

The Galaxy

Grand Chapter of Iowa

May 2023



A Note from our Worthy Grand Matron

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this find you doing well. The grass is green, the flowers are budding and blooming, and the trees are becoming fully dressed in beautiful coats of leaves. I'm sure that means Spring is on its way.

We are off and running, visiting stated meeting, District Schools, and Grand Chapters. We are so happy Chapters accepted our request for visiting their stated meetings. The calendar fills quickly and it was our intent to visit as many chapters and have fellowship with our membership. By visiting the stated meeting, this allows us to do just that, with nothing special added to the Chapters meeting. We have been able to fill stations that were unoccupied and help where needed. Thank you to those chapters we have already visited. And to those in the calendar, we are excited to visit, and remember, nothing special.

We enjoyed Sister Sandy Meredith's Last/First School of Instruction and learning of her special selection. We also want to congratulate Sister Mary Reicks on her Last School. It was a very special day. We wish Mary and Joe the best as they plan for 2024.

District Schools are well underway. The attendance at the schools has been between 95-110 people. Each of the chapters in the districts have been well prepared and it has been enjoyable listening to each of the District Instructors. Once the schools have been completed, the Board of Custodians and the District Instructor will be meeting to discuss what went well and what needs improvement for next year. I feel overall the schools have been a success.

keeping the page current with upcoming events, posting new Grand Representative announcements, birthday announcement and any and everything else. We do know that not everyone is a Facebook person, so please remember to visit the OES web page for upcoming

Our annual golf outing will be held at Terrace Hills Golf Course on Friday, June 23, 2023. The golf outing is a fundraiser for our Million Dreams Special Project. Please note the shotgun start time is **9:00 AM**. We chose to move the golf outing to June and have an earlier start time, hoping to avoid the heat of the afternoon. Lunch will be served after the golfers have completed their putting around on the golf course. If you are not a golfer, no worries, come and visit, have lunch and enjoy the fellowship with other non-golfers. The information has been sent to the chapter secretaries and will be posted on the OES Web page and

Be sure to check your VIP book or the calendar on the OES Web page for other upcoming events. We truly want to visit with you! The Bucket Brigade has the courage, is ready to support your community, and believes in this Order.

Hugs to All

Vicki Wallner
Worthy Grand Matron



A Note from our Worthy Grand Patron

Sisters and Brothers,

The last two months have been fun and eventful. I have heard nothing but good remarks about the new District School concept. It is like a throw-back to the days we are losing ever so quickly; the chapter rooms are full and the chairs are filled with bonified officers instead of protems. I have seen some of the best ritual and the District Instructors have done a wonderful job of conducting the schools admirably. My thanks go out to everyone that has worked to make this a success.

On the first Sunday in April, some of the Grand Family went to the HERO Lodge and helped with the Easter Egg hunt. It was a great day of filling eggs with candy, eating hot dogs and watching the kids running through the trees searching for the eggs. While we were there, we had the honor of awarding a Quilt of Valor to one of the members of the HERO organization. I look forward to more days spent there, helping them in their mission, working with veterans with PTSD.

This past weekend, Nancy and I, along with members of our Grand Family and other OES members were privileged to attend a reception in honor of Sister Lisa Hauser, who has been appointed Supreme Treasurer of the Job's Daughters Supreme Bethel. Also honored were Kayley Coffey and Cecilia Kubik Supreme Bethel Representatives of Nevada and Idaho respectively and Doris Edwards PGM of Nebraska, Supreme Deputy to Iowa. It was a very nice evening with dignitaries from nearly all the Masonic related organizations in attendance, giving greetings to the Honorees. You have heard many times that the Youth groups are our future. We need them now more than ever and these organizations do an amazing job of preparing them for a life of principles and a sense of responsibility.

Worthy Grand Matron, Vicki, has been working hard for the projects. She has issued a challenge to the membership to sign a pledge card for each mile she walks until the end of August. She walks at least 4 miles most days and I learned that recently she has gone up to five and six miles some days. That is dedication! I have added a small incentive to help her without getting into all that work myself. I have tied a salmon fly in the colors of the American flag and mounted it in a frame to hang on the wall as a piece of art. I will present it to anyone that will pledge a dollar a mile in her challenge. We have had one couple sign the dollar a mile pledge and I hope it builds, it would be a wonderful way to help the veterans that have served our country and came back with disabling injuries. By the way, when someone accepts the challenge, I will be making more flies! So, this can go on as long as you want it to.

Another thing we have been doing which, I have thoroughly enjoyed, is having Official Visits in chapters on their regular meeting night. They are low key evenings without fanfare, just meeting and spending time with the members of the chapters. We even offer to fill chairs and participate in the work of the evening. I was even honored one evening to protem for the Worthy Patron. That was a fun evening!

