

# Wisconsin OES Newsletter

Vol III, issue 3

October 2020



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

September 28, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Wisconsin,

Wisconsin OES has passed the 6-month mark of our Recess. I hope that you are staying safe. I do not know when meetings will resume, but I do know that they will. Eastern Star members are too strong to let this pandemic get the best of them. I look forward to being able to attend your meetings and seeing you at Grand Chapter in May. Please know that we are looking at all possibilities to make this happen. You are in my thoughts and prayers every day. Brother Ian and I will continue to keep you informed.

Laramie Reissner  
Worthy Grand Matron

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## 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.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Due to Covid-19, the Holiday parties scheduled for November will not take place. The WGM will let members know about November and December meetings and activities by mid-October. The following events remain on the WGM and WGP's calendar. Stay tuned for details!

Dec	5	Dousman Christmas
Feb	20	Vega Chapter's 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniv
	27	IL Exchange
	28	Janesville's 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Mar	18	Union Grove's 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniv
	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
TBD		Martha's 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## *Worthy Grand Matron's Accomplishment Award*

Even though Chapters were not meeting, 27 Chapters filed the necessary paperwork on a timely basis to be awarded the Worthy Grand Matron's Accomplishment Award for 2019-2020.

The following chapters received the award for 2019-2020:

Honor Chapter, Sturgeon Bay  
Sparta Chapter, Sparta  
Ruth Chapter, La Crosse  
Viroqua Chapter, Viroqua  
Dodgeville Chapter, Dodgeville  
LaBelle Chapter, Mukwonago  
Oregon Chapter, Oregon  
Martha Chapter, Jefferson  
Janesville Chapter, Janesville  
Union Grove Chapter, Union Grove  
Electa Chapter, Milwaukee  
Vega Chapter, Milwaukee  
Kinnickinnic Chapter, River Falls  
Fidelity Chapter, Appleton  
Alpha Chapter, Argyle  
Ellsworth Chapter, Ellsworth  
Plymouth Chapter, Plymouth  
Kilbourn Chapter, Wisconsin Dells  
Ozaukee Chapter, Port Washington  
Burlington Chapter, Burlington  
Lemonweir Chapter, Tomah  
West Allis Chapter, West Allis  
Wautoma Chapter, Wautoma  
Trillium Chapter, Crivitz  
Wauwatosa Chapter, Brookfield  
Starlight Chapter, Madison  
Fond du Lac Chapter, Fond du Lac

The plaques – both the small metal plates and four new plaques – were mailed out in early June.

Congratulations to all of the Chapters that received the award. I enjoyed reviewing the applications and was amazed at the variety of ways our chapters are active in their communities. Keep up the good work!

Jan Winget

## *Letter from our WGM & WGP*

September 17, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers

On August 19 we sent out the following announcement. "All Eastern Star meetings and events are cancelled for September. Chapters may not meet or hold events until further notice. We are not setting an arbitrary date to reopen currently. I ask for your patience and understanding as we will be addressing this on a month by month basis. We look forward to being able to see all of you soon."

We are now in the middle of September and the trend is not improving. All events scheduled for October are cancelled. Chapters cannot hold in person meetings or events until further notice. Events are any time Eastern Star members gather for any Eastern Star reason i.e. fund raising or social at any location. In October we will let you know the status for November and December.

Chapters may conduct regular Chapter business i.e. pay bills and hold funeral services during this recess. Chapter audits and Annual Reports will be completed when we are able to reopen. The MWGM has issued rules for holding a virtual business meeting. Chapters are NOT required to hold these meetings. The rules were sent to Chapters in the September newsletter.

Chapters will not be able to hold the required number of meetings per year. All this will be waived for this year. Secretaries are asked to put the wording "Meeting unable to be held because of Covid19 recess declared by the Worthy Grand Matron" or similar language in your minutes to cover all missed meetings and activities.

Please know that you are all in our prayers. This year is not what we hoped it would or could be. Eastern Star will be back stronger and better than ever. We hope that the Holiday season brings Peace and Thanksgiving to our lives. Please keep all our Sisters and Brothers in your prayers. All of us are affected by this pandemic.

Laramie Reissner                      Ian Watts  
Worthy Grand Matron              Worthy Grand Patron

## *WGM & WGP SPECIAL PROJECT*

Remember when we finally get together again at our Wisconsin Grand Chapter in 2021, we will be having a Silent Auction to benefit the UW Cardiovascular Research Center. Please be thinking about this while we are "stuck" at home. Those of you who are talented can be sewing, crocheting and knitting, etc. Or watch for bargains at the store. Thanks!

