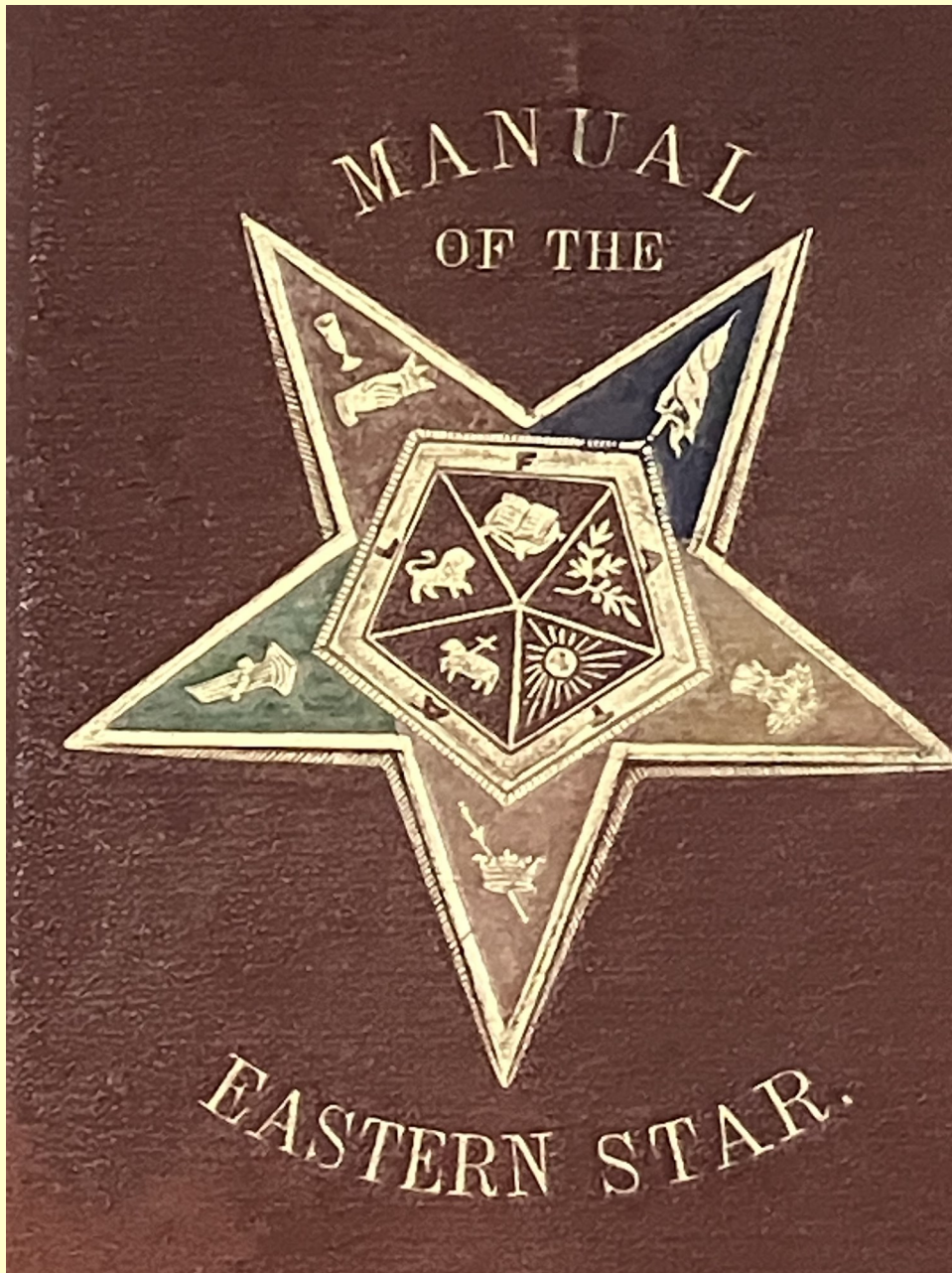


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Original Ritual

Rob Morris Home Library

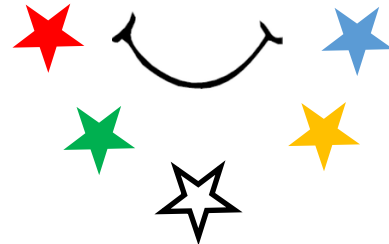
2024
Edition 2



*Let's Travel
Around The
World of
Eastern Star*

- Alabama*
- Aruba*
- Brazil*
- Bolivia*
- Florida*
- Georgia*
- Germany*
- Iowa*
- Maryland*
- Mexico*
- Missouri*
- New York*
- Ohio*
- Quebec*
- Romania*
- Tennessee*
- Utah*

*Let your
Smile*



*be the face of
Eastern Star!*

Editions

*Articles are received continuously with
NO specific deadlines.*

*Submit articles as noted the last page.
Articles submitted via email will receive a
receipt acknowledgment.*

*Please check your mailbox for receipt email
and review to ensure all information was
submitted.*

"If you can post it, we can print it!!!!"

Cover artwork: Courtesy of our beautiful Rob Morris Home

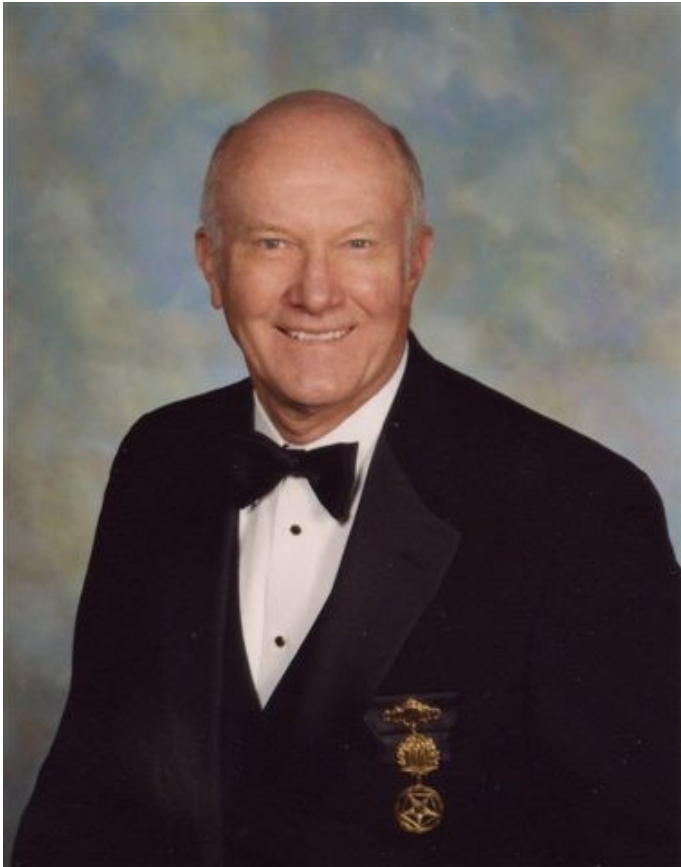


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In Memoriam
Loyal Stark, 33^o

Most Worthy Grand Patron
2003-2006

Past Grand Patron of California

Loyal Leroy Stark peacefully transitioned from his earthly life to “that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the age of 88 years old. He was born on March 24, 1935, in Greenville, California, to the late Jack and Twila Stark, who instilled in him the desire to make each day better than the one before. He remained in California throughout his life and for the last 60 years he lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. As young people, Loyal and Joan -- his wife of 67 years -- were active in DeMolay and Job’s Daughters, respectively, and they were destined to meet and marry at Carmichael Presbyterian Church on May 19, 1956. They are the parents of two children: daughter Patty (Neil), and son Jim (Marisa). They are the proud grandparents of one grandson Kurtis (Alec).

Loyal retired after 46 years with IBM Corporation as a Senior Information Technology Specialist. While raising their children, Joan and Loyal were both active in school and youth activities including Job’s Daughters and DeMolay. Loyal also served on the local YMCA Advisory Board and as a Little League coach and manager.

The Masonic Fraternal Family was always an integral part of the Stark Family. Loyal was raised a Master Mason in San Juan Lodge #732 in Fair Oaks, California, in 1956. After affiliation with Acacia Lodge #243 in 1972, he progressed through the line to become Master in 1982. A proud moment was to raise his son, Jim, as a Master Mason. After working with the local lodge, Loyal became active in Grand Lodge of California programs, serving as a Masonic Inspector for 5 years, Grand Marshal in 1991, Chairman of the Charters Committee in 1993 and the Policy and General Purposes Committee for 8 years. He had the real pleasure of working with the Grand Lodge Warden’s Leadership Training Programs from 1994 until 2002 when his travels with Eastern Star began in earnest. Upon their completion, Loyal once again served Grand Lodge in 2011 as Grand Orator. One of the highlights of that year was when Loyal and son Jim took part in raising grandson Kurtis as a Master Mason.

Loyal's other fraternal activities and honors included: 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary General Honorary of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; DeMolay Active Legion of Honor; DeMolay Cross of Honor; Chairman and Dad Advisor for Hayward Chapter, Order of DeMolay; Grand Cross of Color, International Order of Rainbow for Girls; Aahmes Shriners, Past Master's Unit; and the Royal Order of Scotland.

Eastern Star became a part of Loyal's life when he was initiated with daughter Patty, in 1977. (Joan thought it would give them something to do after the children were raised; did that ever come true!) Joan and Loyal served as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of San Lorenzo Chapter #103 in 1985. They worked on various Grand Chapter Committees until that memorable day in 1988 when Loyal was elected Associate Grand Patron of California. He was most honored to serve with Kay Cosby as Worthy Grand Patron in 1989-1990. Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, Maxine Flint Justice, asked Loyal to serve as Worthy Grand Chaplain of the General Grand Chapter during the 1994-97 Triennium. Soon after, Pat Rasmusson honored Loyal, Joan, and California by inviting them to join her, Gary, and Minnesota on a journey of service throughout the Eastern Star world.

Loyal was elected Right Worthy Grand Sentinel in 1997, Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron in 2000 and was installed as Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter on November 6, 2003, in Portland, Oregon. Loyal said that he was privileged to serve alongside such a dynamic and sincere Most Worthy Grand Matron as Pat and to have the good fortune to meet and greet the many wonderful Eastern Star members throughout the world. His motto was to do everything with DIGNITY – QUALITY – SUBSTANCE – STYLE, and a TOUCH OF CLASS and he especially showed that as he and Pat presided over the 45th "Fabulous Fraternal Family" Triennial Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 27 to November 2, 2006.

During his most recent years, Loyal continued to enjoy his lifelong passion of golf, which he was able to play regularly. He had recently taken up bocce, a great way to showcase his enthusiasm for teamwork and where his competitive spirit thrived.

In many facets of Loyal's illustrious service to others, he was inspired by the symbolism of the candle. He often admonished friends and co-workers by saying, "May the candle in all our hearts and lives burn brighter each day, because the world really needs our beautiful Order." In that same spirit today,

"We light a candle for each sunrise and sunset our brother's eyes beheld.

We light a candle for each star that his heart wished upon.

We light a candle for the tears that spilled out of his eyes in moments of sorrow and moments of sheer awe.

We light a candle for the sound of his laughter echoing still in our hearts.

We light a candle for the lessons he learned and in return shared,

We light a candle for love!"

(-- Author Unknown)

Tribute by Michael Berry, RWAGP



In Memoriam
Helen Roquemore Cox
Most Worthy Grand Matron
1985-1988

The Eastern Star is saddened by the passing of Sister Helen Roquemore Cox, PMWGM, PGM of Georgia on December 13, 2022, in Alpharetta, Georgia. Visitation was held on December 15, 2022; the funeral on the 16th was closed to all except family.

She was initiated into Forest Park Chapter No. 290 in 1953, and served in several offices before becoming Worthy Matron in 1962-63. Her leadership qualities led to her appointment as Grand Lecturer, '64-'65, rising to Worthy Grand Matron of Georgia in 1968-69. Her year in the Grand East was high-lighted by her devotion and support of the Scottish Rite Hospital where she served on the Advisory Board. She was responsible for completely furnishing the beautiful waiting room, gifting a flag and flagpole from her and her WGP Bro. Bill Speer, and promoting her Special Project which raised \$13,000, then an Endowment Fund on deposit of \$29,000 with interest for perpetual care. Her daughter Nancy was born with a birth defect and spent several years under the care of Scottish Rite Hospital. Helen's quote: "Had it not been for the Masons of Georgia, their love, compassion, and concern for crippled children, I would not have had this wonderful opportunity."

In 1961, she served as Usher at the General Grand Chapter Triennial, beginning her interest and participation in General Grand Chapter. Many appointments followed – the one of which she was most proud was her appointment by MWGM Mae Mickelson in 1970 to chair the Ella Maude Lander Brady Cancer Research Committee, the Special Project of Sister Mae. During this Triennium, Sister Helen was responsible for raising over three million dollars for Cancer Research, the largest single contribution the American Cancer Society had ever received. Then she served as Right Worthy Grand Trustee, RWAG Conductress, RWG Conductress, and RWAG Matron, and was installed as Most Worthy Grand Matron for the 1985-88 Triennium. Sister Helen's Special Projects were Cancer Research, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and Our Wonderful World of Youth. She firmly supported all General Grand Chapter sponsored projects.

As MWGM, Sister Helen attended all 56 Grand Jurisdictions, Chapters in Alaska, Hawaii and various foreign countries plus visits to the Supreme Grand Chapters of Scotland, Australia, New York, and New Jersey. Her visits weren't all "Fun and Games. She felt some anxiety in the Philippines when she was evacuated to Japan during the Aquino-Marcus conflict in 1986, then from London Airport that same year due to bomb threats. She had to make changes in her itinerary because of terrorist activities in various parts of the world.

Sister Helen was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Walter Davis; her husband, Robert L. Roquemore along with their daughter, Nancy Roquemore; and her husband, Kirby Cox and stepson, Alan Cox. She is survived by son, Walter; daughter-in-law, Cindy Roquemore; grandsons, Joshua, and Tyler Roquemore.

Sister Helen R. Cox, PMWGM, served our beautiful Order with dedication, love, and enthusiasm and all with a cheerful heart and a friendly smile!

Let us now extend loving sympathy to her family and to her chapter Alpharetta 311. As a tribute of love and respect, we request that this Memorial be read at the next stated meeting of each Subordinate Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction and that the Altar be draped for a period of thirty days.

Courtesy Jeannine Wigger, PGM

Our Sister Helen R. Cox, PMWGM, was easily recognized as a gracious southern lady, very proud of her heritage and a devoted member of our Beautiful Order. She lived a life of love through her many years of service to our Order.

