rottersman, secretary; M. I. Fineberg, treasurer; William Fortas, district deputy grand master, at the appointment of Jacob Goldberg, then Grand Master, now deceased.

The Order was formed with a three-fold object—to unite for mutual protection and intellectual development of persons of Jewish faith; to promote harmony, friendship, and education among its constituent lodges and members; and to assist needy, distressed, and disabled members financially and socially.

Memphis Lodge No. 286 now boasts 300 members, and also has an active Ladies' Auxiliary, organized by the late Mr. William Fortas in 1925, with Mrs. Dave Lazarov as president. Mrs. J. B. Braver is now president, and the Auxiliary has an enrollment of 150 members.

The lodge and its auxiliary are active in practically every Jewish work in Memphis. Both support one synagogue almost entirely, and they give much assistance to the Talmud Torah. The present Beth El Emeth Social Center was made possible through the P. O. W.

Memphis has two grand lodge officers—the Grand Master, A. D. Bearman, and the Fourth Vice Grand Master, Sam Fortas.

P. O. W. Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Memphis Lodge No. 286, Progressive Order of the West, holds its meetings at the Beth El Emeth Social Center, 165 Poplar Avenue, on the first Sunday of each month. Executive meetings are held on the third Wednesday.

The auxiliary was organized in October, 1925, for the purpose of assisting the men's organization toward achieving the aims of the lodge—Charity, Friendship, and Justice.

Mrs. D. Lazarov was the first president of the organization, and Mrs. Horowitz the first chairman. The present president is Mrs. J. B. Braver (see biography), who has served for five terms and is embarking on her sixth.