

# Wisconsin OES Newsletter

Vol III, issue 5

December 2020



\*\*\*\*\*



Worthy Grand Matron  
Laramie Reissner  
PO Box 129  
Hayward WI 54843  
715 651-6221  
Lreissner102@hotmail.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

2020 is almost over and there is hope that 2021 will be a much better year for all of us. At Grand Chapter Installation in May 2019, no one could imagine that The Light of Thankfulness Grand Family would serve for 2 years. Only 4 Grand Jurisdictions had new Grand Officers installed in 2020. 2 held a one-day session and 2 had Code of Laws that allowed for an Installation without a Grand Chapter Session.

The story of the Three Kings is one of my favorite Christmas stories. We also follow the Eastern Star in our lives. The principles of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Truth shine in our lives.

I pray that you and your families have stayed safe and healthy this year. We will have meetings when the conditions allow it. The members of Eastern Star are the most important part of our Order. You are the best people that I have met, and you are all in my heart. I look forward to being able to see you all again.

Laramie Reissner  
Worthy Grand Matron

## Mark Your Calendars!

Many dates on our calendars have been cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19, but we remain hopeful that events planned in 2021 may come to fruition. The following events remain on the WGM and WGP's calendar. Stay tuned for details!

- |     |       |  |
|-----|-------|--|
| Feb | 27    | IL Exchange  |
| Mar | 20    | St. Patrick's at Three Pillars                       |
|     | 21    | Tea with Laramie in Fond du Lac                      |
| Apr | 6     | Electa's 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary               |
|     | 10    | Tea with Laramie in Clear Lake                       |
|     | 17    | Wine and Chocolate Event sponsored by SE & Triwaukee |
|     | 29    | MN Grand Chapter in St Cloud                         |
| May | 16-20 | Grand Chapter in Stevens Point                       |

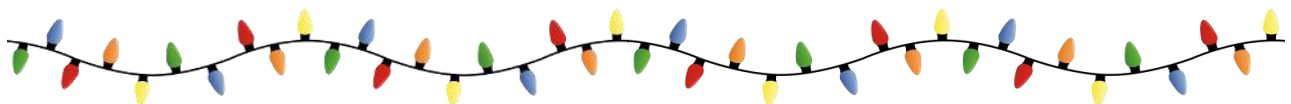
\*\*\*\*\*

## New Grand Representatives

Congratulations to these members who received their Grand Representative commissions since our last newsletter:

- Debi Ahrens, Bolivia (Northwest Chapter)
- Todd Campbell, California (Burlington Chapter)

PS: A correction to last month's announcement: Mary Moen (Louisiana) is a member of Viroqua Chapter and a dual with Sparta Chapter.



## *Red Book Update Available*

The Red Book updates from the 2019 Resolution updates are completed and will be mailed to the Chapter Secretaries. The Proficiency Committee sincerely apologizes for the long wait to receive the updates. We had some unforeseen problems and then COVID hit. We have moved the document to a local printer and the Grand Secretary will be in charge of updating changes after Grand Chapter. This should allow for a more timely distribution of updates from Grand Chapter Resolutions.

The most recent version of the Red Book is dated October 2018. The 2019 updates will be mailed to Chapter Secretaries. If you have a 2018 updated copy of the Red Book, an update will be included for you to your secretary. The updates are being provided at no cost to the members and should be inserted into the October 2018 version of the Red Book. Contact your Chapter Secretary after December 7th to receive your updates.

If you do not have the latest version of the Red Book (October 2018), copies are available for purchase. Please contact the Grand Chapter Office to order a current Red Book. The cost is \$15 and includes the updates. Do not send your money until you receive an invoice with your order.

We have been experiencing COVID at its worst in Wisconsin. I hope you have all been staying safe, healthy and strong. If you have free time on your hands, review the Ritual for your charges and study the Red Book floor work and instructions. Chapters will be meeting again in Wisconsin in person and we can be better than ever! If you are interested in taking the Proficiency test, contact PGM Kristen Schoville for study guides. This is a great time to study and when we can open again, you will be ready to test and show your knowledge and pride in the work of our beautiful Order.