Words from her greetings at her "Present, Past and Future In God's Marvelous Universe" Session of General Grand Chapter, she wrote, "My travels have taken me to many beautiful Countries, States and Provinces, and everywhere I have found loving, caring, and outstanding people. Reflecting on all the beauty I have been privileged to see and the wonderful people I have learned to love has given me renewed pride in my own heritage. I love My God, My State, and You My Sisters and Brothers and Friends."

Thus culminated a life well lived by a wonderful, gracious Southern Lady who will live in our hearts forever.

Jo L. Cullifer, PGM of Georgia
Right Worthy Grand Trustee

EARLY FALL MORNING ON THE LAKE



*Diana T. Spurrell, PM, Secretary Emeritus
Palestine Chapter #114
Newtonville, Massachusetts*

OH WHAT A BEAUTIOUS MORNING

Rangeley, Maine



*Nancy L. Ford, GGCCM ESJournal Editor
Highland Chapter #33
Dundalk, Maryland 21234*

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do you enjoy taking pictures?

Are you the member that always has a camera in hand taking those awesome shots at OES functions? Consider sharing them with our members.

If you enjoy taking pictures, we'd love to showcase the photographic talents of our members so please consider sharing them also.

If you would like to share your pictures, please email them as a jpg to:

esjeditor@comcast.net

Happy "snapping!"



IN MEMORIAM

THE GRAND CHAPTER OF MARYLAND ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

ANNOUNCES WITH DEEP SORROW THE DEATH OF

JON ALLEN THOMPSON

**RIGHT WORTHY GRAND SENTINEL, 2021-2022
HONORARY GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OFFICER, 2022-2024**

AND WORTHY GRAND PATRON, 2010-2011

A thirty-year member of Parkton Chapter No. 42

ENTERED INTO ETERNAL REST AUGUST 7, 2024

Brother Jon presided with Sister Jean K. Chance, Worthy Grand Matron, at the One Hundred and Thirteenth "Wings of Friendship" Grand Session in Ocean City, Maryland on May 1-4, 2011. Their motto was "Take time to enjoy the little things in life" which fit him perfectly. At each chapter visit he spent time talking with members and encouraging them to cherish the values and friendships that are fundamental to Eastern Star. Everyone enjoyed his messages about the history of the town or area he was visiting, especially the chapter members.

Laughter followed Brother Jon. His delightful sense of humor made him a popular emcee at Grand Chapter events. The gleam in his eyes as he told joke after joke assured us that he was having as much fun as the rest of us. We will remember the creative skits he wrote for Parkton Chapter's Grand Visitations. We never knew in advance what the skit would be about, but we were sure it would be cornball and funny.

*A beautiful memory dearer than gold
Of a wonderful Brother whose worth can be told.
Happy and smiling, always content,
Loved and respected wherever he went.
To a beautiful life, a peaceful end
He died as he lived, everyone's friend.*

The Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter extend to his family and to all who mourn our sincere and heartfelt sympathy. In loving memory of Brother Jon, let this Memorial be read at the first stated meeting after its receipt and the Altar be draped for thirty days.

Mary B. Freeman
Worthy Grand Matron

Robert A. Dumas, Jr.
Worthy Grand Patron

Donna H. Runyan
Grand Secretary



In Memoriam
Marlene S. Wilds
Worthy Grand Matron of South Carolina
1993 - 1994

Sister Marlene Wilds passed away peacefully at her home in the early hours of April 27, 2024. She had been fighting health issues after she had Covid and had been on oxygen for several years. In the Marlene way she never gave up. Her last goal was to attend Grand Chapter 2024 and then General Grand Chapter in October.

She served as Worthy Grand Matron in 1993-1994 with Jimmy Roddy as Worthy Grand Patron. Following their "Reach for the Stars" session she continued her work for the Grand Chapter. She served as Grand Lecturer in 1996-1997 and 2004-2005, Grand Trustee and many working committees. The most recent members knew her best as the General Chairman of the Grand Chapter Sessions. She worked diligently in preparation for each Grand Chapter by working with the hotels, social event chairmen and others. Many of the hotel staff became a family. She was the person to contact with questions about many issues.

The Grand Chapter of South Carolina has lost a member that gave her all to this Order though her work, advice, influence and most of all her love.

In General Grand Chapter she served on the Visioneer Committee in 2003-2006 and Ambassador to Brazil in 2012-2015. For the 2021-2024 Triennial she was appointed and installed as Worthy Grand Electa. The Installation was held at the International Headquarters in Washington, DC. The first few years she was able to travel to some of the other Grand Jurisdictions. This year and in the last part of 2023 she had her goals to attend other Grand Chapters but just could not attend. Appropriately she was appointed Worthy Grand Electa because of her love for one another. As some have said she was a beautiful lady full of wit and spice.

Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Wilds, Worthy Grand Patron 1996-1997, a sister, Evelyn Dixon, a brother and her Mother. She is survived by a daughter Rhonda W. Bryant (Randall) and a son Scott Wilds (Patty). Her six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren were the light of her life.

She was an avid South Carolina Gamecock fan and loved watching all the games on T.V.

Marlene always said "God Loves You and So Do I". May she rest in peace and may the Grand Chapter of South Carolina cherish her memory. Her value to this Order will be hard to replace. May we strive to emulate her love of the Order, perfection of its work and the valuable advice she gave to each who asked.

As a token of our love and respect, this memorial will be read at the first stated meeting of the chapter after its receipt, and the altar draped as prescribed in the Grand Chapter By-Laws.

its receipt, and the altar draped as prescribed in the Grand Chapter By-Laws.

Janet Reaves
Worthy Grand Matron

John Griffin
Worthy Grand Patron

Attest:

Kathy Gerner, PGM
Grand Secretary

Memorial lovingly prepared by
Kaye Rackley, Past Grand Matron
Worthy Grand Martha

GGC CHARTERS COMMITTEE

*Judy A. Rutter, Chairman
PGM Pennsylvania*

- ◆ From May 18, 2022 until May11,2023 I received from the RWGS, Brother Charles Chandler,13 letters for UD dispensations.
 - ◆ In September 2024, Sister Glenda Winchester, MWGM, indicated that Nanduti and Armandu would receive Charters in September 2024.
 - ◆ February 27, 2024, was exciting for Eastern Star as the Constitution and Installation of the Grand Chapter of the Philippines was held.
 - ◆ September 24,2024 - letter from the RWGS, Brother Charles Chandler, informing members that as of October 5, 2024, Sister Glenda Winchester, MWGM, arrested the Charter of the Grand Chapter of Italy until Sister Billie Bradfield, 2024-2027 MWGM, makes her official visit.
- Eastern Star continues to grow throughout the world.

GGC ESTARL COMMITTEE

*Frank B. Clifton, Chairman
PGP Ohio*

It has been a joy communicating with all of the 59 ESTARL representatives either by email and/or phone. For this Triennial, ESTARL has raised a commendable \$810,767.12. It has been my privilege to have served the General Grand Chapter in this capacity.

GGC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Barbara Pelfrey-Hillman, Chairman
PGM Ohio*

Hello from the General Grand Chapter Membership Committee

Your 2021-2024 GGC Membership Committee consisting of 10 members representing 10 different States worked hard these past years to communicate with each State Jurisdiction about what could be done to increase membership. All our Chapters are going through growing pains and losing members faster than we can increase membership.

A roadblock that we each encountered was that each Grand Jurisdiction has their own approaches, even though we are all under the GGC jurisdiction. Each of our Committee members contacted the States that they took responsibility to inform them of our membership suggestions. One program that was continued and was successful was the Rob Morris Jewel program. Our Committee put together information on what Chapters can do to entice members to join. All the materials are available on the GGC website. Check it out and continue to fight to gain membership!

The following represents those States that continued to utilize the Rob Morris program in their Jurisdictions:

South Carolina awarded the most jewels with 54;

Second – Tennessee with 50 awards;

Third – Ohio with 47 awards;

Fourth – California with 43;

and Pennsylvania with 37 to round out the top 5 States.

Remember that the Rob Morris program awards those who actively brings in new members! For more information, visit

<https://easternstar.org/member-center/membership-resources/rob-morris-membership-jewel/rob-morris-membership-jewel-program-information/>]

On behalf of the GGC Membership Committee, we hope that you will continue to work to bring new members into our Order and most of all, actively keep our present members interested and active in our beautiful Order.

EASTERN STAR JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Nancy L. Ford, Editor
GGCCM Eastern Star Journal Committee
PGM Maryland

From its beginning, the *Eastern Star Journal* has been a means of informing our members of what's going on in the world of our Eastern Star. Originally a printed publication available to our members via a subscription, today it is available on the General Grand Chapter website where not just our members, but also non-members have the opportunity to learn about our Order, its members, the lasting friendships we form and how we fulfill our mission to make a positive difference in the world with our charitable works.

While the *Journal* is not the only publication or social media venue that promotes Eastern Star, it is a publication available without restrictions, such as a paid subscription, password or members-only access as required by other sources. Submitting articles for the *Journal* is one of the best tools to help promote our Order yet I've often heard it said that it's hard to write an article and would anyone really be interested in reading it. My reply was always, "Inquiring minds want to know what is happening in our Eastern Star world." Wouldn't it be great to read articles showcasing each Jurisdiction, our General Grand Chapter Committees, Ambassadors and Deputies, Grand Representative visitations, our Chapter activities, celebrating the special times in the lives of our members, and our Youth Groups...the possibilities are endless. Looking through years of past editions, it was interesting to see how the *Journal* has changed through the years. Many of the past editions contained stories, poetry, recipes, photos and I encouraged our members to continue sharing their talents. In my travels, I continue to hear that our members don't know the *Journal* exists. Be the member that helps promote our *Journal*. Ask your Jurisdiction to post a link to the *Journal* on their newsletter and website and also include the link on the various social media venues. Sisters and Brothers, when submitting articles to your Jurisdiction's newsletter, local newspaper, Facebook/Twitter, etc., include an email to the *Journal*. **This is YOUR Journal and You never know, your article might just be the reason someone wants to join Eastern Star!**

On a personal note, a big thank you to those who answered my calling and submitted articles, recipes, poems and pictures. I have enjoyed the many emails, conversations and friendships formed while serving as your Editor. On behalf of our Committee members, we thank you for our appointments and the honor to serve our General Grand Chapter. A heartfelt thanks to our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron for giving me the honor of serving as the *Journal* Editor giving me the opportunity to meet so many of our members around the world. I cannot thank you enough for the gift you gave me of being able to share my love of our beautiful Order with our members

Sisters and Brothers, our founder Dr. Rob Morris was a prolific writer and I think he would be pleased to read our Journal and agree that our members never tire of reading about our Eastern Star world. Keep spreading the word that the Journal is online. Remember—"If you can post it, we can print it." So, sit back in your comfortable chair with a mug of coffee, tea or a tall glass of sweet ice tea and travel around the world of Eastern Star. I am glad to report that all articles received have been posted on the two latest editions of the Journal.

Let's show how brightly the rays of our beautiful Star continue to shine lighting the way to a better future.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE

*Linda Hyatt, Chairman
PGM North Carolina*



I would like to thank all Grand Chapters, Chapters, Subordinate Chapters under General Grand Chapter, and individual members who supported the International Headquarters Committee this Triennium. Thanks to your generosity, we received approximately \$180,000. Projects included solar film on 1st and 4th floor windows, refinished wooden floors on the 2nd floor to a matte finish, provided half the cost to repair rotted seals over the staircase, 16 air conditioners purchased and installed for \$115,207.86.

August 2024 - requests for the following were supported by the Committee for a cost of \$48,394.95: 4th floor water heater; extending solar film to the 1st floor windows; cleaning of the air vent system; sealing of the chimney caps; upholstering furniture; historical reproduction of fabric for the Grand Salon; and restoration of the Family Salon.

October 2024 - donations paid for the plumbing emergency shut off valve.

The competitive challenge established by the MWGM was won by the yellow region and will be recognized in the East at the Triennial Assembly.

It has been my honor to serve the General Grand Chapter.



2023 PILGRIMAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

*Barbara M. Davis-Flanagan, GGCCM International Peace Garden
PGM Virginia*

The Triennial Pilgrimage to honor Sister Glenda G. Winchester, MWGM, was held over the weekend of August 12-13, 2023. One hundred and forty-five registered members and guests participated in the weekend activities. The Pilgrimage is a gathering of OES members and friends who come together informally to renew old friendships, and make new ones.

The Order of the Eastern Star Peace Chapel at the International Peace Garden is truly a “Jewel in the Crown.” This place of peace and tranquility is perhaps one of the GGC’s “best kept secrets.” It is located in the Turtle Mountain. The Garden comprises over 2,300 acres.

For those who didn’t know, funding for the OES Peace Chapel began in 1952, following a resolution that was passed at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, GGC Triennial Assembly. At the 1961 Triennial Assembly, the decision was made to construct the chapel. In her inaugural address in 1967, Sister Sayda S. Petterson, MWGM, set the project as the primary goal of the 1967-1970 Triennial; requesting that each member assist in the completion of the chapel. Construction began in 1969 and the structure was dedicated on July 19, 1970, and is now owned by the Peace Garden, but the OES contributes to its maintenance.

Through special United States and Canadian treaty arrangements, the OES Peace Chapel is the only structure in the park that spans the International Border. The main feature of the chapel is the three encircling walls of limestone into which have been engraved with quotations spoken, or written, by “people of peace” throughout history. The limestone is a native stone of Manitoba, commonly called Tyndall stone. Some of the stone is marked with fossils of marine creatures molded into a bed of tropical sea millions of years ago.

Sister Lynne Hagberg, Chairperson for the International Peace Garden Chapel Committee has been a member of the Eastern Star for 57 years, and in 1997, she had the privilege to become the WGM for Manitoba. In 2018, she was asked to become a GGC member for the Peace Garden Chapel. The Pilgrimage is held every three years, with the last one being in 2017. Unfortunately, due to COVID, this was not possible.

In 2021, our MWGM asked Sister Lynne Hagberg to chair this Committee for this Triennial. There was almost no one else that was eligible for this post who lived as close to the Peace Garden.

Events for the Pilgrimage began on Saturday morning with registration, then lunch with members of the Peace Garden Masonic Lodge, followed by some free time in the afternoon to tour the various areas of the Gardens or to attend the Peace Garden Masonic Lodge open meeting. The Peace Garden Masonic Lodge is comprised of members from the Grand Lodges of Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota and Saskatchewan. Everyone met back for the evening banquet, all of these activities were in the Masonic Auditorium.

There were two special events, both from Killarney. The first was the entertainment by The Killarney Filipino Dancers and Band that performed following the Saturday evening’s banquet and second was a surprise visit by retired Staff Sergeant Greg Ericson, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who came in his red serge. How distinguished he looked! The Canadians are so proud of their Mounties and do get used to seeing them. Not so with most Americans, especially ones from the southern States.

