

A Message From Our WGM & WGP

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Hard to believe that we are now in October and yes, FALL is all around us! The leaves are changing colors, falling down around us and crunching when stepped on and soon we will have another change.

Many of you have had your Officer Visit and I truly hope that you have enjoyed the format this year. Hopefully everyone has learned something about your Grand Officers too!

Recently we had our River and Ridges Fall Caravan Ride. It was perfect day mid 80's with a gentle breeze and light traffic down the curvy roads in which we traveled. The devastation from the recent flooding in the Coon Valley area was unthinkable and unreal to say the least. I would like to give a special thanks to your WGP, David for being my driver on my first ever motorcycle ride, I had a great time and yes the first roundabout was tricky, but I had a blast!! Thanks.

This month about 40 of our members will be heading to Orlando for General Grand Chapter. We wish everyone traveling safe travels and good times. Enjoy the sessions and let's be there for our very own Brother Ron Pete as he is installed Worthy Grand Organist.

Check the "Dates to Remember" section for upcoming events or meetings and be sure to get out and tour the state. So enjoy Fall and all that it has to offer; football, bonfires, gorgeous drives, pumpkins, apples, hayrides and so much more!

Star Love~

Brenda Gaulke, WGM

David Schreier, WGP

Soaring Amongst the Stars Grand Family



Look What's Coming UP

October

- 1-3 Grand Chapter IL, Springfield
- 1st Grand Officer Visit at Kinnickinnic Chapter, River Falls, 6:30pm
- 1st Grand Officer Visit at Sparta Chapter, 7pm
- 1st Grand Officer Visit at Superior Chapter, 7pm
Dinner at 6pm
- 2nd Grand Officer Visit at Eagle Chapter, 7pm
- 3rd Grand Officer Visit at Bristol Chapter, 7:30pm
- 4th Grand Officer Visit at Melody Chapter, Middleton, 7pm
- 4th Grand Officer Visit at Honor Chapter, Sturgeon Bay, 7pm
- 8-10 Grand Chapter MO, Jefferson City
- 8th Grand Officer Visit at Loyalty Chapter, Plymouth, 7pm
- 9th Grand Officer Visit at Burlington Chapter, 7pm
- 9th Grand Officer Visit at West Allis Chapter, 7pm
- 10th Grand Officer Visit at Wauwatosa Chapter, Brookfield, 7:30pm
- 11th Grand Officer Visit at LaBelle Chapter, Mukwonago, 7pm
- 13th **Proficiency Testing**, Burlington Masonic Center, 1pm
- 18th Grand Officer Visit at Sheboygan Chapter, Plymouth, 7pm
- 20th **Proficiency Testing**, Wautoma Masonic Center, 1pm
- 20th **Grand Representative Reception**, Wisconsin Rapids, 1pm
- 21st **Reception for ALL Appointed Grand Officers**, Holiday Inn Stevens Point, 11am
- 27th **Monster Mash Costume Party** with Zor Shrine, Tomah Best Western, 4pm-12am
- 28th West Allis Chapter's Famous Brunch, 9am-1pm
- 25-Nov 2 General Grand Chapter Triennial Session, Orlando, FL

November

- 10th **Proficiency Testing**, Northwest Chapter, Clear Lake, 1pm
- 17th **Grand Representative Reception**, Mukwonago, 11am
- 24th Kenosha Chapter's Oven Roasted Meatball Dinner, 4-6pm

Are you thinkin' you have missed some Grand Representative appointment announcements? Rest assured, you have not. The next ones come up in November, and then a whole bunch of them at the end of December. Stay tuned!

CHARITY OF THE MONTH: CANCER FUND

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

It is my honor to serve the Grand Chapter this year by helping fund the 'Cancer Research Program'. We have all been touched in some way by this ongoing disease. Perhaps it was a family member, friend, Sister, Brother or even yourself.

Since the American Cancer Society began fighting cancer, there are more people surviving this disease and are celebrating more birthdays – a sign of progress in this battle against Cancer.