As of this writing, we will be spending the next three weeks visiting other Grand Chapters in the surrounding states, but we will always be back in Iowa on the weekends to travel around our great state. We are trying to get around and see as many of our members as possible in our remaining time. We hope to be able to see you during some of these visits.

Stay safe and always think of others.
Larry Niday, Worthy Grand Patron

General Grand Visit to the Hawaiian Islands
Diane R. Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah of the General Grand Chapter
Past Grand Matron of Iowa

Since Iowa Grand Chapter my travels have taken me to three of the Hawaiian Islands. Leaving on October 30th and returning home on November 11th. Sister Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal and myself were able to accompany the Most Worthy Grand Matron Sister Glenda Winchester, on her visits to the five chapters in Hawaii.

Our first stop was on the island of Maui.
We had two meetings at Maui Chapter #5. The first event was a Halloween Mixer with the members of the Maui Masonic Lodge and OES members of Maui Chapter.



In the photo above is the Most Worthy Grand Matron giving remarks at the stated meeting in Maui Chapter #5.



During the meeting, the sideline visitors assisted with the Installation of the officers of Maui Chapter. Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal, Installing Grand Officer; Grant Bargfrede, Installing Grand Patron; a Sister from Texas served as the Installing Grand Chaplain; Barbara Smith, Deputy to the MWGM in Hawaii, Installing Grand Marshal; and Diane Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah was the Installing Grand Warder.



The Worthy Patron of Maui Chapter, seated in the east, was originally from Blairstown, Iowa. He attended college at Upper Iowa in Fayette. His career then took him the Hawaii where he has remained

The Official Visit to Hawaii Chapter #1, Hilo, Hawaii

Chapter #1 is a small but mighty chapter located in a remodeled residential home. Once again protem officers were needed for their stated meeting. Grant Bargfrede was Associate Patron for the evening, Sue White, Marshal and Diane Bargfrede Chaplain. We were treated to a special Hawaiian meal with dessert being coconut or passion fruit cheesecake. Both were quite tasty. The members were friendly with generous hospitality. We all received leis and bibs as a gift from the chapter members.



Worthy Grand Adah, Sister Diane is displaying the usual sword used in Hawaii Chapter # 1 in Hilo located on the Big Island.



Eva Trinkka and Grant Bargfrede



The General Grand Chapter Officers and traveling companions with the members of Hawaii Chapter #1.

Our final official visits took us to the island of Oahu. In Honolulu, we were excited to have Sister Carol Nelson and Brother Jack Nelson join us. The Nelsons are members of Lady Washington Chapter, Adel and Linden Chapter, Panora, and were vacationing on the island while we there for the official visits.

We enjoyed a joint special meeting with the members of Harmony Chapter #4 and Mid- Pacific Chapter #10, where we were treated to a traditional holiday meal honoring Dia de los Muertos. We were also introduced to the Service Dog “Hoko” (means Star in Hawaiian) supported by both of these chapters and meet the young man whom the dog helps.

Our last meeting was shared with the members of Lei Aloha Chapter #3. We were treated to a delicious luau dinner with entertainment by chapter members who belong to a special Hawaiian Dance group. The dancers taught us how to do the Hulu. We then attended the stated meeting of the chapter. It was amazing to see 45 members of Lei Aloha Chapter in attendance along with many other guests. This chapter is proud to have three Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters as their members. In December, Lei Aloha Chapter #3 officers initiated four new candidates. Truly a delightful evening with many memories



Pictured above from L to R: Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal and Past Grand Matron of California; Glenda Winchester, Most Worthy Grand Matron and Past Grand Matron of South Carolina; Diane Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah, Past Grand Matron of Iowa



Grant Bargfrede, Diane Bargfrede, along with Carol and Jack Nelson

In addition to the chapter visits while on the Islands, we were able to do sight-seeing as well. Some of the highlights were traveling the 'Road to Hana' on Maui. The road includes 617 turns, many of them blind, for 52 miles and crossing 56 bridges. We enjoyed seeing many waterfalls while on the road to Hana and beautiful countryside.

On the Big Island of Hawaii, we had the opportunity to explore Hawaii Volcanos National Park; Holei Sea Arch; Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Farm; and Punalulu Black Sand Beach Park where we were able to view sea turtles. We were able to go into a Lava Tube.

On Oahu, we toured Pearl Harbor National Memorial; National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific also known as the Punch Bowl; Nu'uaniu Pali Lookout; the Dole Plantation; the Kona Coffee Company; Banzai Pipeline; North Shore; Sunset Beach; Waikiki Beach; Diamond Head State Monument; University of Hawaii and much more.