The name Killarney was certainly heard throughout the weekend. Many asked if there were many Irish people living in Killarney. All of these Killarney residents were a big hit. One of the dancers, Sister Grace Jiminea, is a member of Queen Mary Chapter #3 in Brandon.

To conclude the festivities, a Sunday morning Pilgrimage Church Service was to have been in the Peace Chapel, but Mother Nature (rain!) had other ideas, and we decided to have the service in the Masonic Auditorium, conducted by many members of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba. Sister Doreen Stapleton, WM of Queen Mary Chapter played the Prelude; Sister Lynne Hagberg,

2023 PILGRIMAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

(Continued)

welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks; Brother Milt Goble, GGCCM Youth and PGP of Manitoba presented the Call to Worship along with the inspirational church service; Brother Bernie Hauber, Nebraska Grand Chaplain, gave the Opening Prayer which was followed by everyone repeating the Lord's Prayer. Sister Joan Goble, PGM of Manitoba, gave the Old and the New Testament Scripture readings. A special thank you goes out to Sister Barb Borowski of Manitoba, MB, Kaydance and Alana Fontaine, MB, for assisting Sister Barbara Davis-Flanagan, GGCCM in collecting the offering that went to the Peace Garden. Brother Bill Shoulders, Worthy Grand Chaplain and PGP of Indiana, gave the closing Prayer. After the service, a farewell lunch was served.

Sixty members and friends who attended were from California, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota and Virginia. Eighty-five Canadians came from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia/ Yukon and Manitoba, for a total of 145. Two of the members from Alberta stayed in the Campgrounds at the Peace Garden, and they stayed an extra day to attend the regular Stated meeting of Queen Mary Chapter on Monday night.

Of course, our special member attending was Sister Glenda Winchester, MWGM from South Carolina. It was unfortunate that Brother F. Lon Lowry, MWGP, was unable to attend due to medical issues.

At the Church Service, Sister Lynne insisted that "Amazing Grace" and "Halleluiah" be sung by two talented members of Manitoba, Sister Joyce McTaggart, AGM, and Brother Ernie Cameron, AGP. The song "Halleluiah" was written by Canadian musician Leonard Cohen. "Halleluiah" is a fitting word to end this wonderful experience.



A HALLELUIAH EXPERIENCE

(L-R) Glenda G. Winchester, MWGM; Barbara M. Davis-Flanagan, GGCCM, IPC ;Retired Staff Sergeant Greg Erickson - Killarney; Grace Jiminea - Killarney; and Lynne Hagberg, GGC Chairman, IPC - Killarney.



GGC RITUAL COMMITTEE

*William R. Taylor, Chairman
PGP Ohio*

First and foremost, thank you for allowing us to serve the GGC in this capacity. It has indeed been an honor and our pleasure.

The Ritual Committee has communicated over the last three years by email, Zoom meetings and phone calls. Any Resolutions received from the Jurisprudence Committee that we did not approve of was returned for further consideration.

Our duties are, "To consider all proposed amendments and other matters pertaining to the Ritual referred to it, and all decisions of the Most Worthy Grand Matron pertaining to the Ritual, and to report the same to the General Assembly with its recommendations, make any recommendations for final and decisive action."

There are five Resolutions concerning the Ritual to be brought before the Assembly. They are as follows:

Resolution #2 - Cabalistic Word and Cabalistic Motto to be in English followed by the Chapters translation if not in English.

Resolution #4 - Ritual copyright dates clarified. Copyright date, along with printed date on first page of Ritual.

Resolution #13 - Remove references in the Ritual to secrecy when installing the Warder and Sentinel.

Resolution #30 - Add references to "Secret Work of the Order" during Conductress lecture and the Worthy Patron lecture.

Resolution #23 - To shorten the time it takes to install Officers by combining the Secretary and Treasurer, and Chaplain, Marshal and Organist.

These Resolutions have been reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee, and the Ritual Committee sees no reason to oppose any of these changes. While we are not endorsing or rejecting them, we feel that the membership is entitled to use discretion and vote their will in the passing or failing of these Resolutions.

GGC REGENERATIVE MEDICINE COMMITTEE

*Peg Reiterman, Chairman
PGM of Ohio*

Few people have had such an opportunity to serve on such a Committee of this magnitude. We are changing people's lives, saving people's lives through research and monetary support and using people's success stories to share the great news of this amazing partnership between WFIRM (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine) and the Order of the Eastern Star. **THIS IS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE!**

As with any charitable assignment, our 16-member Committee was charged with an ambitious goal! The challenge was accepted to raise ONE MILLION DOLLARS during this Triennium. To help prepare us, contact was made with Sister Genevra Kelly, Chief Philanthropic Officer at WFIRM in addition to faculty members, via the ZOOM-tool, to assist in understanding this amazing medical field. We were called to action and with compassion in our hearts, we anxiously hit the roads of this nation, to share the story of Regenerative Medicine to frankly, anyone who would listen!

Tables were set up to sell cozy bowls, quilts, water bottle holders, wine and cheese baskets, tote bags, comforters and the official WFIRM+OES=IMAGINE pins. One State hosted a visit from Elvis for a Rock' n Roll on the River event. We had bus trips to WFIRM, 5K walks and Regenerative Medicine Cruises with faculty members on board to offer lectures regarding breaking Research News. We were invited to speak at Chapter meetings, social events, ZOOM meetings and Grand Chapters.

It seemed that the venues where programs were presented, brochures were available and videos were viewed offered enthusiastic and thunderous responses from not only our members but "normal" people. too. The designated funds and tax-free donations began to grow, and the partnership developed into an amazing and fulfilling endeavor. **THIS IS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE.**

There's a different day in the making! The purpose of raising awareness and encourage support for research through our joint efforts with WFIRM is a chance of a lifetime. We are on the ground floor of such exciting announcements that will not only help us but our children, grandchildren and every human being in this world. I know firsthand as in 2020, a stem cell transplant saved my son-in-law's life and today he is **CANCER-FREE!! THIS IS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE.**

Although we haven't reached the goal, we are reporting donations from 28 States nearing the \$530,000 mark for this Triennium. Since the first donations were posted in 2015, the Order of the Eastern Star has contributed over \$1 million dollars to WFIRM. Exciting news: We have just been notified by our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron that our Regenerative Medicine Committee will be selecting a research project at WFIRM in which a portion of the funds raised from 2021-2024 will be applied! Yes, our **EASTERN STAR** name will be posted at WFIRM!

My sincere thanks to my Co-chair Billy Williams, PGP FL, and the 14 Committee members: Shilora Hudlow, PGM NV; Carol Bradford, PGM MS; Charles Jones, PGP MA; Albert Haynes, PGP NC; JoAnn Sheppard, PGM OK; John Wiley Thomas, PGP OR; Clayton Horne, PGP WV; Richard Skidd, PGP, TX; Dorothy Rivers, PGM SC; Nancy Kiehne, PGM IA; Karen Monteith, PGM KS; Karen Morton, PGM IL; June Mathews, PGM GA; and Jean Jeanfavre, PGM CN. We had fun and learned so much.

Your Regenerative Medicine Committee thanks you, Sister Glenda and Brother Lon, for endorsing this project, appointing this amazing Committee and yes, even traveling with us on the cruises! Now together, we can all say: **THIS IS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE!**



GGC SERVICE DOG COMMITTEE

*Llynn Lambert, Canadian Chairman
PGM Saskatchewan*

Our Mission Statement, of the Order of the Eastern Star, is to make a positive difference in the world with charitable works, lasting friendships and loving kindness to all mankind.

What a powerful statement!

In 2009-2012, Sister Rennie Often, MWGM, and Brother Fred Clarke, MWGP, had Service Dogs as their chosen charity during “*The Nature of God’s Love around the World*” Triennium. An excess of \$1.4 million dollars was raised for Service Dogs during their Triennium.

At the “Hope for Tomorrow” Session held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the members voted to make Service Dogs one of our primary recognizable flagship charities of the Order. Sister Marianne Shenefeld, MWGM, and Brother Henry Martin, MWGP, advanced the recognition of Service Dogs as our identifying charity with the paw print added to the new OES marketing logo.

Great strides have been made with the adoption of Service Dogs as a Grand Chapter Standing Committee, in most of our Jurisdictions. A video was created to educate the membership and public about our dedication to Service Dogs and the assistance these dogs provide to those that require their services.

Our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Winchester, and Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Lon Lowry, have given us the challenge in 2021–2024, of raising \$1 per member for Service Dogs during their “*Worldwide the Family of God Marches Together*,” our 51st Triennium.

The Order of the Eastern Star continues to raise funds and awareness for Service Dogs, worldwide, and to improve the lives of others less fortunate while witnessing the incredible work of these Service Dogs.

“Paws for the Cause”

We know that we can’t change our world, but we have the ability to help others navigate their world through the assistance of a Service Dog. The need is great and the wait lists can be long for these dogs. We can, with your support, bring Service Dogs in to the lives of those that need it most and to provide an increased confidence and independence that we take for granted.

Each Jurisdiction is unique, just as each client’s need for assistance is unique. As members of Eastern Star, we can decide which Service Dogs Organization we choose to support in our own State/Province.

By endorsing Service Dogs as our primary, permanent charitable project of the Order of the Eastern Star allows our good works to shine in the spotlight as brightly as the Stars above.

Together, we are serving mankind in a unique way by bringing help to those who will and can achieve independence and by advancing the human spirit.

As OES, we use our hands to help; Service dogs use their hearts to heal.

Service Dogs “Tales” from Canada



Ontario: The Grand Chapter has guest speaker, Sister Debra Wiken, with her support dog. In August, our members adopted Service Dogs as a Standing Committee in this Jurisdiction.

GGC SERVICE DOG COMMITTEE

(Continued)

Alberta: Holds a “Hot-Diggity Service Dog” event and raises money to sponsor a Hearing Service Dog. This news article was published in The Weekly Anchor, Edson, Alberta.

Local groups raise money for service dogs

by Deanna Mitchener

The Order of the Eastern Star and the Lions Club recently held a joint event at the Edson Lions Hall to raise money for Service Dogs.

Service dogs are a priority project for both clubs, making this a great collaboration. The evening consisted of a delicious supper, a silent auction, and a presentation about Service Dogs. With attendance of around 150 people, more chairs needed to be set up for the presentation. Just over \$3,000.00 was raised.

Member Janet Wilkinson said, “We can’t possibly say thank you enough for everyone who donated, attended, bought tickets and most especially all the volunteer workers. We only need a few cash donations to be able to have enough for a hearing guide dog. They cost \$4,000.00 each to train and there are three on the waiting list here in Alberta. The community support has been overwhelming and we can stamp a huge success on this event.”

Lynne Lambert, Canadian Chairman of the Service Dogs Committee, from Moose Jaw Saskatchewan attended the fundraiser as a guest speaker. Lambert shared personal stories about the different Service Dogs. She also shared information on the training that is needed, the cost, and most importantly the lives of individuals who receive the gift of mobility, safety, and independence along

with the lifetime commitment of a Service Dog and companion.

“We have the ability to help others navigate their world through the assistance of a service dog. The need is great and wait lists can be long for these dogs. We have the ability, with your support, to bring service dogs into the lives of those that need it most and to provide an increase in confidence and independence that most take for granted,” said Lambert. There is no government funding for these dogs to be trained and they solely depend on donations.

Located in Oakville, Ontario with a breeding and training facility in Breslau, they are the only school to train dog guides in seven distinct programs. The seven programs are for Canine Vision, Autism Assistance, Support, Hearing, Seizure Response, Service and Diabetic Alert. There is a goal of training 250 dogs each year which serve a wide variety of people.

When a client receives a trained dog, it is at no cost to them personally. Clients travel and stay in Oakville for a period of 10 days up to four weeks, taking in-depth training. Lifelong follow ups of service are offered. Dogs typically retire from working in 8-10 years. They can then be adopted by the client, family, or friends.

“The client will receive a new dog guide to continue with support needed. All funds raised in



Arden Lohner (Lions Club), Janet Wilkinson (Lions Club and Eastern Star) and Lynne Lambert (Canadian Chairman-Service Dogs) during the fundraiser. photo Deanna Mitchener.

Alberta, stay in Alberta,” said Lambert.

If you are interested in learning more about these wonderful guide dogs, you can reach out to Janet Wilkinson at 780-712-9875 or Arden Lohner at 780-712-4267

British Columbia & Yukon “Howling” success story: We organized a dog walk to highlight the project and Eastern Star in Ladysmith here on the island. We had 24 people come out, about 10 regular dogs, 4 Service Dogs and 5 trainers.

We walked all the streets of Ladysmith and handed out promotional materials for both the dog program and the OES. We also approached the grocery store and they put dog brochures in all the shopping bags for the customers for the day. We had a local island newspaper/magazine do a story on the event, as well. Unfortunately, the local TV station got distracted and couldn’t be there, but they said they would come out the next time.

Saskatchewan shares their “pawsitivity” exciting article published in the national Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide newsletter.



GGC SERVICE DOG COMMITTEE



(Continued)



Pawtners in Success: Order of the Eastern Star, Saskatchewan Chapter

To fulfill our mission and support Canadians from coast-to-coast, it takes a village and we are grateful the Order of the Eastern Star, Saskatchewan Chapter, is part of our village. Through the years, the money they fundraise for LFCDG has been applied to sponsoring numerous Dog Guide teams.

Lynne Lambert serves as the Canadian Chair on Service Dogs and explains the structure of their organization:

“The Order of the Eastern Star is a worldwide organization of men and women, with leaders at the top that direct each State, Province and in some cases, Countries (known as Grand Chapters). My position is to work on Service Dogs in Canada. I have committees in every Province that work on raising money for Service Dogs throughout their Province. My job is to assist, promote and work on raising money for Service Dogs throughout their Province. My job is to assist, promote and work with each Province to obtain their fundraising goal.”

In Saskatchewan, the Order of the Eastern Chapters have chosen Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides to give to. We are so grateful for all their support over the years. They have raised over \$30,000 to go towards Dog Guides.

Accreditation is Important



International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International have become the benchmark to measure excellence in the assistance dog industry. Assistance dog users trust their lives and safety to their dogs, so everything related to the training of both dogs and people must meet extraordinary criteria. ADI and IDGF standards are continually evaluated to ensure they are up-to-date with current industry practices and remain focused on continuous improvement of the assistance dog industry. ADI is a global network of organizations collaborating to ensure high quality assistance dogs create new paths of possibilities for the individuals they support.

Leaving paw prints on the hearts of others

Types of Service Dogs

These Service Dogs are specially trained to mitigate their handler's disability.