Today the number of people diagnosed with Cancer, and are survivors, is a vast improvement over the past several decades. The American Cancer Society supports the Cancer Research Program.

October is Cancer Awareness Month and we urge each chapter and members to promote this awareness and contribute to Grand Chapter an amount to help with Cancer Research. Please send a check from your Chapter to our Grand Chapter indicating it is for the 'Cancer Research Program'. Our donations made here in Wisconsin will stay in Wisconsin. [University of Wisconsin, Cancer Research].

"As a Lung Cancer survivor myself, and the loss of many family and friends to this dreaded disease, I urge you to give generously."

'Imagine a world free from Cancer'.

'Help make it a reality'.

Most sincerely,

Ruth Severson-Chair
Cancer Research Program

RED BOOK HINTS

Correction:

Please note there were two inaccuracies in the Red Book Hints submitted in the September newsletter, Tips for Conductresses for using their staffs. Item #8 is not in the Red Book, but is a hint for Conductresses. Item #6 should read as follows: #6. When the Conductresses return to their stations from the East they will always turn into their station, turn with their staffs toward the standard, ground and place in standard. When returning from the West they will move into their stations, ground staff, and turn toward their standard on grounded staff then place staff in standard.

We apologize for any confusion and thank members for bringing these to our attention. Please continue to review your Red Book!

Kris Gruber-Twardy, PGM, Grand Lecturer

PRAYER CIRCLE:

The Prayer Circle during our initiation ceremony is very impressive to our new members. The following are a few tips to help officers know what they are to do. First, the Worthy Patron gavel up the Chapter and the Worthy Matron should quickly descend the dais and pass the new members. The Conductresses then countermarch so the new members can watch the formation of the Prayer Circle. Once the Chaplain enters the circle all officers join hands and this is the cue for the Conductresses to walk forward with the new members into the circle. The Conductresses join hands with Adah and the Worthy Matron but not with the new members at this time. When the Chaplain prays and states the "Golden Chain thus lengthened" the Conductresses join hands with the new members and everyone bends their arms at the elbow with hands in the air. Starting with the Worthy Matron's right hand, each hand drops and the members place them in the attitude of prayer. As soon as the prayer is over and the response "So may it ever be" is said, all members drop hands to their sides and they remain at their sides while singing. Once

completed the Conductresses countermarch with the new members. The lines of march used to get into the Prayer Circle are once again used to return to their respective stations. Note, that the Prayer Circle should not break apart in the presence of the new members, wait until they have countermarched and are facing East.

REMINDER FROM THE W.G.M.

Chapter Matrons, please remember to share your gavel ribbons with other Worthy Matrons when they visit your Chapter or when you visit other Chapters.

911 for Chapters

Sometimes a chapter is struggling to keep the Chapter going, other times it just might need a boost. **We can help.** Please know that your Membership and Consolidation Committees, as well as your WGM and WGP, are available to help your Chapter through a rough patch. We can meet and discuss concerns, goals and with help we will help you to awaken the faithful, reach the lost and make Eastern Star matter. Just contact me: Brenda, your WGM at bgaulke@presenter.com

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE RECEPTION

LaBelle Chapter is honoring Grand Representative Debra Angers (G.R. to NH in WI) with a reception on Saturday, November 17 at the Laflin/St. James Masonic Lodge in Mukwonago. Social time at 11 a.m., program at 11:30, with lunch to follow. Please contact Julie Richards with your reservations by Nov. 10th at 262-236-9790 (H), or 715-347-1873 (C) or rosmenko@twc.com



DD SCHOOLS

Thanks to our District Deputies and subordinate Chapters for working together to successfully conduct the District Deputy schools this fall. A different approach to the schools was requested by the WGM and I thank everyone for working together to exemplify the work of our Order. The DDs are prepared to assist Chapters throughout the year and I hope the Chapters will make use of and continue to benefit from their expertise. An important reminder for Chapter Secretaries: your DD school counts as one of your required initiations this year if you had 7 or more members at school. Please write minutes of the DD school so your permanent records account for this initiation. Thanks again to all who participated in the DD schools.

Chicken Soup for the Heart?

