

# The Galaxy

## Grand Chapter of Iowa

### Fall 2023



#### **From our Worthy Grand Matron**

Hello Sisters and Brothers!

It is hard to believe the year is almost over for the Bucket Brigade. Just a few short weeks until we welcome you to Grand Chapter at the Cedar Rapids Raddison. So, let's get caught up on what we have been doing the last few months!

Throughout the year, we planned stated meeting visits to some of our chapters. It was so much fun to be able to just stop by, help, enjoy some fellowship and food of course. We didn't ask the chapters to go to any extra work for the visits. They didn't need to do invites unless they chose to do so, no extra meal planning and they didn't need protoms, because we were there to fill in wherever needed. Thank you to the chapters for accepting our request.

Our April and May months were quite busy traveling to Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin Grand Chapters. Each Grand Chapter was well represented by Iowa. In June we attended the 5-State Exchange, which was held in conjunction with Nebraska Rainbow Grand Assembly. What a joy it was to see the Rainbow Girls in action. We also attended Iowa Grand Assembly in June. Iowa Grand Assembly was well attended by our Eastern Star members and the girls performed their duties beautifully.

We attended the Masonic Golf Outing, greeting the golfers on Hole 1. Each golfer was given patriotic themed tees. Our golf outing moved this year to June, with the annual event being held at Terrace Hills Golf Club. We did an early morning start, but the day was one of the HOTTEST days in June. The Bucket Brigade greeted the golfers as they arrived at Hole 1, with the patriotic tees and cooling towels. I can't wait to hear the funds that were raised at the outing.

The end of June we hit the road in the motorcoach for Colorado. We had a great group of members and non-members attend the trip. The scenery was beautiful, and the train rides were amazing. Look for a map at Grand Chapter with various photos from the trip!

Conferring of Degrees were held at Indianola and Loess Hills Sioux City Chapters in July Each Chapter's day was wonderful, and it was so great to see the Grand Officers perform the work. Seeing new members gives us hope for the future.

We raised funds for Grand Chapter by holding a Barn Dance. One of the requirements I had was it needed to be in a barn. Camp Courageous has a gorgeous barn that we were able to use. The committee decorated the barn, had a scavenger hunt, a silent auction and a great pie auction. I think we have all missed the pies, there were some prices of pies that were crazy! Thank you to all that attended this event. Dancing and laughing is good for the spirit.

We joined Newton Chapter in August to serve dinner to some of their firefighters. What an experience to sit in the bay of the fire station, looking at the massive engines and other equipment. The firefighters enjoyed a great meal provided by Newton Chapter members.

The Hero Banquet was such a wonderful evening, honoring our heroes. The table decorations, dinner, speakers, and the fellowship of honoring those who have made a difference to others was beyond what I had expected. It will be exciting to see the amount of funds raised for the project.

We have one more Conferring of the Degrees, Illinois Grand Chapter, Iowa-Nebraska Exchange and one more official visit before the HERO Session on Cedar Rapids. I hope you have enjoyed the events planned this year, checking out the awesome posts Sister Kim has been doing on Facebook, and now you are ready for the Grand Family to welcome you to Grand Chapter.

I wish to thank you, the membership, for all the support for our projects this year. Saturday evening will be such a delight, seeing just how much we have raised for our projects. Hope to see you there!

Star Love,

Vicki Wallner

Worthy Grand Matron

### **From our Worthy Grand Patron:**

Everyone told me this year would go fast. It turned out to be the truth, but it was much more than just this one year. We have been working on this journey for five years and I still think it was just last week that Vicki handed me a card with that invitation. But here we are and I am looking back on it with pride and a realization that it has been a period of growth in ways I didn't expect.

I always said that I didn't want this job, but Vicki has been a long-time friend and when she asked, I didn't make her wait long for the answer. It was only a little later that I asked myself, "What did I just do?"

What I did was start learning and growing and feeling a change in how I looked at things that were happening around me. I was off to a slow start, feeling like that little kid standing in front of the congregation trying to remember the scripture I spent all week learning. I was receiving Grand Honors, thinking that someone else should be standing there. I would hear the words "Worthy Grand Patron" and look around to see where he was.

Eventually, I relaxed and started enjoying the friendship and camaraderie around me, I spent time with old friends and made many new ones. It became a journey of joy and the long miles didn't matter anymore because I knew I would like what I found at the end of the road.

I found that working on the projects was more rewarding than anything I had done before. I had always given to the projects but didn't give it much thought beyond that. Now I was directly involved in the fundraising, working with the people we were helping and seeing the need we were trying to fill. One of the nice things about Eastern Star is that most of the ways we raise funds is to have fun. Isn't that an amazing idea? I wish I could take credit for that one.

We went to many Grand Visits. Some of the best were when we called a chapter and asked if we could just come to their regular meeting night and visit with no fanfare or entertainment. Just spend an evening with the members and get acquainted. Many of our Grand Family even had the opportunity to perform at some of these chapters.

This has been a fantastic trip and I want to thank all of the people that supported us this year and especially for giving me this honor that I will carry with me always.

### **EC Blackmar Donates to Public School**

The photo to the right was taken Monday night at EC Blackmar's Stated Meeting of our Worthy Matron Cindy Bachtell and Worthy Patron Darrell Bachtell with items our chapter members are donating to a local public school as part of the project.