Autism Is a condition related to brain development that impacts how a person perceives and socializes with others. There is a broad range of conditions and every Service Dog is assessed to the needs of the autistic child. These Service Dogs need to have the ability to listen to the child and the parent, not just to one person.

Hearing Service Dogs alert a person of door bells, alarms, car horns when crossing the intersection, or telephone. These Service Dogs can be trained to respond to sign language.

Service will assist a disabled person physically bound to a wheelchair, pick up items, open fridges, basically do everything a human can do.

Sight/vision impaired serve as eyes for their master. The original program for guide dogs are still very much in demand. Generally, a larger dog is placed so they can “steer and direct” the person with a sight impairment

Diabetic alert for persons ages 10 or older, who are insulin dependent with hypoglycemic unawareness. They can detect 20 minutes before a drop in sugar and will retrieve diabetic kit and food.



GGC SERVICE DOG COMMITTEE

(Continued)

Seizure response is trained to recognize and react to the onset of a seizure and get help. If you see a Service Dog on their own, it could be a signal help is needed.

Emotional support - Service Dogs can visually provide for an invisible disability such as PTSD.

These Service Dogs provide comfort to others as directed by their handlers:

Facility Support - Used by professional agencies with individuals in traumatic situations and will work with more than one handler.

Working dogs - Police dogs search and recover.

Thank you for your continued support of your Service Dogs Committee in your Jurisdiction.



LOVE - let us be like our Service Dogs - a best friend, offering unconditional love to one another and to our fellow man.

FAITH – that what we strive to do - we will do; to do our best and trust in the Lord to do the rest.

CONSTANCY – little by little, we will provide - one Service Dog at a time

LOYALTY – to our cause. What is our cause? - to be a better person.

TRUTH – know that which is true and believe in it. See and hear the results of our work and know that your participation will leave paw prints on your heart - one Service Dog at a time.



Let's all do our part to make a Paws –ative difference.

AMBASSADORS VISIT OES AROUND THE WORLD

*Jane McDaniel, Chairman of Ambassadors
Ambassador to Aruba
PGM of Louisiana*



It has been an honor for the Ambassadors of this Triennium to communicate, visit and encourage our OES Sisters and Brothers throughout the world. The Chapters are thriving and the members are enthusiastic in its efforts to grow and prosper the Order. Visits around the world found loving and happy members eager to entertain and share their world. The kindness and hospitality extended through all the visits gave the visitors a lifetime of special memories. Thank you for being a part of the greatest Order in the world.



1st MEETING OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF BOLIVIA

Evandro Lecey
Deputy to MWGP for Brazil, West Region
Deputy to MWGM & MWGP for Columbia
Deputy to MWGP for Paraguay

The 1st Meeting of Grand Representatives of the Grand Chapter of Bolivia took place on Sunday, March 3, 2024, as planned by the Venerable Grand Matrona Sister Vannia Arze Justiniano, who welcomed everyone present.

Presentation and description of the position with its respective obligations were given. Comments were made regarding the IGRA (International Grand Representatives Association). In the next step, the Grand Representatives presented how their work was during the period they will hold the position. The following Sisters spoke: Patricia Rioja de Ortiz (Massachusetts), Nila Exeni from Almanza (São Paulo), Teresa Encinas (Michigan), Lourdes Seborga (Nebraska), Carmen Novoa (South Carolina), Gabriela Ruiz de Pinaya (Mississippi and Montana) and Ana Rosa Prado Gutierrez (Kansas).

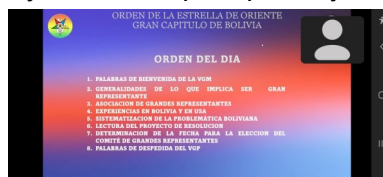
Deputada de la MVGM México Delia Whitfield was Grand Representative of Puerto Rico. She took the opportunity to talk about the passion of the Mexican Chapters and the work carried out. The Chapters are many kilometers away from each other and as a Deputy, she is present whenever she can visiting the Chapters. Luz de Monterrey Chapter meets twice a month and Capitulo Aztec Chapter 01 meets once a month. On August 10, we will have the official visit of MVGM to Mexico.

Sister Vannia Arze Justiniano was Grand Representative of Manitoba, Canada. The purpose of the first meeting was to survey the work of the major representatives and, as a second step, to take a turn in the direction of the work. Considering that the fraternal exchange between the members of the Order, the Grand Chapter of Bolivia issues resolution 56/23-24 decides to reorganize some topics regarding the sending of material. The Grand Representatives instruction manual must be a mandatory part of whoever will perform the work. The Committee will be renewed annually and reports sent annually. The 2nd Meeting of the Grand Representatives will be held soon.

We had a presentation on the theme "Communication and Will is the key," presented by our Sister Ana Prado, making some communication suggestions for the Grand Representatives. Present as a special guest was the Deputy from MVGP Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Brazil in the Central West Region, Brother Evandro Lecey. In the use of the word, he ratified his support in everything that was discussed, the importance of uniting the Castilian language Chapters remains and we need to integrate even more as we use the same Ritual, the exchange of study material. We live in a very different reality and an integration that has been maintained since the institution of the Nanduti Chapter in Paraguay, when we held the first meeting of Chapters subordinate to GGC who work in the Spanish language. Let more meetings and encounters come. He suggested the creation of an honorary representative.

To close the Grand Secretariat, Andrea Rodrigues Roca, spoke about the importance of presentation cards with all the data on the Great Chapter of Bolivia. He concluded that Brother Evandro's proposal is very good and that we should work on urgently creating a proposed instance.

The Venerable Grand Patron, Brother Alvaro Mauricio Dominguez Arias, spoke after all the presentations. Today's meeting was fantastic and we need to continue working and building bridges of brotherhoods. We are increasingly committing to our friendly relationship, especially with the Chapters of Castilian language.



1st MEETING OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS IN BRAZIL

*Peg Oliver, GGC Ambassador to Northern Brazil
PGM of Minnesota
March 15-20, 2023*

Ola' from Sister Peg Oliver, GGC Ambassador to Northern Brazil and Past Grand Matron of Minnesota! My husband Jerry, then WGP of Minnesota and I, had the honor and privilege to travel to Brasilia, Brazil, in March of 2023 with our Most Worthy Grand Matro, Sister Glenda Winchester, for the opportunity to participate in the first meeting of the Subordinate Chapters in Brazil. Our Sisters and Brothers in Brazil welcomed us with open arms. We had the honor to meet with a Senator, who is a Mason, in his office at the Capital Building, visit the Chapter in Brasilia, and witness a School of Instruction. Above all, we were able to share social time and witness the pride they have in their hearts of our Order.

I want to thank Brother Evandro Lecey, Deputy of Central, West, and Espirito Santo and Sister Judith Fenner, Chair of the Brazil Deputies, for their planning and assistance throughout our visit. A special thanks to Sisters Anna Esther and Angelita Leprvost for their friendship and being our chauffeurs. The memories that were made will live in our hearts forever.



Guten Tag from Germany

Submitted by Diane R. Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah, Past Grand Matron of Iowa

September 5-12, 2023, found our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda G. Winchester on her official visit to Germany. Winchester was accompanied by the Worthy Grand Adah Sister Diane Bargfrede, Past Grand Matron of Iowa, and her husband Craig; along with Sister Marcia Perry, GGCCM Ritual, Past Grand Matron of Virginia. Due to health reasons Brother Lon Lowery, Most Worthy Grand Patron and his wife Sister Barbara was unable to join the travels through Germany.

Sister Marion Reich, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron along with Sister Stephanie Brooks planned some amazing events for us to enjoy during the visit to Berlin.



(photo left to right Bargfrede; MWGM Glenda Winchester; Brooks) We were greeted at the Berlin Airport by Sister Stephanie Brooks, where she presented the MWGM with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Also, at the airport to meet the delegation on Tuesday September 5th was Worthy Matron Sister Eka Grubert and the chapter Secretary Sister Vera Dorett-Peter. The weather was unusually warm for this season.

Sister Stephanie Brooks accompanied us to our accommodations, the Novum Hotel Kronprinz our home while in Berlin. On Wednesday we toured the Allied Museum at Clayallee. The Museum features the Berlin Blockade and the Airlift, Check Point Charlie and Berlin Spy Tunnels just to name a few. We visited Bush Plaza at the Embassy of the United States followed by lunch at Toscana Restaurant. Afterwards we had time for some shopping on Kurfürstendamm Blvd. and a rest before attending the stated meeting was held at the Lodge Hall on Peter Lennè Street.



Photos above left: The chapter room of Berlin Chapter. Photo on the right: Following the chapter meeting wonderful food and fellowship was enjoyed with the members.



(left) Photo with the members of Love Chapter from Manheim, Germany joined us on the official visits in Germany.

On Thursday Sept. 7th we were honored to visit the Reichstag (German Government Building) and the German Bundestag. We also enjoyed lunch and sightseeing around Pariser Platz, which included the Berlin Wall and Brandenburg Gate. A stop at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church was very humbling. This church sustained damage during Allied bombing raids of WWII. A portion of the church survived and is being preserved as a memorial.



(pictured above) Friday September 8, 2023, a river cruise through new and old Berlin and the Government area with Berlin Chapter and Love Chapter members. An evening meal was enjoyed after the cruise followed by a tour of DDR Museum.

Saturday September 9th found us at the train station in Berlin waiting with our host, Sister Stephanie Brooks, for our departure to Hamberg then on to Lubeck, Germany. Unfortunately, the sightseeing plans in Lubeck for the afternoon were cancelled due to an unexpected incident which left us sitting in the train car stranded on the tracks for a three-hour delay. We were thankful for the treats Sister Stephanie had prepared for us to take on the train ride.





When we finally arrived in Lubeck, we were greeted warmly by the members of Esther Chapter No. 21. In the evening, we enjoyed a get-together at the home of the Worthy Matron Sister Christa Kupferschmidt.

Sunday the 10th, we attended the stated meeting of Esther Chapter No.21, at the Logenhaus in Lübeck on St.-Annen Street. Pictured right: Members of Esther Chapter in Lubeck and the chapter of the Deputy Marion Reich, along with Craig Bargfrede, Marcia Perry, Diane Bargfrede, MWGM Glenda Winchester and the members from Love Chapter, Manheim. After the meeting a delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Hotel Jensen followed by a relaxing cruise on the rivers in Lubeck.





Monday September 11, we departed by train for Hamburg where Sister Marion Reich, the Deputy to the MWGM, arranged a tour of two Masonic Lodges. (left) The first is the oldest with lodges dating back to 1737. The original building was destroyed during WWII. The other was Logenhaus Moorweide with a guided tour by Brother Winkleman. (below)

Additional touring while in Hamburg was the Miniatur Wunderland (translation Miniature Wonder Land). Many hours could be spent at this attraction. The miniature detailed scenes were phenomenal. We also stopped at the renowned Elbphilharmonie (Concert Hall). Truly an amazing facility with a breathtaking view of the city.



On Wednesday, September 13 we say Auf Wiedersehen to our Sisters and Brothers of Germany reflecting on the new friendships made and memories to last a lifetime.



VISIT TO ROMANIA

*Nancy Hitchman, Triennial Assembly Social Events Chairman
Ambassador to Romania
PGM West Virginia*

ROMANIA – HERE WE COME!

On August 30, 2023, the following members traveled to Romania for the Official Visit: Glenda Winchester, MWGM; Nancy and Joe Hitchman; Charles (RWGS) and Judy (GGCCM) Chandler; Diana (Worthy Grand Adah) and Craig Bargfrede; Marcia Perry (GGCCM), and Paul Dolinsky made the trip to Bucharest.

We were off and running the next day to Dracula's Castle with a stop at Peles Castle in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Deputy to the MWGM, Sister Aruna Ionescu, was a wonderful and gracious host. On Friday, September 1, she took us on a guided tour of Bucharest. This was followed by a lovely dinner hosted by members of Isis Chapter #5 and Carmen Sylva Chapter #8, both local Chapters in Bucharest.

On Saturday, September 2, our official delegation flew to the city of Hunedoara in Northwest Romania. A wonderful dinner party was held in our honor in an open-air valley setting with lots of food, music and folk dancing. We met many wonderful members from around Romania on that occasion.

Sunday, September 3 was spent sightseeing after an early morning breakfast. The Official Visit was held that afternoon at Corvin Castle, built in the 14th century, in the Coat of Arms Room. That evening, we enjoyed a buffet dinner with music and folk dancing. We arrived back in Bucharest on Monday evening. Some of the delegation continued on to Germany's Official Visit and some returned to the States.

A big thank you to Sister Aruna Ionescu and her husband, Brother Catalin Tohaneanu, for arranging this fantastic weekend. To the members of Romania, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the gifts that were bestowed upon us and the wonderful hospitality extended to us during our visit.

I will not say good-bye Romania because one day, I intend to return. Thank you, Sister Glenda and Brother Lon, for appointing me as Ambassador to Romania. Romania will always be in my heart due to the wonderful caring Sisters and Brothers I met there.



VISIT TO MEXICO

*Debi A. Olson, Co-Chairman of Ambassadors
Ambassador to Mexico
PGM Missouri*

On August 8, 2024, seven OES members flew to Mexico City, Mexico, to begin our eight-day adventure in Mexico. MWGM, Sister Glenda Winchester; MWGP, Brother F.Lon Lowry; Worthy Grand Electa Sister Ivette Leite; Ambassador to Mexico Sister Debi Olson; her husband, Brother Jack Olson, Co-Chairman Bylaws Committee of GGC; Deputy to Mexico Sister Delia Whitfield and her husband, Brother Charles Whitfield; attended several outings with the members of Aztec Chapter #2, Mexico City.



We toured the Teotihuacan Pyramids near Mexico City and were treated to a traditional dinner at a Mexican restaurant. We were welcomed to their Open Meeting where Sister Glenda, Brother Lon, Sister Ivette, Sister Debi and Sister Delia all gave greetings. We were graciously welcomed and enjoyed listening to the Opening of the Chapter in Spanish. Sisters Ivette and Delia, along with several of the Aztec members were our interpreters for the trip. We were treated to a tour of the Shrine Hospital in Mexico City and were given wonderful explanations of the various orthopedic advances they are making there. We took a short trip to Xochimilco, which was a gondola-Type boat on several canals and learned about the various methods of gardening in Mexico.

On Monday, we flew to Monterrey, Mexico, and again were met by members at the airport. After a short rest at our hotel, we enjoyed a catered dinner and met the Grand Master of Nuevo León and his wife, who are members of Luz de Monterrey Chapter #8. We enjoyed several boat rides and were introduced to many loving members of our Order.