As far back as the 12th century, physicians have recommended chicken soup, or "Jewish penicillin" to combat cold symptoms due to its anti-inflammatory properties. In the 16th century, it continued to be common wisdom to give nourishing, restorative, light and easily digested food to the sick. There is a connection we make on a subconscious level between food and feeling better when we are sick as we grow up. Who doesn't think of their favorite comfort food that mom used to make whenever we are under the weather? As adults, we all have our go-to comfort foods when we are stressed, tired, or not feeling well. We look to these foods to provide the comfort that our mothers would provide. Over time, we build up associations between certain foods and create a connection with our homes. Warm and comforting food makes us think of home wherever we may be. In addition, meals are

a wonderful way of showing support, love and solidarity with others. The sharing of food, especially when it is home-made, is remembered long after the meal is over.

Our area Ronald McDonald houses offer an opportunity to provide families with this sense of support, love and solidarity through their Happy Meal Program. Groups of 8-12 can volunteer to provide a meal for families staying at the house.

Just determine a menu, buy your ingredients, and show up at the house on your designated date. The house is equipped with all the kitchen items needed to prepare your meal. Available dates can be selected on the house website. There, you can also find out the size of the group to be expected for dinner. No food items can be brought from home. Everything needs to be prepared at the house. Houses do accept pre-prepared/frozen items that can be prepared at the house. They also will accept food from area restaurants. Don't forget to think about drinks and desserts when planning your menu. Remember, families may include young sisters and brothers, so be creative and think of food children will enjoy, and small hands will eat.

I can tell you from my own experience working with families with extended stays at the Madison Ronald McDonald house, nothing says support and "I care about you" like coming back to the house for a home-cooked meal, and the opportunity to share the day with others going through the same experience. No one understands like another parent who has been there. Not having to think about where the next meal is coming from is one less thing to worry about in a day filled with concern.



RED BOOKS

The newly formatted Red Books sold at Grand Chapter contained several errors. The Uniform Proficiency Committee has been working with the printer to correct these errors and have finished the corrections, as of late-September. Anyone who purchased a Red Book at Grand Chapter will receive a replacement for the incorrect one(s).

Those Chapters/individuals who have ordered Red Books since the errors were discovered will receive them as soon as the Red Books are received from the printer and newly formatted and corrected Red Books will be available for purchase from Grand Chapter office for \$15; binders are available for \$8.

Grand Secretary checks one off her bucket list

By Milt Helmer

Nancy Ryburn, the Grand Secretary for the Wisconsin Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, came from a Masonic and Star family.

She and her sisters belonged to Job's Daughters, serving as Honored Queen. Her brother served as Master Councilor for DeMolay. Nancy says, "Masonic activities were central to our lives and I pretty much grew up in the Masonic Center in Mukwonago."

She says she was actually a late-comer to Eastern Star, having been initiated on the night her mother received her Life membership in 1994. She went on to serve in the East five times in two different chapters.

Nancy has a passion for the Ritualistic work and has held a proficiency card since 1998. She has been District Deputy four times, served a Grand

Representative of VT in WI and Grand Marshal in 2007-08. Her service to Grand Chapter of Wisconsin includes the Long Range Planning Committee, Registration Committee, and Chair of the Cancer Committee twice. She has also compiled the Roster Book for several years and with her nursing background served as Session Nurse several times.

After retiring from a 40 plus year career as an RN she was able to check off one thing on her bucket list: that of having the opportunity of serving as Grand Secretary.

Nancy sees changes in the organization saying "It is sometimes bittersweet for me," adding, "I am a Ritualist and love the Ritualistic work, but to survive – and hopefully thrive, it is necessary for us to move forward." Nancy went on to say the movement in a new direction holds many exciting adventures and discoveries as the future unfolds. She looks forward to being a part of the Order's future; to give back to the Order some of the joy it has given her for years to come.

Sister Nancy Ryburn has built a reputation as a change-agent and has been often hired for the explicit purpose of bringing an organization or department to a new level of operation. She learned much about successfully creating an environment conducive to change. As Nancy says, "This has been important to my current position as Grand Secretary." She added "My predecessor, Ruthann Watts, started the computerization of the Grand Chapter office and I embrace that work."