I sure miss meetings and seeing everyone. My husband knows that once we can safely have meetings again, he will not see much of me!

Have a wonderful upcoming Christmas holiday, family plans may have to be changed but we can still experience the joy of the season through "Zoom", Face time" or another method. We hope to meet in person in Wisconsin soon.

PGM Rosie Fiscus, Grand Lecturer  
Chairman, Proficiency Committee

## *Triennial Assembly Salt Lake City, Utah*

You are cordially invited to attend the  
"Circle of Friendship & Service Around the  
World" General Grand Chapter  
50<sup>th</sup> Triennial Assembly  
October 29, 2021 – November 5, 2021  
Salt Palace Convention Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Currently, the following information is located on the GGC OES Website at <https://www.east-ernstar.org/triennial-assembly/>

- Triennial Pre-Registration Form (fillable format)
- Triennial Assembly Tentative Schedule Brochure
- Triennial Hotel Information
- Triennial Hotel Reservation Form

Additional information will be added to the website as it becomes available.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Holiday Trivia*

1. After leaving Bethlehem, to which country did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus travel?
2. Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December. Who is the patron saint remembered on the 26th of December?
3. Every elf has this ornament on the tip of their shoes. Which ornament are we talking about?
4. Everyone is familiar with the mistletoe tradition. What is the color of the berries of the plant?
5. How does Santa Claus go back up the chimney to continue his journey of delivering gifts?
6. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
7. Which is the most popular ornament used to place at the top of the Christmas tree?
8. Which was the first state in the United States to recognize Christmas as an official holiday?
9. What President established Christmas as a national holiday?



## *AmazonSMILE and GGC*

From Sister Alma Lynn Bane, Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter:

As the Holiday Season approaches, our membership has the opportunity to help "contribute" to the Perry Belmont House Foundation (PBHF), a 501 C 3 organization established to help with the expenses of Preservation and Restoration of our beautiful International Headquarters in Washington, DC. Visit the [PerryBelmontHouse.org](http://PerryBelmontHouse.org) for more details. With Covid-19, many of us may be doing our shopping online, and most likely on Amazon. This is a great opportunity waiting to be claimed. The instructions are located on the General Grand Chapter website HOME PAGE ([www.easternstar.org](http://www.easternstar.org)) at the bottom: AmazonSMILE benefits the Perry Belmont House Foundation.

Select "**Perry Belmont House Foundation**" as your charity and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

**What is AmazonSmile?** AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.



## *Resolutions*

Resolutions that were to be presented at the Annual Session of Grand Chapter in May 2020 were included with the April 2020 newsletter. Worthy Grand Matron Laramie has indicated these Resolutions will carry over to the May 2021 Grand Chapter Session. New Resolutions can be submitted following the format outlined in the Code of Laws, Article XXIV, Paragraph 25, Rule 5. New Resolutions are to be received by the Grand Secretary by the first business day following January 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered at the May 2021 Annual Session.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Grand Officer Nominations*

At Grand Chapter in May 2019 a motion was made and passed that nominations for Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Associate Grand Conductress and one Grand Trustee for a three-year term are to be submitted to the Grand Chapter Office to the Grand Secretary no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year so nomination information may be sent to Chapters in March. Only the nominee's Name, Chapter, Chapter number, City, and their qualifications for office are to be mentioned. This does not prevent a nomination to be done the day of elections at Grand Chapter.

With the cancellation of Grand Chapter 2020, the Worthy Grand Matron has determined the nominations for two elected Grand Officer candidates published in the February 2020 newsletter do not need to be resubmitted for consideration at the 2021 Grand Chapter session. Additional nominations are to be received by the Grand Secretary no later than February 1, 2021. Please refer to the clarification by WGM Laramie Reissner to the motion that was published in the December 2019 newsletter.