We completed our journey with a visit to the Grand Lodge building where the Monterrey Chapter meets. We enjoyed their Opening, followed by dinner and incredible entertainment consisting of a Mexican dance troupe, Ballet Folklorico, and songs performed by Mariachi Jaliciencia de Monterrey. All of the Sisters and Brothers we met were so welcoming and gracious during our entire trip. It was our pleasure to spend the week with our Sisters and Brothers in Mexico and learn their many customs.



Axtec Chapter



Shriner's Hospital



Monterrey Chapter

VISIT TO THE GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW YORK

*HelenBeth G. Vilcek, Ambassador to New York
PGM Pennsylvania*

When we hear the term “Ambassador” in the General Grand Chapter world, images of exotic foreign countries come to mind. But much closer to home is the Grand Jurisdiction of New York. During this Triennium, I have been the Ambassador to New York and this has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I have attended the Annual Grand Chapter Sessions, Official Visits and the summer fundraiser for their Eastern Star Home.

New York is a totally separate, stand-alone Grand Chapter. Their presiding Officers are the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron, putting them on the same level as our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron. They work from a slightly different Ritual, they have some additional signs and their Star emblem has the white point pointing up instead of down. But they ascribe to the same moral values that our members follow and their members also love the Order. A key difference that does exist is that New York allows membership for persons that do not have the direct Masonic relationship that General Grand Chapter requires.

This year, New York was honored that our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Winchester, was able to attend the Grand Chapter Session and help to cement relationships between General Grand Chapter and the Grand Jurisdiction of New York. We look forward to many more years of fraternal friendship between the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Jurisdiction of New York.



*(L-R) Glenda Winchester, Most Worthy Grand Matron - General Grand Chapter
Edward Mosso, Most Worthy Grand Patron - New York
Deirdre McCauley, Most Worthy Grand Matron - New York
HelenBeth Vilcek, Ambassador to New York
Yvete Leite, Worthy Grand Electra*

INTERNATIONAL GRAND REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION (IGRA)

Molly Veile, 1st Vice-President

"What is the International Grand Representatives Association?" OR as it is commonly called, the IGRA. The IGRA was organized at the Assembly held in Dallas in 1964 for the purpose of the exchange of ideas beneficial to the Grand Representatives AND to promote interest in the General Grand Chapter AND to support its officers.

Meetings of the IGRA are held every three years. The next meeting will be held at the upcoming Triennial October 2024 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

We invite former or current Grand Representatives to join the IGRA.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about IGRA, please contact me at marching@frontiernet.net (cell 632-680-7254) or a current officer. Visit our website at <https://easternstar.org/feedback/international-associations/international-grand-representatives-association/>

INTERNATIONAL GRAND SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION (IGSA)

Corley Anne Bryas, President
PGM Maine
Grand Secretary Emeritus

The purpose of the International Grand Secretaries' Association (IGSA) is to mutually assist present and past Grand Secretaries, to promote social interaction, strengthen the bonds of fraternal friendship and to inspire love for the principles of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Membership is open to all past and present Grand Secretaries in all Jurisdictions under the General Grand Chapter and in other Jurisdictions recognized by the General Grand Chapter. Dues are \$6 per Triennium.

Proceeding the General Grand Chapter Session on October 28, 2024, the IGSA will hold a breakfast with the International Grand Treasurers' Association. Following the breakfast, a business meeting is held. At this meeting, the pictorial record of all previous Grand Secretaries and those who have served as Right Worthy Grand Secretary is always on display for members to view.

In 2021, the Association held a Zoom meeting on October 19 to conduct its usual Triennium business. The Association then held an informal gathering, along with Brother Charles Chandler, Right Worthy Grand Secretary, through Zoom on October 19, 2022.

Grand Secretaries work closely together throughout the years, mostly via phone and email conversations. Being able to Zoom or attend the breakfast gathering at General Grand Chapter gives them the opportunity to actually meet their counterparts. Emails are used as a means to communicate announcements, joys, and sorrows among the group, as well as assisting each other with work issues.

The communication between the Right Worthy Grand Secretary and the Grand Secretaries at the IGSA meeting is a long tradition, which in the early years of the organization was referred to as "the round table".

When our Vice President, Sister Mary Ivy, served as the IGSA Secretary, she scanned all the records of our minutes as it would be impossible to replace those.

At the IGSA meeting, the scrapbooks that are maintained detailing all the Right Worthy Grand Secretaries and the Grand Secretaries over the years in all the Jurisdictions are always on display. The Vice-President is in charge of updating and maintaining these historical records. Sister Mary also digitized these to ensure preservation of these records and perhaps one day they will be posted on a website.

The IGSA suffered a loss when our Secretary/Treasurer, Sister Shelley M. Gullett, PGM of New Hampshire, passed away. We appointed Brother Doug Swan, PGP and Grand Secretary of New Brunswick, to fill the position.

Visit our website: <https://easternstar.org/feedback/international-associations/international-grand-secretaries-association/>



THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDER DR. ROB MORRIS

Stan Stack, Grand Chaplain

As presented by Brother Stan Stack at the Rob Morris Pilgrimage

August 20, 2023

Rob Morris Grand Chapter Committee Chair

Paris Marie Chapter #167

Paris, Kentucky

Sisters and Brothers,

Charlotte and I welcome you to LaGrange and to our home. The door is open, and you are free to visit inside, though I think you'll find it's warmer in there than it is out here under the trees. We are humbled by your presence and hope that your stay will be enlightening and satisfactory. I wish to share with you some of what has transpired in the six years we've been here in LaGrange, as well as some of the history of our Order and my hopes for the future of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Our first year or so in LaGrange was wonderful and teaching at the University has been a pleasure. The Masonic University was chartered by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1842. It accepts both paying students, as well as the orphaned children of Masons. Many Lodges throughout the Commonwealth and the Grand Lodge of Kentucky financially support those students, many of whom would have no education or the ability to learn a trade to support themselves in the future. Your generosity makes this great work possible. Education and caring for orphans is at the core of our fraternal mission and the religious affiliation many of you have. We take our guidance from God's Holy Word, which says in James 1:27.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this," To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspoiled from the world. " KJV

While the Masons and Order of the Eastern Star are not religions, we have as our foundations in this nation the Holy Word of God. What greater evidence of effusive charity to orphans could we undertake than that which is occurring at the University here in LaGrange.

In April 1861, my family's peaceful existence came to an end with the outbreak Civil War. All of us have been irreversibly affected by this ugly part of our country's brief history. My family, like so many others, wasn't spared from the war's devastation.

In 1861, I agreed to speak to a Lodge in Indiana, and while I was away, Southern Rebels set fire to our first home here in LaGrange. It seems my vocal position on preserving the Union wasn't popular with some in these parts. Fortunately, my family was spared, and Union forces salvaged some of my library of important Masonic books, poems, letters, and papers.

Early in the war, I accepted a commission as a Colonel in the Union Army over a Home Guard detachment, which was responsible for protecting nearby New Castle and the surrounding area from a Confederate advance. It's no secret that I'm a passivist by nature, so that commission in the Grand Army of the Republic must come as a surprise to some of you.

One of the most memorable events from my military service comes to mind. Over in New Castle, my troops confronted a Confederate enlistment detail. I put myself between the guns of my Union soldiers and the guns of the Confederates and encouraged my brothers to part in peace and go their separate ways. Fortunately, brotherly love prevailed and bloodshed was averted that day.

It's now been a little over a year since the war ended, but the conflict still lingers in the hearts and minds of many. Counted among the wounds of war are those that broke the bonds that bound our fraternal organizations.

The war negatively affected everything, including our Masonic brethren on both sides of the conflict and the furtherance of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Some of you may wonder when my interest in forming the Order of the Eastern Star began. My walk in Masonry began in 1846 while I was employed teaching at the Sylvan Academy in Oxford, Mississippi. Upon being raised a Master Mason, I was impressed with the rights and rituals of Free Masonry and its focus on making good men better. I immediately immersed myself in learning as much as I could.

I have been, and remain, a student of Masonic history and share with those who have gone on before me an interest in seeing that women have a place to meet in our Masonic Lodges.

I have always been indebted to the women who helped raise me in my youth. When I lacked a suitable father figure, women of good character stepped in. My brother Masons in Mississippi were likewise of excellent character, and they further developed me into the man I am today.

Between my two periods of teaching, first in Mississippi and now in Kentucky, I spent many years traveling the country selling magazine and paper subscriptions, all the while visiting Masonic Lodges along the way. I used my speaking abilities to lecture on Masonic principles wherever I could. It was during my travels that I learned about the organizations that include women and are based on Free Masonry. Those organizations I encountered shared little consistency in their rights and rituals.

Similarly, I observed in the Masonic Lodges I visited inconsistency the rights and rituals, too. Some of these inconsistencies make it difficult for Masons to visit other Lodges without drawing suspicion. I have been one of the ardent leaders of the Conservator Movement. If you have not heard of this movement, allow me to explain—the Conservator Movement has as its purpose to standardize rituals used in Masonic Lodges everywhere. Progress was being made until the war between the states. Now that movement has been set back by many years, because of the distrust that lingers among our brethren.

Seeking to avoid a similar issue with the Order of the Eastern Star, I have attempted to

the best of my abilities to write a ritual that is befitting this great organization. I started advocating in the late 1840's that women need to have their own fraternal organization and that they should be allowed to meet in Lodges which are well established and safe places to meet. It only makes sense that the wives and daughters of Master Masons have their own place to engage in acts of love, kindness and effusive charity one toward another. My hope is that, overtime, men will come to the conclusion that Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters are stronger together than they are apart.

I have also dedicated considerable time in writing the Degrees, rights and ceremonies we now enjoy when the Order of the Eastern Star is thus assembled. As I travel, I confer the Degrees of our Order and instruct on the rituals so that there will be consistency in every Chapter.

I have previously alluded to the fact that the history of our Order has precedence in similar organizations women that were established in the last century and the early part of this century. The research I conducted in my travels and the books I've acquired in my library refer to an earlier Order of the Eastern Star in the 1700's and its origins are likely from France. Sadly, that organization ceased to exist, though some of its rights have influenced our Ritual. Stories about that earlier order speak of acts of kindness shown by the sisters of that order who aided the patriots wounded in our war of independence. Some of the Rituals I penned in the Rosary of the Eastern Star were influenced by that earlier order. Our Rituals were also influenced by other early orders for women that have not survived the test of time, such as: The Heroine of Jericho and Mason's Daughters. I have, heretofore, acknowledged that the Degrees of our Order have historic precedence in those earlier attempts to give women a place in the Lodge. Some years ago, Charlotte and I had conferred upon us while in Tennessee, the Degree of the Heroine of Jericho. This event further emboldened me to press for adoptive Masonry for women.

I do not wish to boast, but I must admit that I have used my renown as a Masonic lecturer, writer and poet to promote a place for women in our Lodges. Likewise, my writings have also advocated for women to receive formal education and work in business and both

positions have stirred controversy among some of my fellow Masons.

As a result, I have received some of the harshest criticism from my brother Masons. I have received many letters with scandalous language which I dare not read aloud. I have received threats that would have made any reasonable man cease in this endeavor. The effect of this opposition has been to make me more steadfast in making our Order succeed and last.

My interests of late have changed and I now have my mind set to obtain further knowledge in Masonic history and the legend of operative Mason's role in constructing King Solomon's temple. I now have plans to undertake travel to the Holy Land, where I want to further my research. I am presently raising funds to travel to Europe and then on to Jerusalem, where I plan to stay for a while.

One of the goals I've set is to establish the first Masonic Lodge in Jerusalem, as none exists there. If you are interested in supporting me financially in this effort, please see me afterwards. To embark on this endeavor, it's necessary to transfer the responsibility for further developing and building the Order of the Eastern Star into the trustworthy hands of Robert McCoy of Louisville.

Robert McCoy is very organized and well educated in Masonic matters and on the Degrees of our Order. His skills should help further the development of new Chapters and hierarchy as needed.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of your time and please enjoy your stay in LaGrange for the remainder of the day.





EULOGY GIVEN AT THE ROB MORRIS PILGRIMAGE

*Given at the Memorial August 20, 2023 LaGrange, Kentucky
Kevin Odorn, Associate Grand Patron
Henderson Chapter #186
Henderson, Kentucky*

“One man can make a difference-and every man should try.” When Jacqueline Kennedy spoke these words, she was referring to her late husband John F. Kennedy. These words about him could just as easily have been said about Dr. Robert E. Morris, Founder of our Order. The work that Dr. Morris completed during his lifetime has made a difference in my life and the lives of many others. Today, we celebrate his life. We come together each year in August to commemorate him and his accomplishments. We join in fellowship to honor his life’s work, remembering fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love; five words that define the Heroines of our Order and were the guiding values in the life and work of Dr. Morris.

Dr. Robert E. Morris was a husband, a father, a brother, a lecturer, a poet laureate and many other titles. Numerous books outlining his life and career have been written. One can even study his personal letters – letters he wrote to his wife and children. This personal lens into his family allows the reader to surmise their own thoughts about Dr. Morris. As I read them, one such letter stuck out to me as a symbol of his thoughts and beliefs and how they relate to the Order of the Eastern Star.

In a letter dated March 20, 1852, Dr. Morris writes to his wife, “We have met many misfortunes and mortifications and discouragements, but perhaps (they) were sent to us to try us.... Won’t you make a new resolution and read a chapter every night? Since you quit the practice, your religious impressions are weakened. I hope you will begin again to do it and be sure to pray often for yourself, your husband and your children. Pray for all the world, for we always enjoy our religion best when we feel anxious for the spirit of welfare for others.” A little further on he prays, “Let us humble ourselves under His gracious hands and try to live so as to please him. If we do this, we shall be happy no matter how much we may be afflicted... And when all our labors on earth are ended, may the Savior take us in his arms and guide our souls to Heaven.” In this letter, Dr. Morris seems to be recalling to his wife how they have had their share of bad events and misfortunes. He emphasizes that we know not what our future holds, she should read the Bible more, pray for safe keeping AND if they do ALL of this, in the end they will make it to the gates of Heaven. We find this same sentiment in the Associate Patron’s lecture when he says, “... wanderings... devious... uncertain, ... God... Great Light... journey.”

Dr. Morris worked diligently at standardizing the Masonic Degrees, as well as the Order of the Eastern Star. His thoughts may have been about the prosperity of our Order along with the Masonic fraternity, but his work has been far more outreaching than that. His work has touched millions of lives - from all Masonic fraternities contributing monetary gifts to charities, to the helpful hands of each Sister and Brother who has given and continues to give.

We are gathered here in this solemn cemetery to remember the founder of our Order, surrounded by family - family we never knew we had until joining this Order. There is a good chance, without the work of Dr. Morris, most of us would not know the people next to us right now. Try to imagine a world where the Order did not exist, where the people you have grown to love, cherish and defend never knew you. Where loving kindness had no foundation, to grow and prosper. This is the true gift of Dr. Rob Morris, the gift of creating family all over this world; Sisters and Brothers united by the Star.