Jessamine Chapter, Iowa City, enjoys St. Patrick's Day



Newly Appointed Grand Representatives

Please help us congratulate the following Sisters and Brothers who have been appointed Grand Representatives so far this year

Melody Davis	Cedar Falls Chapter--Mississippi
Matt Hauptman	New London Chapter--Maryland
Lynn Broughton	Silver Creek Chapter, LeClaire--Florida
Joan Waller	Evening Shade Chapter, Spencer--Alberta
Leane Stutzman	Aspasia Chapter, Sigourney--Idaho
Maxine DeJoode	Knoxville Chapter--Minnesota
Ron Mullenger	Exodus Chapter, Exira--Nova Scotia and Print Edward Island
Marcia Francois	Davenport Chapter--Ontario
Stephannie Clayes	Davenport Chapter--Tennessee
Stephanie Fisher	Altoona Chapter--Wyoming
Cindy Sherrad	Centerville Chapter--Kansas
Ellen Knupp	Malta Chapter, Cedar Rapids--Michigan
Jolene Harrington	Knoxville Chapter--Missouri
Kenny Byers	Twilight Chapter, Spirit Lake--New Hampshire
Jerrie Wilcox	Papillion NE/Council Bluffs Chapter--Indiana
Beverly Bear	Albia Chapter--Virginia

Thank you for representing your jurisdiction and continuing to spread the great Iowa OES spirit!

Go Hawks!

Jessamine Chapter recently welcomed our newest member, Janet Vincent. She affiliated from Brighton Chapter, Washington, Iowa. Janet is a Past Grand Organist, 2018 and has served in many offices in several chapters.

Janet is a devoted University of Iowa Womens' Basketball fan and has been since the program started in 1974. Her enthusiasm for the Hawkeyes has made her something of a local celebrity as detailed in a recent article of the Times Citizen Newspaper, Iowa Falls, IA, April 13, 2023.

At our March meeting Sister Janet shared many stories of her basketball passion from the very first game in 1974 to the March Madness of 2023. She attended the NCAA games in Seattle and Dallas with daughters, daughters-in-law, and granddaughters.

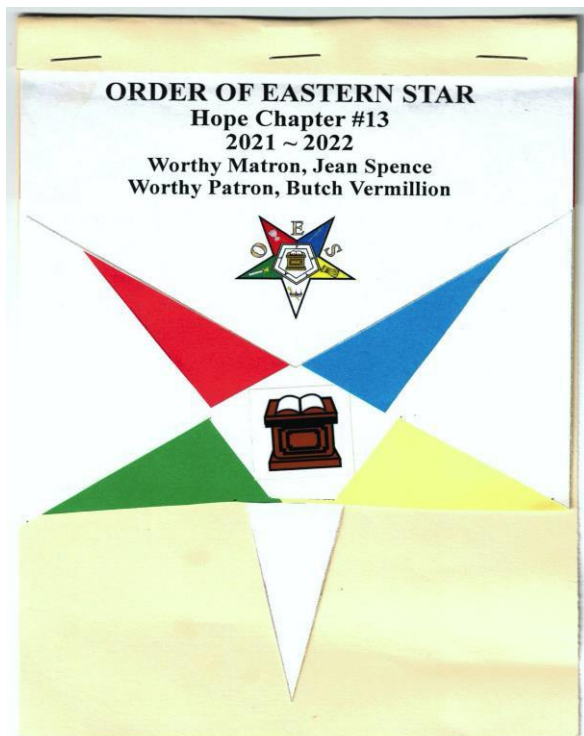
Carolyn Hughes Smith
Jessamine Chapter

News from Oregon

It has been great fun corresponding with my counterpart in Oregon. Jean Spence is from La Grande, Oregon. She moved from the state of Washington about four years ago to relocate to the city where her son lives. In so doing she quickly rose to Worthy Matron of Hope Chapter #13. She recently sent me the program for her year as Worthy Matron in Hope Chapter #13. In her chapter most stations are filled and they seem quite active. A member, John Scott Harvey, is a PGP of Oregon. This year Jean is serving as Organist. They install officers in June and are dark until September. I have enjoyed learning about the differences and similarities of our Eastern Star chapters.

Carolyn Smith
Grand Representative of Oregon in Iowa
Past Grand Electa

Pictured below, program from Hope Chapter #13, Oregon



Jewel Kline, Past Grand Electa and 75 year member, celebrates her 95th birthday.
Happy Birthday, Sister Jewel.



Don't forget to watch the Grand Chapter website for information and announcements. For example, if you know of high school students who are beginning to plan for college, review the Eastern Star Educational Fund Loan program.

We would love to hear from all of our chapters. Have you sponsored a community service event? Do you present scholarships or awards to local students? Do you have photos of new members or a project day at your Masonic Temple? Let us know about your activities! Please send them along to Erin McCroskey at etmcc7204@gmail.com