

Wisconsin OES Newsletter

Vol III, issue 1

July 2020





Worthy Grand Matron
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June 17, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Wisconsin

Kenneth Gorgen, the new Grand Master, announced the opening of Lodge meetings effective July 1. On June 7, I sent an email to the Worthy Matrons of Subordinate Chapters in Wisconsin asking them to consult their members about opening Eastern Star for meetings. All but 3 chapters have responded that the earliest they think meetings should be held is September. They also feel that waiting past September will be fine if conditions warrant it. When Eastern Star opens, I think that we should open fully for meetings and events.

All Eastern Star meetings and events are suspended through August 31, 2020. In August we will look at what the conditions are at that time and decide when to open.

WGP Ian, Grand Lecturer Rosie and I have planned events starting in September and will announce the dates soon. 5 Chapters will be holding 125th Anniversaries this year and their events have also been scheduled. We look forward to being able to see all of you soon.

Laramie Reissner Ian Watts
Worthy Grand Matron Worthy Grand Patron

From Our Grand Chaplain . . .

God of Love and Hope,

You make the world and we know You care for all creation, but the world feels strange and scary right now. Our news is full of information about the Covid Pandemic and the rioting that is going on throughout our country. Many people are worried that they and their family members might get ill or that they will get hurt with all the shootings and unrest in the cities.

We pray for those who are caring for the sick, for those who are working to discover a vaccine for this virus and for those who are seeking justice.

We thank You for being with us during these anxious times and we pray that You will keep us safe and help us to find peace. May we put our trust in You and remember that You are the Almighty God who loves his children and always watches over us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Joan Burr, Grand Chaplain



Mark Your Calendars!

If you noticed, WGM Laramie stated in her letter (previous page) that events are being planned, starting on September, in the hopes that meetings and activities can resume at that time. Here are some of the dates for planned activities; stay tuned for details. Mark your calendars for something to look forward to!

Sept	11-13	Exchange with Minnesota
	19	Ritualistic Workshop
Oct	3	Martha Chapter's 125 th Anniv
	24	Ritualistic Workshop
Nov	14	Holiday Party - South
	15	Holiday Party -North
Dec	5	Dousman Christmas
Feb	20	Vega Chapter's 125 th Anniv
	27	IL Exchange
	28	Janesville's 125 th Anniversary
Mar	18	Union Grove's 125 th Anniv
	20	St. Patrick's at Three Pillars
	21	Tea with Laramie in Fond du Lac
Apr	6	Electa's 125 th Anniversary
	10	Tea with WGM 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

Annual Report Time!

Chapter Secretaries. July starts the new fiscal year for Wisconsin Eastern Star, and so it's time to count up all your Chapter members, add those who have joined the Chapter during the past year to the list, and note those who did not make it to the end of the year with the Chapter. It is also the time to let Grand Chapter know what you have been doing in your home communities. You don't need to list the Chapter's contributions to Grand Chapter charities - we already know that. When you have finished counting all this, figure your Chapter's assessment to Grand Chapter and send it with the report to the Grand Chapter office **before** July 31st. Remember, you do NOT pay per capita for Perpetual Members (that is paid by their "buy-in" to Perpetual Membership).

Because my last day as Grand Secretary will be July 31st, I am asking each of you Secretaries to get your Annual Report in as soon as possible so that I can prepare the Grand Chapter's annual report to Gen-

eral Grand before I leave. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Hermanas y Hermanos,

Salgo al mundo sin saber que pruebas me pueden esperar en el viaje de la vida. No estare consternado porque nuestro Padre Celestial ha prometido fortalecerme y sostenerme con la mano derecho de Su poder. Despedida.

It has truly been my privilege to have served the members of Eastern Star in Wisconsin as your Grand Secretary for the past five years. If I could bring the tropics to Wisconsin, I would love to serve another five years. I will miss you and think of you often.