### **Trivia Answers:**

1: Egypt; 2: Stephen; 3: Bells; 4: White; 5: He places his finger on the side of his nose, gives a smile and a nod; 6: Six; 7: Angel; 8: Alabama; 9: President Ulysses S. Grant



# Three Kings

BY: HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Three Kings came riding from far away, Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar. Three Wise Men out of the East were they, and they travelled by night and they slept by day, for their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear, that all the other stars of the sky became a white mist in the atmosphere, And by this they knew that the coming was near of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows, three caskets of gold with golden keys; their robes were of crimson silk with rows of bells and pomegranates and furbelows, their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West, through the dusk of the night, over hill and dell. And sometimes they nodded with beard on breast, And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest, With the people they met at some wayside well.

"Of the child that is born," said Baltasar, "Good people, I pray you, tell us the news; For we in the East have seen his star, And have ridden fast, and have ridden far, To find and worship the King of the Jews."

And the people answered, "You ask in vain; We know of no King but Herod the Great!" They thought the Wise Men were men insane, As they spurred their horses across the plain, Like riders in haste, who cannot wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem, Herod the Great, who had heard this thing, Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them; And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem, And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still, The only one in the grey of morn; Yes, it stopped -it stood still of its own free will, Right over Bethlehem on the hill, The city of David, where Christ was born.

And the Three Kings rode through the gate and the guard, Through the silent street, till their horses turned And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard; But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred, And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay, In the air made sweet by the breath of kine, The little child in the manger lay, The child, that would be king one day Of a kingdom not human, but divine.

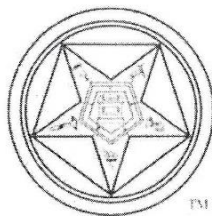
His mother Mary of Nazareth Sat watching beside his place of rest, Watching the even flow of his breath, For the joy of life and the terror of death Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet: The gold was their tribute to a King, The frankincense, with its odor sweet, Was for the Priest, the Paraclete, The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered and bowed her head, And sat as still as a statue of stone; Her heart was troubled yet comforted, Remembering what the Angel had said Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate, With a clatter of hoofs in proud array; But they went not back to Herod the Great, For they knew his malice and feared his hate, And returned to their homes by another way.

# *Most Worthy Grand Matron Communication*



## **General Grand Chapter**

Order of the Eastern Star™

Established November 1876

### **TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP**

November 12, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We bid you warm greetings of Thanksgiving and gratitude for your continued safety and well-being.

An old-time Country Western song has these words: "Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days; sometimes it feels like this world's gone crazy." Boy that sounds about right doesn't it?! But here is a better verse to hang your hat on: "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*" Proverbs 3:5-6. This gem, spoken by the Conductress the night you joined Eastern Star, is one that is especially comforting during these challenging times. Our path is a benevolent, charitable organization dedicated to helping mankind. We are blessed to have our Order where we have our principles in common so we can do good work together, despite a world that feels like its gone crazy.

We're making our way through these unsettled times of the pandemic. We applaud you for your innovative efforts for keeping members connected and involved. Some of us have learned about technology and that's not a bad thing! This current time of increased Covid numbers is worrisome. Please don't give the virus a place to call home, especially for the Holidays—please wear a face mask; wash your hands; social distance; and avoid crowds. Each and every member is a valuable member to their Chapter and our Order. There will be better times ahead because we did the right thing now even though we all wish it were different.

Thanksgiving will soon be here, followed closely by Christmas. Sisters and Brothers, you have made our unusual year a special year by your kindness, encouragement and support. Thank you, we are blessed. Our sincere best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In friendship & love,

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron



*Henry S. Martin*

Henry S. Martin  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

*General Grand Chapter. OES is a Fraternal, Benevolent, Non-Profit 501-C-10 Organization  
1618 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009-2549  
Office: (202) 667-4737 – Fax: (202) 462-5162 – Email: [rwgsecretary@easternstar.org](mailto:rwgsecretary@easternstar.org)*

# I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.



God gave his only Son, the reason for the season. Eastern Star gives generously to many worthwhile causes and organizations. Sister Jane and I are ready for our Chapter charity march.

**Merry Christmas!!**



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

GENERAL GRAND  
CHAPTER



Call: 262.975.2200  
secretary.wioes@gmail.com



All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.