Thanks!  
Judy Boden, Secretary  
EC Blackmar

### **A Heros Banquet Pie Auction Report**

Carolyn Smith of Jessamine Chapter, Iowa City attended the Heros Banquet with several special guests. She noted one pie brought a special reaction and there was a bidding war for the pie. Kent Strawn was the lucky winner with his bid of \$150.00. A delightful donation for our Heroes project. Carolyn and the baker, Julie Johnston, discussed some of the details of the pecan pie after the auction.

[Julie] usually reserves pecan pie for special times or events, noting this event was extra special.

It is not a secret family recipe. The first time Julie ever made it, she shared with family-- "My pie loving granddaughter called to tell me it was 'fantastic', and 'delicious' and it might be her new favorite pecan pie". Julie has never entered a pie contest—until now.





## Linden Chapter

Linden Chapter, Panora, and Lady Washington/Rhinehart Chapter hosted the 2023 Grand Officers Fun Day August 12 at the Adel Sweet Corn Festival. The morning began with both chapters and the Grand Officers participating in the parade riding and walking the parade route, carrying posters of this year's projects.

They returned to the fellowship hall for snacks, to the chapter room for welcomes and enjoyed a skit presented by members of the two chapters.



## Sibley Chapter #102

On May 2, local members of Sibley Chapter #102, Order of the Eastern Star honored the Sibley Fire Department with a certificate of appreciation for being Hometown Heroes. The Chapter also donated water, Gatorade and snacks to the department for future use.

During the presentation Worthy Matron Becky Krogman noted appreciation for the hours of volunteer time given to make our community a safer place to live. Members of the department spend many hours training and testing to fight fires safely. They also provide education about fire prevention in the local schools and community. Their prompt response when called to a fire is crucial and greatly appreciated.



We thank them for giving of themselves and their time in the ways they do to protect all who live here. Also, thank you for being hometown heroes. We have men and women training and performing as volunteer firefighting members of the Sibley Fire Department. New members are always needed in the local department.

As one of the statewide projects in 2023, honor groups include Veterans, First Responders and Front-Line Workers, our hometown heroes. Local OES members chose to honor the Sibley Fire Department.  
Becky Krogman, WM

## Degrees at Waverly Chapter

Thanks to all who assisted with Degrees at Waverly Chapter #353 today! Crysten Snow, daughter of Amy Snow Lindell, received Degrees with assistance of members from Oelwein Chapter and Past Grand Electa of MN, Sandy Driscoll from Hudson WI. Crysten is now a 6th generation member! Waverly Chapter also celebrated our WPs birthday with lunch after the meeting at El Sol in Waverly





**District 9 School**

There's always food



## Associate Grand Matrons

*Lori Williams, Wisconsin*

*Mary Reicks, Iowa*



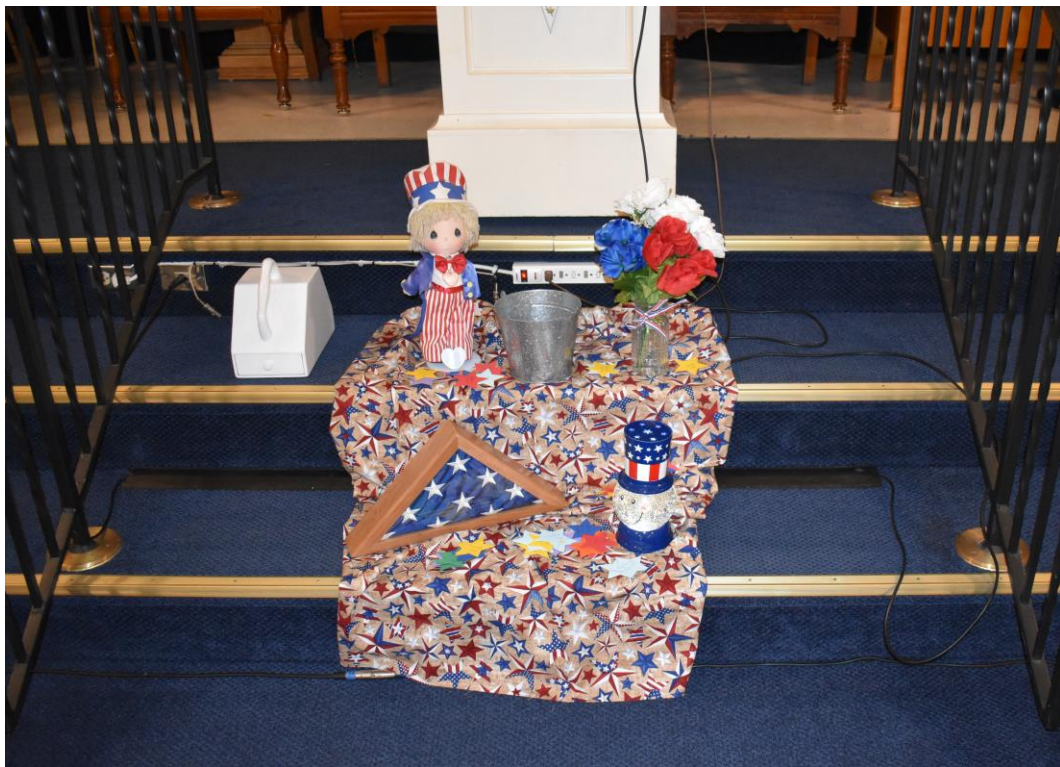
## Let's go Fishing







## Heros



## ESTARL AWARD

Jack and Carol Nelson, members of Linden Chapter, Panora and Lady Washington Rhinehart Chapter, Adel, had the honor of presenting an ESTARL award to their grandson, Devyn Benn Nelson. He is currently a student at University of Dubuque's Seminary Courses. Many thanks to OES for this award.