Thank you all for gathering here today in LaGrange, where we have come together in remembrance of Dr. Robert E. Morris. Let’s honor his legacy by continuing to make a positive difference in the world with charitable works, lasting friendships and loving kindness to all mankind.



United States Navy Biography

**COMMANDER JANETTE ARENCIBIA
PLANS, OPERATIONS AND MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE
GLOBAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**

Commander Janette Arencibia currently serves as Deputy Surgeon,
United States South Korea.

CDR Arencibia is an accomplished Plans, Operations and Medical Intelligence (POMI) officer and Navy Global Health Professional. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, she graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1995 with a Bachelor degree in Health Science Education and Masters in Public Administration – Public Health as a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow Awardee in 1996.

Upon a direct commission to Lieutenant Junior Grade in 2003, CDR Arencibia graduated from the Marine Corps University and earned a U.S. Navy War College Masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. CDR Arencibia is a graduate of the Global Health Strategies for Security program at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland.

Commander Arencibia's initial assignment at the Naval School of Health Sciences (NSHS) in San Diego, California was as Officer in Charge of Healthcare Facilities. Upon transfer from NSHS San Diego, she deployed with the Oregon Army National Guard 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was assigned Chief, Joint Visitor's Bureau (JVB) for Task Force Phoenix V-Afghanistan. In September 2006, she reported to NRD New England then to the National Naval Medical Center as Department Head for Contingency Operations. CDR Arencibia assumed lead medical planning roles in support of Operation Unified Response (USNS COMFORT) and Continuing Promise 2010 (USS IWO JIMA). She was selected as a Plans, Operations and Medical Intelligence Officer to the Joint Chiefs of Staff/Joint Staff Surgeon Internship program at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. During her Joint Staff tenure, she completed Verification, Validation and Accreditation for the Joint Medical Planning Tool, now a required medical plan validation tool per the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan. CDR Arencibia was subsequently assigned as the Lead Medical Planner for NORAD/NORTHCOM followed by assignment to Marine Forces Central Command whereby she instituted Global Health Engagements resulting in noted capability improvements to international bilateral agreements between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Follow on assignments include U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet (USNAVSO/FOURTHFLT) and USNS COMFORT Global Health Advisor in response to the 2019 Venezuelan Crisis.

She was the first POMI to serve as interim Medical Director at Naval Amphibious Force, TF 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, serving subsequently as Deputy, Medical Director.

Commander Janette Arencibia's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Commendation Medal, the Navy Marine Commendation Medal (two awards) along with various individual and unit decorations including the Joint Staff Badge and Fleet Marine Force qualification.

THE LONG WHITE GOWN

*Janette Marie Arencibia
Fernandina Chapter #55*

Good morning from South Korea where I am currently deployed and serving as the Deputy Surgeon for United States Forces Korea. I am a member of Fernandina Chapter #55 of Florida and while I have been deployed for some time, I remain connected to my Sisters and Brothers via various social media and internet platforms. Having recently missed Installation, I wrote a poem that I do hope you consider publishing for others to enjoy. It is called The Long White Gown.

The Long White Gown

Dedicated to all my Sisters and Brothers

Sanctity of the soul,
The mind and body whole;
Congealed in purity,
That is as gold.

Donned as we enter,
Together in we flow;
With long white gowns,
This we know...

Our sisters in each direction,
As we gaze upon the star;
Each sister stands to form,
A shared life path to chart.

We are guided by the light,
That our brothers share with us;
As we enter in white gowns,
They are among us.

Oh Dear Worthy Matron,
Orchestrate us with each pace,
In our white gowns that we don;
And gracefully take our place

Editor's Note: I apologize for not publishing this poem and article earlier. I was finally able to restore some files and was so happy to find this to share with everyone..

RUFF RIDERS ROLL IN TO TOWN RAISING MONIES FOR SERVICE DOGS

*Terri Robinette, PM
Golden Rule Chapter #6
Trussville, Alabama*



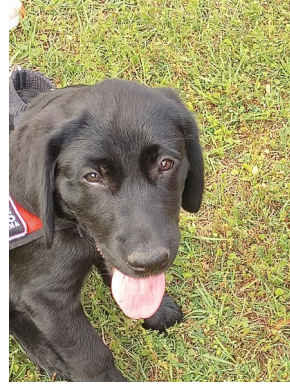
Clouds threatened the success of the first year of the Ruff Riders car show at the American Legion in Millbrook, Alabama. The sun made its appearance and welcomed 20 cars, 2 motorcycles, a group of car enthusiasts and a few furry friends.

Funds were raised through vehicle registration, a 50/50 giveaway and silent auctions. All the proceeds from the various events benefitted Service Dogs, and several of the dogs were in attendance, including Eastern Star's dog in training, Martha. She was quite the little princess posing for pictures with all her fans. Central Alabama K9 Unit also set up a tent to feature a search dog and trainers explained that three German Shepherds led searches for those lost around the State.

Age was not a discriminatory factor in judging the cars. From the '60s to the present, cars were admired for their beauty and uniqueness. Trophies were issued for first, second and third place, and a special trophy was issued to our Grand Marshal, Brother Charles Warren, for his vehicle winning best in show.

The winner of the 50/50 giveaway, Sister Donna McGee, PGM and Associate Grand Matron, donated her portion back to Service Dogs, an unexpected addition to the proceeds. Visitors to the car show exhibited happiness in supporting Service Dogs and expressed interest in the Order. Everyone is looking forward to April 26, 2025 for the second Annual Ruff Riders car show.

The day began to cool and people were tired. But what a day! Cars rumbled down the streets of Millbrook leaving smiles all around.





CANAVERAL CHAPTER #297 HELPS FOSTER CHILDREN

*Diana L. Pence, WM
Canaveral Chapter #297
Cocoa Beach, Florida*

Florida's Brevard County Chapters are helping our local foster children.

Canaveral Chapter #297 in Cocoa Beach is spearheading the charity we refer to as "The Backpack Project"

We are filling backpacks with comfort and practical items that a child will need when he or she is removed from the home. Thus far, we have delivered 48 backpacks for distribution and have enough donations to do another 48 as soon as possible.

Foster children are removed from the home with nothing, or very little. They often haven't eaten nor have basic hygiene necessities. They may be bringing nothing of their own for a comfort item.

They may spend a night or two at an emergency location before moving on to another placement. By putting these items in a backpack, the child will have a backpack to easily move items to locations and have that backpack to carry to school. The children who receive these are elementary-age children, between ages 3 through 10.

We are working directly with the Brevard County Office of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). The backpacks are in the office and ready to be picked up by the staff as they leave to go and get a child.

All items in the backpack have been approved by DCF. The items include a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, comb, stuffed animal, a small handmade comfort blanket with a tag that says "handmade with love," water bottle, coloring books and crayons, several commercially sealed bags of snacks and a drink pouch.

The enthusiastic response from the DCF staff warmed our hearts. They were so appreciative, and many stated to us that we have no idea how much this will mean to the children.

District 13 plans to make this an ongoing project. These donations are year-round, not back -to-school gifts. One hundred percent of donations raised goes to purchase backpacks and the items to fill them.



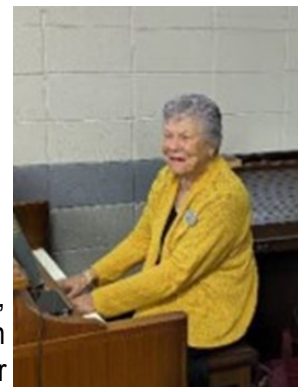
Pictured in photo: Our OES Sisters are in white tops.

From left: Fern Wolle, Jane Wedekind, Bettyann Hodur, Diana Pence and Susan Metcalf

All others are employees of Department of Children and Families

GEORGIA'S GRAND ORGANIST RAISES \$17k FOR SERVICE DOG PROJECT

*Tami Awe
Francis Bell #75
Harlem, Georgia*



Sister Mary Cone, Georgia's Grand Organist this year, was born December 20, 1938. Yes, she will be 85 this December. Sister Mary was initiated into the Order with both of her parents in 1967 by Sister Helen Miller, WGM 1967-1968, at Quitman Chapter #234. She is a 48-year member of Gleaner Chapter #347 in Conyers (she took a 6-year break and then returned). She says she "had a wonderful life" and feels she is blessed beyond measure. She stated her family were sharecroppers, but they always had enough food to eat and time at night to play music, sing, pray and read the Bible. Her father also taught music and at age 11, she taught herself how to play the piano by studying her father's music rudiment and sitting on the piano bench watching the hands of various players as they played the piano.

Sister Mary grew up singing with her sister, Julie, at churches, concerts and gospel singing venues. By the time she was 15, she had become so popular Brother Wiggins, Pastor of Oakhill Church in Laughman, Florida, got her started with her own radio AND television program bringing the gospel into hundreds, perhaps thousands of homes. Her television show was a one-hour gospel musical featuring quartets. The show lasted for 5 years and ran on WBDO, Channel 6 TV in Orlando, her hometown. The show introduced gospel quartets to the public and is the reason many of these groups were "discovered" and became famous in their own right. Quartets such as The Statesmen, Blackwood Brothers, LeFavors and the Harmonizers are but a few who became household names. Sister Mary played the piano for four of her friends who formed their own quartet group, and she sang as part of a trio for many years. She has traveled all over the country singing and playing her way into the homes and hearts across America.

Sister Mary started raising money for the OES Service Dog project two years ago and has raised about \$17,000. She travels all over the States of Georgia and Florida playing and singing in nursing homes, churches and various musical events across the area. She got her start playing in nursing homes in 1969 when a neighbor overheard her playing her piano and asked her if she could accompany her on the piano at Arrowhead Nursing Home while the neighbor played the autoharp. That began a life-long passion for playing at nursing homes, music festivals and senior centers that's lasted 50+ years.

In 1977, another neighbor advised Mary that he had a recording studio and he recorded several CDs of Mary's music – 7 in total. She travels the State with her CDs and after she performs her live music, she talks about OES and the Service Dog Project. She never charges any venue for her performance but offers her CDs for a donation that she gives 100% to the Service Dog Project. She said, "God is too good to me to charge people for my playing. I just love to make people smile." Sister Mary chose the Service Dog Project because she said she "has always been a caretaker and she loves what these dogs do for the people who have them."

Sister Mary is an amazing woman that we admire and respect so very much. She is the epitome of the giving soul, always traveling to perform for anyone who asks. She still drives herself and manages her time between taking care of her sister, taking care of friends and neighbors in need, and, of course, taking care of the OES Sisters and Brothers in her midst.

I, for one, want to grow up to be just like Mary!!

Fun Fact: Mary was baptized in Lake Buena Vista where the Disney castle now stands in Orlando



(L-R) Tami Awe
and Mary Cone



Gwen Payne, WGM; Tim
Hollifield, WGP; with Mary
Cone at her homecoming



Philicia Anglin,
White Ray of
Hope Chapter,
and Mary Cone

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Cheryl Garrett, WM
Riverdale Chapter #446
Riverdale, Georgia*



Riverdale Chapter Worthy Matron, Cheryl Garrett presented 50-year member, Janice Knauf, with her fifty-year pin and certificate, when she came to visit recently. Sister Janice was overjoyed and thrilled to receive her pin! Congratulations Sister Janice!

Courtesy of the November 2, 2023 issue of the Georgia "Air Mail Express" OES News

GEORGIA'S GRAND CHAPTER PINKS OUT AND STANDS UP TO CANCER!

*Tami Awe
Francis Bell #75
Harlem, Georgia*



Many of us have been affected in some form by cancer. Some are survivors, some live with the loss of a loved one and some lose the battle with cancer themselves. Research for a cure is desperately needed, but to fund that research, many dollars are needed.

Sister Gwen Payne, WGM, invited her Illuminance Grand Family and the membership to **STAND UP TO CANCER** with a **PINK OUT** at the District 18 Official Visit. Members were asked to wear pink, and Sister Gwen provided ribbons for her Grand Family to wear on their formals with the word's "courage," "hope," "faith" and "love" written on the ribbon. Then, large, paper ribbons were offered to everyone to place a name of someone they were **STANDING UP** for. Most of the participants took at least one ribbon, some took several. Many gave a donation for their ribbon and over \$500 was raised to give to Cancer Awareness.



Sister Jo Cullifer, Right Worthy Grand Trustee, Chairman, stated, "It was amazing to see the Chapter Room filled with Pink Ribbons. Most of us have been touched or have loved ones suffering from cancer and this was a wonderful way for us to show our concern and support and remember them. Thank you, WGM and WGP for this outpouring of love and support for others."

While the WGM loves and supports all the Eastern Star projects, she also wants everyone to know that Eastern Star supports **many** projects and many walks of life. Her desire is that Eastern Star will grow in the community as we show the many areas of philanthropic endeavors that we participate. We, the members, are in the business of people. Sister Gwen says, "It is said that cancer is a journey, but it's walked alone and having two friends who lost their husbands to breast cancer, I wanted to do something in memory of them but in honor of all those who walk beside them. We need to remember "awareness is power" so let's take that power and find a cure."



POLK CITY CHAPTER #361 WELL REPRESENTED AT GRAND CHAPTER

Jean Koss, GGCCM ESTARL, PGM
Polk City Chapter #361
Polk City, Iowa



Polk City Chapter prides itself on being an active group. We have a little over 100 members and at our Chapter Meetings we have been averaging 24 in attendance. It is great to have sideliners!! At the October 2023 Session of the Iowa Grand Chapter, we had 23 members in attendance. Many were active as Pages, Committee Members, Banquet hosts, Grand Representatives and much more. On Sunday, we were honored to have Brother Allan Tedrow, our WP, installed as Grand Chaplain for 2024. We try to make sure our members (whether or not they can attend our Chapter meetings) are informed of what is happening at our Chapter. That is so important to keep Chapter members engaged.

The two pictures included are our Chapter members at Iowa Grand Chapter. We wrangled 21 for the one picture and then we were able to get our other two members for the second photo. If you are ever in Polk City, our Chapter meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. (we are dark in January and February). We would love for you to stop by!



MARYLAND VISITS KERNERSVILLE CHAPTER #205 AND WFIRM TO MAKE PRESENTATION

*Phyllis Johnston, PM
Pentalpha #38
Germantown, Maryland*

Thanks to the generous fund-raising efforts of the members of the 2023-2024 Special Project Committee, our Chapters and members, we raised \$30,000 for Regenerative Medicine. The Grand Chapter presented the check and letter of gratitude to WFIRM on August 23, 2024, to further the research on neonatal and wounded service member health issues with the goal to cure, rather than merely treat, disease. Accepting on behalf of WFIRM were Sister Geneva Kelly, Old Town Chapter #355, Winston-Salem, and several knowledgeable interns who also served as our tour guides.