I joined Eastern Star,  
come & serve with me.



“This is my friend Jane.  
She is my foster home  
trainer. Jane is a member  
of Ellsworth Chapter  
and I go with her  
to their meetings.”

~ PEYTON



Call: 262.975.2200  
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

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

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### *Wisconsin Eastern Star Foundation*

Have you found yourself facing financial hardship? Do you know of a member of your Chapter who could use some financial assistance? There are many reasons why someone may need a helping hand. As Wisconsin Eastern Star members, we are fortunate to have the Wisconsin Eastern Star Foundation. The Foundation is one of the means through which we accomplish the great beneficent purpose of providing for the welfare of our Sisters and Brothers. The Foundation is a separate entity from Grand Chapter; the business of the Foundation lies solely with the Board of Directors. The Foundation meets quarterly to review applications and provide aid to Sisters and Brothers of Wisconsin Chapters. Applications are confidential and only reviewed by the members of the Foundation Board.

The Foundation Board will be meeting in December. Applications for financial assistance can be submitted at any time but need to be received at the Grand Chapter Office no later than Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> for consideration this quarter. Applications can be received from your Chapter Secretary, the Grand Secretary or downloaded on the Wisconsin OES website (wioes.org, under the Forms tab).

## *Grand Representatives*

Since many of you may not have heard about appointments, here is the current list of Grand Representatives in Wisconsin. They are listed alphabetically and include a key with the WGM/WGP who were honored to make the appointments. Due to Covid-19, requests have been made to Grand Jurisdictions extending appointments for a year and these Sisters and Brothers are being notified as their extensions are approved. You will see a few Jurisdictions missing from this list so stay tuned!

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
* Alabama	Elaine Hines	Ellsworth	* Nevada	Robert Dorsey	Starlight
+ Alberta	Ashley Christensen	Willow River	* New Brunswick	Donna Schauf	Union Grove
+ Arizona	Erwin Wuehr	Ozaukee	* New Hampshire	Marvin Cormican	Northwest
* Arkansas	Romelle Kelly	Kinnickinnic	* New Jersey	Nancy Loper	Sparta
* Australia	Susan Fox	Sparta	* New Mexico	Rita Jordan	Starlight
* British Col./ Yukon	Jodi Wooding	Ellsworth	* New York	Mike Allen	Lila B. Graser
+ Colorado	Pat West	Rainbow	+ North Carolina	Jeff Lichtfuss	Janesville
* Connecticut	Dennis Brown	Willow River	* North Dakota	Sue Steiner	Fond du Lac
+ Delaware	Pat Mattson	Superior	* Nova Scotia & PEI	Bonnie Clark	Lemonweir
* Dist of Columbia	Sue Kurtz	Kinnickinnic	+ Ohio	Dawn Bergren	Martha
+ Florida	Amber Haumschild	Martha	+ Oklahoma	Anna Olson	Dodgeville
+ Georgia	Dorothy Schuetz	Lila B. Graser	+ Oregon	Rita Moorhouse	Kenosha
* Idaho	Lynn Simon	Eagle	+ Pennsylvania	Charlie Brown	Dousman-Rob Morris
* Illinois	Shawn Noble	Burlington	+ Puerto Rico	Sheila Barber	Ozaukee
* Indiana	Amy Treu-Radtke	Sparta	* Quebec	Noah Schultz	Martha
* Iowa	Mary Jo Unger	Starlight	* Rhode Island	Creg Scafe	Sparta
> Italy	Paul Twardy	Starlight	+ Sau Palo, Brazil	Sharon Sullivan	Honor
+ Kansas	Audrey Wittenburg	Rainbow	* Scotland	Bob Barnett	Starlight
* Kentucky	Marie Ann Desens	Fidelity	* South Carolina	Sharon Bruun	Shullsburg
* Maine	Brenda Pierro	Kenosha	* South Dakota	Mike Shore	Dodgeville
+ Manitoba	Catherine Pries	Oregon	+ Tennessee	Kim Domini	Eagle
* Maryland	Kay Beix	Burlington	+ Texas	Brad Bingheim	Vega
+ Massachusetts	Brooke Froelich	Starlight	* Utah	Rae Barnes	Wautoma
* Michigan	Yvette Presnell	West Allis	* Vermont	Wayne Tubbs	Willow River
* Minnesota	Audrey Denninger	Kinnickinnic	+ Virginia	John Parkyn	Ruth
+ Mississippi	Mary Ann Rose	Fidelity	* Washington	Jo Ellen Carlson	Northwest
+ Missouri	Heather Collier	Bristol	* West Virginia	Jane Brokaw	Eagle
* Montana	Evonne Hurst	West Allis	* Wyoming	Chuck Fick	Trillium
+ Nebraska	Ed Klein	Honor			