Nancy Ryburn received her nursing degree from the UW-EC and a Master's degree in counselling for the University of Illinois. Her experience as Associate Director of Nursing Practice for the Nevada State Board of Nursing has contributed much to preparing here for the position of Grand Secretary.

Eastern Star Rich Heritage for this Past Grand Matron

By Milt Helmer

When she was a young girl it was expected that she join Job's Daughters and when she was old enough it was automatic the next step was Eastern Star.

Both her mother and father were deeply involved in the Masonic fraternity. Her father was a 32 degree Mason and Star, her mother was also a member of Eastern Star.

This was the heritage for the Grand Treasurer Mary Rasmussen, who was born in Racine, Wisconsin and schooled at UW- Stevens Point and elsewhere. Mary studied in the medical tech field and worked part-time in Spring Green for 19 years. Today she works as an administrative assistant at Cardinal Glass, a company that makes coated glass for firms like Andersen Window.

Mary has been a member of the Star for almost 45 years and has traveled extensively with her Brothers and Sisters. She is a member of the Wisconsin Dells chapter, and served as Worthy Matron.

She has held offices like Grand Adah in 2007-08 and various other offices on her way up in the Grand Line.

Her fraternal travels took her to the Grand East in 2011 – 12 as Worthy Grand Matron with her Worthy Grand Patron Jerry Bristol of Ellsworth. During her Star year, called "Get hooked on Star," she and Jerry and her team increased membership and also helped fund the Heart Foundation.

She was appointed Grand Representative to South Dakota and also Sao Paulo, Brazil which gave her opportunities to travel.

Today Mary is working on her second year at the Grand Treasurer.

She is married to husband Rick, who is also a Star member, has 3 children and 3 grand-children.

Mary loves to travel enjoys Star because of the vow you take to help others. As Mary says "I just love the bond I share with so many good people," adding, "It is a good organization."

Mary also serves as the editor of the Starburst newsletter.

Make your Chapter "THE" Place To Be

We need to give our members a reason to attend our meetings. Meetings can be fun, entertaining, and informative and we can still get our business done. A little time and some imagination will go into planning a fun meeting, but it will be worth it.

Once you have the meeting planned, you MUST advertise it:

1. Make sure your Chapter newsletter or emails tell about a speaker or other entertainment that will be at a specific meeting.
2. Talk about a special night to everyone, they will talk to others.
3. Advertise: Send invitations to other Chapters; put an announcement in the blast; let everyone know the fun things your Chapter is doing.
4. If possible, have the meeting listed on the community calendar page of your local paper.
5. Plan ahead so that information on the meeting can be shared early.

The following lists some ideas to make your meetings fun. If meetings are fun and interesting, members will have a reason to attend.

Have a theme for the term; use a different aspect of that theme at each meeting.

- Nature:
- Music
- A Trip Around the World

Have a Speaker:

- Local Fire and Police Departments
- Medical Clinics and Hospitals
- Foundations
- Local Veterinarian
- Travel Agent
- Insurance Agent
- Library
- Food Pantry
- A member of another Masonic Organization to talk about their Charity or Organization.

Entertainment

Local Schools – forensic teams, choral groups, winner of the science fair, scholarship winner, theater group, contact the school and ask who/what is available.

Local Churches – choir, hand bell choir

Community Players or Theater group.



Come and Eat Beef!!
Kenosha Chapter OES

Oven Roasted
Meatball Dinner

November 24, 2018

4 - 6 pm

115 56th Street in Kenosha

\$10 for adults

\$5 for children 5-12

Contact LuAnn Hansen
at hansen1@execpc.com
for tickets

Is Your Chapter Having a Fundraising Event?

Send the details to the Grand Secretary and let your neighboring Chapters/members know of your event so they can support you!



Grand Chapter Order of the
Eastern Star of Wisconsin
36275 Sunset Drive
Dousman, WI 53118-9349