The weekend was full and steeped in history. Kernersville Chapter #205, the home Chapter of the WGM, Sister Amy Jo Hoth, graciously invited us for dinner and to their Chapter meeting when we arrived Thursday evening. Many of their Chapter members, members from District 8 and the WGM, WGP of North Carolina and several of their Grand Officers, joined us for the tour of WFIRM on Friday morning. After the tour and presentation, a luncheon was provided by WFIRM where we had an opportunity to talk with the interns and learn about them and their work at WFIRM. Later that afternoon, the Maryland members took a trolley tour of Winston-Salem. Back at the Brookstone Inn, we had wine and cheese and then out to dinner.

Saturday, we toured Bethabara, the original Moravian Village in North Carolina. Our tour guides were phenomenal and we, of course, did a little shopping. That evening, we attended the Grand Chapter's fund-raising Pink Ribbon Gala Rally for Regenerative Medicine, with the funds being raised for the WGM/WGP's Special Project, Breast Cancer Research at WFIRM. Sister Geneva Kelly, MGH, presented an overview of the research being conducted at WFIRM and then Dr. Khiry Sutton, PhD, gave a very informative talk and Power Point presentation on the specific research that he is involved in. They also had a silent auction and 50/50 raffle.

Sunday, some of our members attended the Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem. Everywhere we went, we met wonderful North Carolinians and had a great fellowship with our OES Sisters and Brothers.

A special thank you goes to Sisters Nancy Ford, GGCCM (Maryland), and Amy Jo Hoth and Geneva Kelly for arranging our trip.

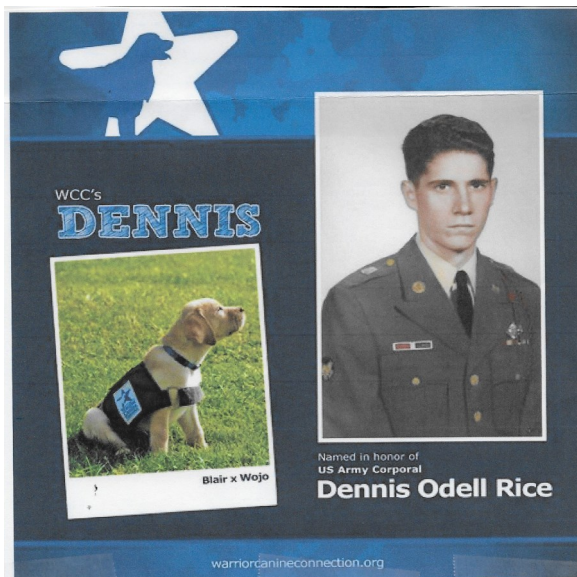




WARRIOR CANINE CONNECTION
WELCOMES
SERVICE DOG “DENNIS”

Karen Calvert, PGM
Unity #112
Camp Springs, Maryland

Warrior Canine Connection
June 24, 2024



Please join us in welcoming WCC's Dennis. It is with tremendous pride that we name WCC's Dennis in honor of United States Army Corporal Dennis Odell Rice. Nominated by his sister, Karen (Rice) Calvert, PGM, Unity Chapter #112.

CPL Rice knew full well when he enlisted the possibility of going to Vietnam, but he believed it was his duty to do so. He followed his father's footsteps by joining the Army during a time of war.

His basic training began at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, then to Fort Benning, Georgia, for paratrooper school, then to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the 82nd Airborne and then to Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne to prepare for Vietnam. He went over two weeks early to help prepare for their arrival at Bien Hoa where he served until his discharge.

While serving in Vietnam as a member of the 101st Airborne, CPL Rice ran heavy equipment and built airfields

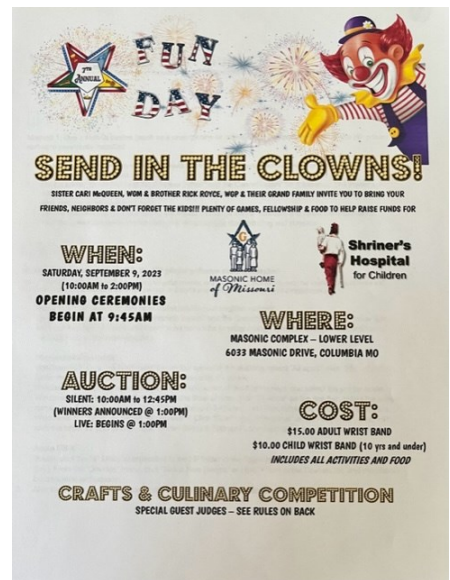
along with the Seabees. Like so many others, he said very little about his time there until the movie Platoon came out. He did say one night was especially hot and he took his bedroll outside to sleep on the ground. Moments later, the hut blew up and he was not injured. He returned home and had three children, but later lost his life to lung cancer due to exposure to Agent Orange at age 40. Anyone can nominate a Service Member to have a WCC Service Dog named after them. To do so, go to their website at warriorcanineconnection.org and complete the nomination form. It can take up to two to three years for a puppy to be born and selected for naming.

Editor's Note: Check out WCC's puppy cam. It's fun entertainment and a stress releaser for sure!

GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSOURI'S 7th ANNUAL FUN DAY

*Mary L. Sisemore, TSAC, Faithful Note, PGM
Lexington Chapter #248
Lexington, Missouri*

The Grand Chapter of Missouri held their 7th Annual WGM and WGP's "SEND IN THE CLOWNS FUN DAY" Charity Event at the Masonic Complex in Columbia on September 9, 2023. The event was to benefit Masonic Home Outreach, Shriners Hospitals and Service Dogs, with the Semi-final Cat Show Competition. Our Grand Officers, as well as many of our members participated and made the day an easy task. The WGM's District did a spectacular job with the meal supported by our WGP's with their wonderful cookies for dessert. Contributions, participation and labor with a smile were so above and beyond, but that is our wonderful Eastern Star. Special thanks to Shawn McAfee, who not only made our Auction fun, but we ended up purchasing many wonderful things we did not know we needed. Our Grand Secretary, Sister Debbie Olds, AKA Clown Police, saw that the Masonic Complex was opened, closed and left in good order, and all prisoners were either bailed out or paroled. Too many others to start mentioning. The members, their families and friends had a day of fun and fellowship and raised over \$12,000 for the above charities. Included in the activities of the day were Carnival Type Games, Cake Walk, Bingo, Face Painting, Giant Hot Dogs Lunch, Silent Auction, Live Auction, Craft Competition, Culinary Competition and semi-finals of our Cat Show Contest. Members of the staff of The Masonic Home and Shriners were judges of the Culinary and Craft Competition. Sister Cari McQueen, WGM, and Brother Rick Royce, WGP, seemed to be pleased with the happenings of the day. Special thanks to Sister Karen Dixon, PM, Co-Chairman; Sister Angela Keys, PM, and others. We have many fun pictures of the event. I also posted on Facebook under Missouri Eastern Star.



**MWGP CELEBRATES HIS
BIRTHDAY AND 25 YEARS
IN OUR ORDER**

Debbie Somerlot, WM

*George Lewis Behrens Chapter #504
Delaware, Ohio*



(L-R) Fred Somerlot, Lon Lowry, Debbie Somerlot and Barbara Lowry

On October 23, 2023, at my last meeting as WM of G. L. Behrens Chapter #504, the home of Brother Lon Lowry, MWGP, we had the honor to hold a birthday party for Brother Lon, and to celebrate his 25th year in the Order. We had Brother Lon presented behind

Esther's Station and his wife Sister, Barbara, presented him with his 25-year pin. During his remarks, he said that 25 years ago to this date, he was initiated - on his birthday - into the Order and his lovely wife was beside him, just like tonight.

During refreshments after the meeting, we celebrated with cake and sang "Happy Birthday."



2023 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR RIVER CHAPTER

#517

*Donna Miller, Secretary
River Chapter #517
North Olmstead, Ohio*



Our Chapter was so happy to have a first time Worthy Matron Cheryl Park and first time Worthy Patron Howard Park serving our Chapter. The Theme was Following a River of Stars. Here are just a few things that the Chapter has done in 2023.



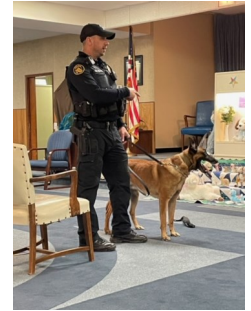
Becky McAlindon, Cheryl Park, Phyllis Pacsutta, Debbie Warnock, Barb and Dick Metzler Chapter sending Thanksgiving cards to our shut-in members



50-yr member Joyce Clark celebrating her Birthday



4/8 Sandstone Assembly's Bunny Breakfast



4/23 with the help of the Chairman of our GC Service Dog Comm., Officer Dimatteo and K9 Officer Match of the North Olmsted Police Dept taught us about Match and his duties as a K9 Officer. I think it's safe to say we all thought he was a pretty great dog!

6/10 Reception for the Grand Chaplain, Brother Joe Pacsuta, and we were thrilled to have Sister Nancy Helyes receive the Grand Representative to Colorado that evening. We also collected \$400. in donations that went to help the Rainbow Girls go to Grand Assembly.

6/24 Charity Extravaganza at the Eastern Star Home. Our Bonnie Tomko was the Co-Chairman of Charities and a lot of money was raised.



*Charity Extravaganza -
(L) Becky McAlindon, Karin Bir, Carol Egna, Barb Deeken and Cheryl Borchner*



7/16 Dragon Boating on the Cuyahoga River

8/12 Service Dog Walk - Howard and Cheryl Park and Becky McAlindon



7/22 Majestic Meadows Alpacas & Boutique



8/16 Crushers Baseball (bring your dog to the ballpark)



10/7 North Olmsted Police Trunk or Treat for children. We had 3 cars decorated. Passing out candy - Barb Deekin, Karin Bir, Cheryl Borchner, Diane Baeslack, Heather Kiehl and Donna Miller



11/6 Rainbow Pledge Group, Pebbles, with Sandstone Assembly - initiated 4 girls.

MAPLE LEAF CHAPTER #2

*Louise Smith
Maple Leaf Chapter #2
Stanbridge, Quebec*

*Editor's Note: Maple Leaf Chapter articles written by Louise Smith
Printed in the Brome County News*

Four food banks benefitted from Chicken and Biscuit dinner

By Louise Smith

Four big cash donations will be made to food banks in Bedford, Hemmingford, Lac Brome, and Mansonville, thanks to the huge turnout at the annual Chicken and Biscuit dinner held in

Stanbridge East.

The members of Maple Leaf Chapter no. 2, Order of the Eastern Star, worked hard before and during the event, to pull off this successful evening. Record crowds turned out for the meal. Plans are in place to better serve the public for next year.

A takeout option was also available and it was well used by people who did not want to wait for a place to open up at a table.

One hundred per cent of the profits from the evening will be going to the four food banks. Recently several chapters have joined with

Maple Leaf no. 2 so fundraising for the chapter is not needed for chapter expenses and everything raised can be used for charitable works. Maple Leaf Chapter no. 2 gives to many organizations and causes in the region. They support youth and many who are in need.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE SMITH

The Chicken and Biscuit Dinner held by Maple Leaf Chapter no. 2, of the Order of the Eastern Star, was record setting. Four food banks will benefit from the evening.

Long-standing connection between Quebec and Vermont OES chapters

By Louise Smith

At the beginning of June, the Grand Chapter of Vermont, Order of the Eastern Star, held its 151st Annual Session. Each year there is a new theme. This year it was "Live, Laugh, and Love."

Members of the Maple Leaf Chapter, No.2, which meets in Stanbridge East, went to the Annual Session. For many years, Quebec and Vermont members have intermingled and have supported each other. In the Opening Ceremony, several members of Maple Leaf Chapter, participated. Brother Robert Weidner presented the Canadian flag under the escort of Sisters Sandra Ewart and Janet Patch. Sister Madeline Weidner had the honour of giving the tribute to the Canadian flag. The tribute highlighted the long-standing history between Vermont and Quebec members.

The tribute read -"Today, the Canadian flag has become synonymous with the maple leaf symbol, recognized worldwide as a representative of Canada giving emphasize to a peaceful and progressive country of enormous natural beauty, prosperity and generosity of spirit. The national colours of Canada are red and white, the former being symbolic of England and the latter of France, paying tribute to a diverse heritage. Red represents Canada's struggle for independence, national identity, prosperity and hope. White represents Canada's national values, such as purity, honesty, impartiality, peace and tranquility. The maple leaf symbolizes pride and strength throughout Canadian history. Canada is the only country with a maple leaf on its flag. The distinctive maple leaf represents Canadians of all cultures and regions and the flag reflects the country's founding

principles of freedom, democracy, courage and justice.

The Canadian flag evokes a strong sense of loyalty and unity among the Canadian people, and it is greeted with great respect and affection. It inspires patriotism and signifies honour and pride no matter what your origins are or what languages you may speak.

On June 6, 1918 at 9 a.m. the Grand Chapter of Vermont convened its 46th Annual Session at the Masonic Temple in Rutland. After the Grand Officers had been escorted to their stations, the Associate Grand Conductress, Sister Addie F. Allen, retired and brought into the Grand Chapter Room the Flag of the United States of America. She was accompanied by the Grand Conductress, Sister Phyllis M. Burditt, who bore the Canadian flag. This was done as a compliment to the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Martha A. Stoddard, a native of Canada. Sister Burditt was selected to perform this pleasing duty as she, too, was Canadian by birth. The two flags were placed side by side in the East.

Little did they know back in 1918, of the fraternal bond that would flourish between the Eastern Star members of our two great nations. For more than a century we have proven that friendship and shared values have no borders and together we have remained devoted to promoting the enduring principles of our beloved Order.

The United States and Canadian flags also fly together over the International Peace Gardens. The construction of the Chapel of Peace at the Peace Garden was made possible by the joint effort of the members of the Order of the Eastern Star of the United States and Canada. The inscription there reads "To God In His Glory, we two nations dedicate this garden and pledge ourselves that as long as men shall live, we will not



COURTESY OF ROBERT WEIDNER

Sister Janet Patch, Sister Maddi Weidner, Brother Robert Weidner, and Sister Sandra Ewart represented Quebec from the Maple Leaf Chapter No. 2, at the recent annual Sessions held in Vermont

take up arms against one another."

This afternoon it was my distinct pleasure to watch, Brother Robert Weidner, GGCCM, present the Canadian flag, under the escort of Sister Sandra Ewart and Sister Janet Patch, Past Grand Matrons of Québec. Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Marie Perry, you graciously delegated to me the high honour of paying this Grand Chapter's tribute to the Canadian flag, for which I am extremely grateful."