There is a limit to how much I can take with me, so I am leaving some of my "precious stuff" for some of you:

To WGM Laramie, I'm leaving all the tea cups and saucers I missed giving you before. WGP Ian, I'm leaving the old OES sign from the Community Service board in Dousman. PGP Ray Radtke, you get the can of WD-80 (and a can of new stuff that actually works). Ruthann Watts, I leave for you all my Minion posters. Darlene Radtke, I'm leaving you a life-time supply of shredded paper for your compost pile. PGP Dave Schreier, you are welcome to any k-cups I leave behind. PGM Brenda Gaulke, I'm sure I won't leave any flip-flops behind, but if I do, they are yours. Also any slippers. PGM Laurie Twardy, I have some peacock feathers you can have for your next boB the Peacock.

PGM Rosie, I am leaving for you the pink 3-ring binders. I tried to use them up, but AGM Terri, I leave for you the purple pens. Neil and Deb Schulze get any M&M's left in the Clavinova. But most of all, Lloyd Pontow, I'm leaving you in charge of my spirit friend. Please don't let the Grand Lodge Secretary run her off!

Many Thanks

Dear Grand Chapter of OES,

Many thanks for your generous donation to OccuPaws, which enables us to place guide dogs at no charge to the blind in Wisconsin! Your support is greatly appreciated and it enables us to continue our work helping others to live independent lives.

Thank You!
Marlette Larson
Board of Directors

Communication from our Most Worthy Grand Matron

Most of you have probably seen – or heard about this information, but – JUST TO BE SURE THERE ARE NO MISUNDERSTANDINGS – the last three letters sent out from the Most Worthy Grand Matron are being included here, along with some of the posts from her page on the General Grand Chapter's website (www.easternstar.org).

From the Most Worthy Grand Matron's web page, 5/23/2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

In these unusual and challenging times of the pandemic, I would like to share this quote with you: "When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us." -- Helen Keller.

My Sisters and Brothers, let us not look too long at the closed door and miss the opportunity of the open door that can show us how to look with fresh eyes and appreciation for what we have taking for granted. We miss seeing each other; we miss hugs; we miss smiles; we miss comforting Ritual; we miss having carry-in dinners; we miss the fellowship—we miss Eastern Star! When we can *safely* begin again let's fill our Chapter Rooms, let's be kind and loving, let's return to the Eastern Star of old and begin anew. When it is safe, my friends, we will have a splendid opportunity to make it happen!

In friendship and
love,
Marianne Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

Mrs. Marianne R. Shenefelt
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Andrea Stamp, PGM
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GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP

May 8, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

These are unprecedented and challenging times for all of us. Difficult decisions are being made, different schedules being accepted and unusual adjustments made to our time-honored traditions—for the time being.

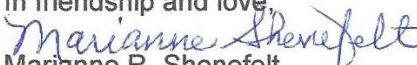
Economic reopening has begun. However, it is important as Eastern Stars we realize that the majority of us, or those we live with, take care of or associate with, are “vulnerable individuals” due to age and/or health concerns. At this time, restrictions remain in place that apply to us. Phase One reopening states: “Vulnerable individuals...should continue to shelter in place. Individuals who do go out should avoid socializing in groups of more than 10 people in places that lack appropriate social distancing; and nonessential travel is to be minimized.” Phase Two states: “...vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place. When people go out in public, they should avoid social settings with more than 50 people when appropriate social distancing is not practical.” Furthermore, the medical experts are expressing the distinct likelihood of a second wave of the virus.

I have made the decision to cancel my MWGM Official Visits in August:

OV Cancelled	Wyoming Grand Chapter, Cheyenne, WY
MWGM Visit Cancelled	Right Worthy Grand Sentinel Honor and Rob Morris Home Pilgrimage, Kentucky
MWGM Visit Cancelled	Rhode Island 125th Celebration, Warwick, RI
OV Cancelled	New Hampshire Grand Chapter, Nashua, NH
OV Cancelled	Ontario Grand Chapter, Toronto, ON

The number of virus cases and deaths continue to rise, especially with the economic reopening. I worry that if we gather, we risk the health and lives of our members. It is my sincere hope that serious thought will be given by all of us before we become active again. Thank you for putting our teachings in action by staying connected, being kind and loving, and keeping members one and all in your prayers.