>: Mary Barnett/Paul Trigleth; \*: Brenda Gaulke/David Schreier; +: Laramie Reissner/Ian Watts



### *Where are the Eagles??*

As we've been in recess for six months, Worthy Grand Patron Ian would love reports of Eagle sightings. If your Chapter has one of the traveling Eagles, please email the Grand Secretary Pro-Tem ([secretary.wioes@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.wioes@gmail.com)). We'll be glad to have the Eagles together again at Grand Chapter in May 2021!

CHAPTER SECRETARY: Please read at your next Chapter meeting and drape your Charter for 30 days.



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**AUDREY JANE PAVLIK**

Once again breaking the golden chain in Wisconsin Grand Chapter, sadly we announce the passing of Past Grand Matron Sister Audrey Jane Pavlik on September 23, 2020. She was born on February 13<sup>th</sup> and lived with her family in the Bay View area. She graduated from Milwaukee State Teachers' College with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in English in 1944. Following graduation, she spent two years teaching in Menomonee, Michigan and returned to Milwaukee where she spent the rest of her career teaching at Dover Street School. Audrey earned her Masters' degree from Wisconsin State College in 1954. She retired in 1985, with many fond memories of the teaching days and cherished the many friendships she made during those years.

Audrey enjoyed her years in fraternal organizations, first as a Job's Daughter in Bethel 6. Later she joined Faith Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, where as we all know, she was very active at the local, state and national levels of OES. She served as Worthy Matron five times, Grand Representative of Scotland in Wisconsin, District Deputy for ten years. She served as Grand Treasurer for ten years thus earning the title of Grand Treasurer Emeritus. She served as Worthy Grand Matron in 1989-1990 with Past Grand Patron Brother Frederick Flueckinger in the "Treasured Memories" Session.

In her Installation Address she reminded members we must always have a shiny penny to remind each of us to serve with: Love, Understanding, Compassion and Kindness, then we will certainly have LUCK. She certainly emulated this in her life, as she served to so willingly with kindness, compassion and understanding.

As Grand Lecturer, which she served four different times, it was never about Audrey. All she wanted was for the Grand Officers to perform to their finest ability. Her famous words were "One more time". She was a stickler for memorization. It was said, she may not have known every word of the Ritual, but she knew if anyone made a mistake. Per Ron Pete "She once stated "The Exempts are like the performance of a play. Some people come to enjoy the performance; others come to write critiques. We are here to make sure that the first group enjoys the show and we're here to make sure that the critics give us rave reviews". Yes, she was a wonderful teacher in the class room as well as in our chapters. She also served Wisconsin Grand Chapter as Grand Trustee for six years.

As Worthy Grand Matron, she chose the Elephant as her fun emblem stating: "It works hard and never forgets, asking the members to work hard for the Chapters and our Order and Never Forget: Those who gave us our foundation in the Past, those who need our help in the Present and the Youth who are our Future."

Sister Audrey served General Grand Chapter as a member of the Registration Committee in 1994-97, she did this so proudly. At the time of her death she had been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 70+ years and a member of White Shrine for 50+ years.

Audrey moved to her apartment at the Village at Manor Park in 2010 and in 2016 moved to Tudor Oaks where she lived until the present.

We will miss Sister Audrey, and are truly thankful for all the "Treasured Memories" and her contributions aimed at making our Order the best it could be.

A Visitation will be held on October 3 in New Berlin, with a Celebration of Audrey's life at a later date post-Covid.

Laramie Reissner, Worthy Grand Matron

Ian Watts, Worthy Grand Patron



# Most Worthy Grand Matron Communication

Mrs. Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Email: mshene8185@yahoo.com



Andrea Stamp, PGM  
MWGM Personal Secretary  
Email: astamp@bresnan.net

## General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star™ Established November 1876

TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP

September 23, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers,

I want to thank you for your continuing efforts and dedication to our Order. We've made adjustments and done our best to take these new, perplexing times in stride. Now that some national and local governments have partially lifted Covid-19 restrictions and the WGMs and Deputies in these areas have given permission to return to in-person Chapter meetings, I would like to provide you with the following information.