This tribute seems quite fitting as we think of celebrating Canada Day. The future of co-operation between these two jurisdictions will continue for a long time.

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE PAST & PRESENT GRAND REPRESENTATIVES DONATE FOR THE CHILDREN

*Mary E. Kaylor, PM
Bluff City Chapter #414
Bluff City, Tennessee*



Each year, the Past & Present Grand Representatives Association of Upper East Tennessee chooses a special project to support. This year, we chose the Isaiah 117 House because of its mission of providing physical and emotional support in a loving and caring way for children awaiting foster placement. Founded in 2017 by two foster parents in Elizabethton, Isaiah 117 House currently has over 50 locations across 11 States.

Pictured is Carol Stout (L), Past Grand Representative of Massachusetts, presenting our donation of \$210 to Angie Grubbs at the, Isaiah 117 Resource Center

COLUMBIA CHAPTER #287 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP

*Carolyn Burns, Conductress/Scholarship Chairman
Cheryl Putnam, WM
Columbia Chapter #287
Columbia, Tennessee*



Jeannine Burns presents Haley with her Scholarship Certificate and check

Haley Mayo received a \$500 Scholarship on May 5, 2023 at the Senior Presentations at Mt. Pleasant High School in Mt Pleasant, Tennessee, from Columbia Chapter #287.

Haley graduated on May 19 2023, and plans to attend Austin Peay State University in the fall with a Degree in "Social Work Bachelor's Degree." She plans on working as a Counselor at Vanderbilt Hospital helping Children with difficulties they might be going through in their lives. Haley is one of five kids and the first to attend college. She was on the Honor Roll and volunteers her time in a leadership role with FCCLA (Family, Career Community, Leaders of America). She went to Nursing Homes and helped clean up their yards. She also hosted a Halloween Party for kids with special needs. Haley also belonged to the Key Club where she volunteered to help with community yard sales, parking cars for events with the County Deputies and Red Cross Blood drive. She also volunteers at the Dog Shelter in Maury County walking, feeding, bathing and helping with the Hound Dog Hollow adoption process, in addition to volunteering at many other community fundraising events.

DeKALB-SMITHVILLE CHAPTER #374 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

*Stacy Carter, Chair of the Youth Committee
DeKalb-Smithville Chapter #374
Liberty, Tennessee*

Members of the DeKalb-Smithville Chapter #374, Liberty, have been busy collecting stuffed animals for At-Risk children in our communities of DeKalb County and Smith County in Middle Tennessee. Our community service project is to help with the First Responder agencies, as well as local law enforcement agencies in both counties to be able to comfort children in At-Risk situations during traumatic times such as accidents, fires, etc., to help transition through the traumatic event. Our hope is to assist with these agencies who are public servants and selfless heroes, helping to create positive interaction with our communities. Thanks be unto God for allowing us to assist in such a small way considering the huge difference that our public servants do on a daily basis.

By bridging a gap and helping to show positive feedback helps to create a great necessity in many of our communities. Our law enforcement and first responders need uplifting support from us, the community. Their sacrifice of long hours during stressful situations can be much better with knowing that they can put a smile on a child's face with something so simple as a stuffed animal. We feel that this is the best chance to impact the areas and see that it is part of our Christian duty to pay our blessings forward to our neighbors with love.

Our Chapter placed donation boxes all around both counties. Smith County sites were as follows: Wilson Bank and Trust Gordonsville; Citizens Bank Gordonsville; Carthage Benevolent Lodge #14; Holly's/Video Quest; AmVets Post; and Carthage Sav Way. DeKalb County sites were as follows: Liberty State Bank and Trust in Alexandria and Liberty; Prichard's Foods in Alexandria; Liberty Masonic Lodge; Mike Foster Memorial Complex in Smithville; and The Smoke Shop in Smithville

We want to mention New Parts in Gordonsville for donating the boxes that were used at the collection sites. In total, our Chapter collected close to 600 stuffed animals and toys. God definitely blessed the children of our communities.

The following agencies that benefited from the collection were as follows: Smith County Department of Children's Services; Smith County Sheriff's Office; Smith County Emergency Management; Carthage Fire Department; Gordonsville City Police Department; Carthage City Police Department; South Carthage Police Department; Gordonsville Fire Department; Gordonsville Rescue 911; Monoville Rescue 911; Defeated Fire Department; and the Highway Patrol, South Carthage.

The following agencies that benefited from the collection in DeKalb County are as follows: DeKalb County Ambulance Service; Smithville Fire Department; DeKalb County Sheriff's Office; DeKalb County EMS/911; Smithville Police Department; Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Fire Department; DeKalb County Department of Children's Services; and the Highway Patrol, DeKalb County.

In total, there were 20 agencies that benefited from the efforts of our Order. Our Masonic Brothers were also an intricate party to our efforts from encouraging others to donate in helping with the cause. The service project took place July 22 to November 21, 2023.

As stated earlier, we all are able to impact our communities in a positive way just by following Christian values such as charity, compassion and brotherly love. Kindness in a humanitarian mindset is a powerful presentation to our neighbors. Loving our communities can go viral if we all continue to pay forward the patience and good favor awarded to us from God.



Published in the Carthage Courier and the Smith County Insider.

The following photo is of DeKalb-Smithville OES #374 (L-R front row) Gaye Vanetta, Patsy Talent, Debbie Mathis, Christine Haney, Wanda Garde, Brenda Gibbs, Stacy Carter, Leslie Moore, Ann Taylor (2nd row) Jerry-Paul Vanetta PGP, Roy Haney, Elaine Rigby, Gylene Atnip, Carolyn Williams PGM, Patricia Wilt, Rickey Taylor, Joel Dawes, Van Mathis PGP, Amanda Boyd, and Danny Adamson

HONORING OUR VETERANS

*Carolyn Burns, Secretary
Lewisburg Chapter #318
Lewisburg, Tennessee*



Lewisburg Chapter #318, Lewisburg, had a Veterans Celebration on November 9, 2023, at 5:30pm.

Brothers Bob Davis and Brian Callaway sent invitations to all Veterans of local Masonic, 1st Responders, Fire Department and Police, including their families, in our community of Lewisburg to a spaghetti dinner. The spaghetti dinner was prepared by our Chapter Members

We started our dinner with a Prayer from our Chaplain, Brother Rodney Lane. We served a spaghetti/meatball dinner with all the fixings, including dessert and drinks. We had a great time listening to all the stories. The fellowship was wonderful and everyone had an enjoyable time reminiscing of days gone by and future endeavors to come.

Lewisburg Chapter helped celebrate Veterans Day to our local Veterans in Nursing Homes.

Sister Paula Thompson, President of the Blue Star Mothers of Nashville, donated gift bags to distribute to Active Military and Veterans in our local Communities. The Gift bags contained socks, toiletries, puzzle books, etc.

Sister Carolyn Burns called each facility to have a current count of Veterans in their facility.

Sister Paula delivered to 6 Nursing Homes in 2 days. The Marshall County delivery day was Wednesday, November 8, 2023 to 3 facilities totaling 21 gift bags and the Maury County delivery day was Thursday, November 9, which included 3 facilities totaling 47 gift bags for a total of 68 gift bags.



DIXIE CHAPTER #115

*LaFran Plunk, Secretary
Dixie Chapter #115
Selmer, Tennessee*



Dixie Chapter #115, Selmer, delivered 1,705 pieces of Hygiene Supplies to the Ronald McDonald House and was greeted by their wonderful staff where the supplies were gratefully appreciated.

Pictured unloading the supplies is Sisters Linda Hunt, WM; LaFran Plunk, Secretary; and Sue Pickens, Marshal. The WM would like to thank all of the members for contributing to make this project so successful.

JEAN KING BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE 2024 FOR BETHEL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dixie Chapter # 115 has had a Back to School Supply Drive and the OES has collected 569 pieces to help less fortunate families. Pictured is Sister LaFran Plunk, Secretary; Terry Moore, Principal; and Sister Linda Hunt, WM. The WM would like to thank all of the members for making this drive such a success. The drive was named after one of our most faithful members, Sister Jean King, which initiated the drive for many years prior to her death earlier this year. Dixie Chapter #115 meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Selmer Masonic Lodge. If you are interested in possibly joining the OES, you can contact LaFran Plunk at 731-645-2497 or Linda Hunt, Worthy Matron at 731-926-1882.



SUPPORTING THE LOCAL SHERIFF, POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Dixie Chapter # 115 has distributed water for our local Sheriffs Department, EMS and Fire Department, City Police Officers and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. We wanted to show the agencies how much we care for them and to say Thank You!



DIXIE CHAPTER #115

*Dottie Smith Whalen
Dixie Chapter #115
Selmer, Tennessee*



My heart is so full of gratitude. My dear friend, Sister LaFran Plunk, has surprised me again! She said that she wanted to honor me since last month was Women Veterans Month. I am so humbled and grateful for her. She contacted our State Representative and requested a flag be flown over the State Capitol. It was and there is an awesome certificate accompanying the beautiful US flag stating the fact. There's also a gorgeous Tennessee Veteran magnet.

Sister LaFran also contacted the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution who presented me with a beautiful certificate honoring me for my time served in the US Air Force. Accompanying this certificate was a beautiful US Veterans patch from the West Tennessee Veterans Coalition.

This wonderful friend who went above and beyond also has ordered a wreath in my honor that will be laid on a Veterans grave at Shiloh on December 14 as part of the Wreath Across America ceremony. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for this friend. She is awesome. Thanks LaFran. You're the best!. Love you.



TENNESSEE INVADES WEST VIRGINIA GRAND CHAPTER SESSION

*Kay Southern, GGCCM Distribution, PGM
Knoxville Chapter #69
Knoxville, Tennessee*



More than 33 members from Tennessee Chapters from the Mississippi River to the Great Smoky Mountains arrived in Charleston, West Virginia, to support Sister Debbie Dhayer, Right Worthy Grand Conductress, PGM of West Virginia, and Brother Eddie Yaun, Right Worthy Grand Sentinel, PGP of Tennessee, at the 119th Annual Grand Chapter "Celebrating Our Legacy Session" October 5-7, 2023. We were greeted with open arms by the West Virginia membership. "Invaders" included our Sister Laurel Harrison, WGM; Brother Tommy Reeves, WGP; Brother Eddie Yaun, Right Worthy Grand Sentinel, PGP of Tennessee; five of Tennessee's GGCCMs; five of Tennessee's Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; and 22 other supporters.

The 2027-2030 Triennium has new meaning for all of us in Tennessee. Those are the years that Sister Debbie and our own Brother Eddie will be serving GGC as the MWGM and MWGP.

Using the theme, "With Love From Tennessee – Joining Hands With West Virginia, members from across the State sent a mountain of handmade and local craft items to sell in support of Sister Debbie and Brother Eddie. Everything from homemade canned goods, aprons, paintings, wreaths, wood crafts, afghans, table runners and much, much more were available for purchase. Several baskets of "Made in Tennessee" items were part of the Silent Auction. There was even a FedEx airplane!

We are looking forward to working with the wonderful members of West Virginia as Sister Debbie and Brother Eddie begin their journey. Mother Teresa said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things."



UTAH HOST QUAD STATE

*Deanna Phillips, PM
Adah Chapter #15
Midvale, Utah*

**QUAD STATE
MARCH 22-23, 2024**



WORTHY GRAND MATRONS (L-R)
CINDY FRENCH (WY)
MERRILL-LEE WARREN (UT)
SONYA NEWTON (NV)
DAVETA ULRICH (ID)



WORTHY GRAND PATRONS (L-R)
GARY JACKSON (NV)
JOHN BONNETT (ID)
MIKE HUCHINSON (WY)
AL HOKINS (UT)

Quad State this year was held in March 22-23, 2024 and hosted by the Utah Grand Chapter. Delegates from Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming got together in Ogden at the Marriott for a couple of days of FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. Each State had their own color; of course, Utah was red.

The Dr. Seuss theme was a big hit! Sister Kristyne Sandstrom, PGM, and her wonderful committee pulled out all the stops. There was a scavenger hunt on 25th Street in Ogden. Many went to the Train Station and the John Moses Browning Museums, while others went to the Hill-AFB Aerospace Museum or did both.

The big hit was the Saturday evening dinner which was attended by 101 members and friends. It was followed by live entertainment presented by Brother Rodney Asay, PGP, and his one-man band and it turned into a festival. There were even line dancers with all kinds of fun and shenanigans which everyone enjoyed.

Afterwards, I heard several Sisters and Brothers from different Jurisdictions remark that this Quad State was the best ever. The silent auction was a big success. Many thank you's to those who worked so hard to put together the beautiful items for the fundraiser. \$1,505 was raised which was divided among the four Jurisdictions..

Way to go Utah Grand Chapter and its member Chapters. Thank you each and every one who worked so hard on this successful project. You did OES Utah proud!"

Al Hokins, WGP

JOURNAL GUIDELINES

www.easternstar.org

The *Eastern Star Journal* is always looking for articles from Sisters and Brothers around the world. Please share with the rest of the OES what you, your Chapter and Jurisdiction are doing. Below are guidelines for submitting your articles.

Articles are received continuously
with no specific deadlines.

EASTERN STAR JOURNAL

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Personal email: esjeditor@comcast.net

We, the *ESJ* Committee, and the entire readership of the *ESJ* look forward to hearing from you!

ARTICLES may be composed by any member of the Eastern Star and should be submitted to the Editor in the following manners:

1. Online is preferred: Submit article (.doc) and photo (.jpg) to esjeditor@comcast.net
2. Regular Ground Mail Service: mail to the above address to Nancy L. Ford, PGM, Editor.
Paper copy, **typed** to enable scanning of information.

PICTURES may be sent in the following manners

1. Digital photos are preferred. Pictures in electronic format (.jpg) submitted online in the highest quality available (minimum 400X400px); or
2. Hard copy photo with clarity sufficient for scanning. Please note that original pictures will not be returned.

All submissions (photos and articles) must have the following information included:

1. Author's Name and Title; Chapter Name, Number and Location.
2. Contact phone number (will not be printed with the article)
3. Title of Article*
4. Date of Event
5. Any notes for the Editor about the article or photo to assist the Editor in determining how to publish the article.
6. If the article has been published, provide name of publication/newspaper
7. Please verify spelling of names and titles

***PLEASE PROVIDE ARTICLE TITLE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL. Articles submitted via email will receive a receipt acknowledgment. Please check your mailbox for receipt email and review to ensure all information was submitted. Contact the Editor at esjeditor@comcast.net if a receipt acknowledgment is not received.**

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All articles submitted must be the work of the submitter and all quotations must be appropriately credited to the original author; otherwise it will not be published by the *Journal*.