Happy Mother’s Day! “We are born of love. Love is our Mother.” –Rumi

In friendship and love,

Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

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June 1, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

My thoughts are with you and your loved ones, and I hope you're staying safe and healthy. I have been inspired by your goodness and the genuine acts of kindness, large and small, that I have read about every day. I, myself, have received your thoughtful cards and kind words and I sincerely thank you. All of your gestures of warmth, strength and caring for each other and those around you give me the confidence to say that I believe we will emerge from this challenging time more together than ever before.

It is with disappointment I tell you about the following cancellations of my Official Visits:

MWGM OV's CANCELLED: Alabama Grand Chapter
Missouri Grand Chapter
California Grand Chapter and Right Worthy Grand
Trustee Chairman Honor Night
Iowa Grand Chapter
Hawaii Subordinate Chapter visits

It is my understanding there are limited meetings being held in areas where the authorities have lifted the restrictions that allow for this type of activity. I get it that members want to return to some measure of normalcy (I would like that too!), but I am advising caution about doing this too soon because there is the possibility of consequences that will break our hearts. If just one of our members loses their life because they felt the obligation to attend an Eastern Star meeting, it will not have been worth it. I repeat: *nothing* we do is worth putting any member's health and life at risk—no meeting, no gathering, no function. We have time, my Sisters and Brothers. When we can *safely* meet, we can fill our Chapter Rooms. We can return to the Eastern Star we know and begin anew! "The comeback is always stronger than the setback." --unknown

In friendship and love,
Marianne Shenefelt
Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP
Alma Bane, RWGS

Please wear a face mask! ♥

From the Most Worthy Grand Matron's web page, "OES STRONG" on 6/13/2020

FARMER'S BREAKFAST PRAYER

A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."



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June 16, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this finds you all doing well and staying safe and healthy. I would like to share the following information with you:

- 1) Cancellation. Cancellation of my Official Visit as MWGM to the Grand Chapter of Arkansas in December 2020. This has been a difficult year. I look forward to brighter times ahead for all of us in 2021!
- 2) Singing at Chapter Meetings. Ongoing studies show that group singing increases the risk of exposure to the coronavirus. Wearing a face mask may help, but singing is a particularly risky activity. If your authorities have lifted restrictions and if you are holding Chapter meetings, I am issuing the following directive: please do not sing the Opening Ode, National Anthem, Closing Ode or Welcome Song as specified in the Ritual. This directive is in effect until further notice. I would ask you to please refrain from singing in general at your Chapter Meetings. I believe we must take every precaution to safeguard the health and safety of our members.
- 3) Extending the Triennium. The question has been asked if the General Grand Chapter's Triennium will be extended due to the cancellations in 2020. The Triennium will not be extended. I hope you are making plans to attend the 50th Triennial Assembly, which will be held October 29th through November 5th, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The venue is the beautiful Salt Palace Convention Center in downtown Salt Lake. The Grand Jurisdictions of Wyoming and Texas look forward to welcoming you to a very special 50th Triennial Assembly!

Thank you for placing the safety and welfare of our beautiful members first and foremost when making the difficult decisions relating to your Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapter Meetings. I believe the world needs us now more than ever and because we took care of ourselves, we will be there. We will be busy building back better than before for a bright future! "The best way to predict the future is to create it." --Abraham Lincoln.

In friendship & love,
Marianne Shenefelt
Marianne R. Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron

copy: Henry S. Martin, MWGP
Alma Bane, RWGS

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



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

GENERAL GRAND
CHAPTER

Join Us Today!

262.975.2200

secretary.wioes@gmail.com

Service Dogs are providing freedom and independence through their service in the military, even combat, police work, and many services to various individuals.

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