Masks. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states: "Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of masks is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain." (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>)

MWGM Instruction. It is my official instruction to the Grand Jurisdictions and Subordinate Chapters directly under the General Grand Chapter that face masks shall be worn in our Chapter Rooms to protect the health and safety of all members and visitors. This instruction shall be in effect until further notice. The virus does not care about all the hullabaloo about wearing a mask, it's just looking for a place to live and thrive. We're going to do our best not let it find its new home with an Eastern Star member!

Initiation. In-person meetings may make it possible for the ceremony of Initiation to be held, which is acceptable. There is no abridged form of initiation. The candidate(s) must be given the full ceremony as prescribed in the Ritual. The candidate(s) must be informed that their initiation is a ceremony where some brief contact may occur and physical distancing is not always possible, and face masks will be worn by all involved. It is our responsibility as their future Sisters and Brothers to explain this to them, followed by giving them the option of not being initiated at this time. The candidate(s) shall be directly asked if they are comfortable being initiated under these circumstances. If their decision is "no," their decision shall be respected and their initiation scheduled for a later date. Additionally, if circumstances are such that there is any question whatsoever about the health and safety for all concerned, the ceremony of Initiation shall not be held.

Thank you again for all you are doing in the best way possible to support your Sisters and Brothers and our Order. These unsettling times are a challenge for everyone. Maya Angelou said, "Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space. Invite one to stay." Sisters and Brothers, I am so proud to know we are inviting HOPE to stay.

In friendship & love,

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

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



# *Follow-up to 9/23/2020 Most Worthy Grand Matron Letter*

Mrs. Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Email: [mshene8185@yahoo.com](mailto:mshene8185@yahoo.com)



Andrea Stamp, PGM  
MWGM Personal Secretary  
Email: [astamp@bresnan.net](mailto:astamp@bresnan.net)

## **General Grand Chapter** Order of the Eastern Star<sup>™</sup> Established November 1876

**To Be Shared with OES Membership**

September 26, 2020

### **Clarification re: In-person Meetings**

My Sisters and Brothers,

I am finding there is some confusion and misunderstanding regarding my statement about national and local governments partially lifting Covid-19 restrictions and how this applies to opening our Chapters.

I know we are all very anxious to return to in-person meetings, BUT that decision is to be made by the WGMs of the Grand Jurisdictions with the support of the WGP and supporting Committees such as Trustees, Jurisprudence, etc., or in the case of Deputies of GGC, who oversee the Subordinate Chapters directly under GGC, who have been given this responsibility by the MWGM and MWGP. Your WGM, or Deputy, will make the decision that is best for your Chapter about re-opening and having in-person meetings. I am confident they will make the decision that will keep each of you safe and healthy, as well as abide by the government restrictions that are in effect for your Jurisdiction or area. Their decision is what will be followed regarding the opening of your Chapter for in-person meetings.

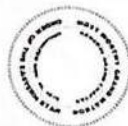
My apologies for any misunderstandings. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [mshene8185@yahoo.com](mailto:mshene8185@yahoo.com)

In friendship & love,

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne R. Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

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



Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons  
of  
Wisconsin



Kenneth C. Gorgen  
Grand Master 2020 - 2021  
ken.gorgen@wimasons.org  
N63W23855 Terrace Drive  
Sussex, WI 53089  
262-501-1879 Mobile

September 15, 2020

Dear Ms. Laramie Reissner, Worthy Grand Matron and Mr. Ian Watts, Worthy Grand Patron,  
Order of Eastern Star, Wisconsin,

The Center for Disease Control has amended some of its publications about how the coronavirus is passed from person-to-person which is mainly from droplets in the air. That is why social distancing and face masks become a great defense mechanism.

Because of this information, I issued an edict to the Wisconsin Lodges that basically states that the wearing of masks is required before entering a lodge building. Also, the practice of using social distancing is highly recommended whenever possible even while wearing a face covering. The amendment to the original edict also includes any organization which meets in the building including appendant bodies and non-masonic tenants or gatherings. See enclosure.

My goal is to allow the Wisconsin Masonic Lodges as much flexibility as possible when meeting or having events yet follow the necessary practices to stay safe. It is important for you as the leader of your organization to be aware of these practices and requirements when using a Masonic building.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all of our members and it is always a good practice to protect the people around you when in a public place. However, when in a Masonic building, it is my expectation that your members will wear a face covering per the edict regardless of the reason for being in the building.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you and Fraternally,

Kenneth Gorgen  
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin  
Encl. (Grand Master's Edict 8/3/2020 & 9/15/2020)