



December 2021

The Iowa Galaxy

2022 Issue 1

Cheryl Payne - Worthy Grand Matron



2022



John Whitaker Worthy Grand Patron

2022



Greetings to you all, Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I write this first article for YOUR Galaxy, I am feeling very humble and grateful to you- the members of Iowa Eastern Star. I am so grateful for the honor to serve as your Worthy Grand Matron. I am looking forward with great excitement to seeing all of you and working on the plans and projects we have in place for you. Thank you for this honor.

The Installation of Officers was simply beautiful! A million thanks to Sister Ellen Knupp, Installing Grand Officer for a beautiful Installation. Thank you to those assisting, Sister Karen Heitmann, Installing Grand Chaplain, Brother Michael Cross, Installing Grand Marshal, and Sister Sheila Kiehne, Installing Grand Organist for an outstanding job. What a beautiful day we spent in the presence of so many friends! Thank you for the memories. I am truly blessed.

Our Joint Reception was held on October 24th. Such a wonderful day. Brother John I were so pleased to greet each one as you came through the receiving line. We are so grateful that you came to be with us on this special, and most memorable day. Thank you all so much.

To Sister Polly and Brother Kenny, I am totally in awe of your leadership through the most unprecedented of times. Your decisions and decrees were carefully and thoughtfully issued as you held the health and safety of all Iowa's membership paramount in your mandates. You have my deepest admiration and respect for all things accomplished during your extended term. Your Iowa Membership is very proud of you. Well done, my Sister & my Brother; WELL DONE! *(Continued on Pg. 2)*

Sisters and Brothers,

♦ My first thought is to thank you for allowing me this incredible honor of serving as your Worthy Grand Patron. Especially, thank you to my family who will share the burden this opportunity and obligation brings. No one could enter upon this journey without a strong support system.

♦ I am sure that you heard about the minor problem we had at sister Cheryl's and my reception in Cedar Rapids. Our car was broken into over night after the reception and EVERYTHING was taken, down to the toothpick holder we kept in the car. I look at it this way, the weather was not good that night but everyone who attended made it to the reception and made it home safely. Things can be replaced, friends and family cannot. You are all safe so I will not dwell on the break in.

♦ I do have to make a confession-- I have a bad habit (well actually several, but not enough room to list them all)! I jingle the change in my pocket. I know it is annoying and distracting. I picked up this habit from my dad and even though it didn't bother me, it bothered Lorrie. She began asking for all my change before we would leave the house. I would come home and empty my change on the dresser, and it would "magically" disappear. I do know that the pennies, nickels, and dimes would go into our kids' Sunday School mission boxes. I did not know where the quarters went until I found several rolls of quarters in one of the cupboards.

♦ When we purchased a new pickup several years ago for me to drive to work, I began putting my change in the console instead of my pocket. I honestly didn't know what my spare change amounted to until I did this; after a year or so, the console was full, and I converted the change to dollar bills. The amount was over \$40, and I had not missed it at all. *(Continued on Pg. 3)*

With the conclusion of Grand Chapter 2021, we turn our attention to 2022. John and I are hoping that the year proceeds normally and without any trouble. We will, of course, be mindful of everyone's safety and health as we proceed. We will be prompt in our decisions and we will keep all Iowa members informed and updated.

You will see a lot of cherries, fuzzy dice, fishing poles, bees and poodles this year. Your Starlighters Grand Family will be doing the Stroll across Iowa as we visit as many Chapters and events as we have time for. I cannot wait to see you all and to see how you and your Chapters will have fun with the fifties theme. Get your poodle skirts and bobby sox Girls; and Boys put on your leather jacket and cuff your jeans and let's Rock and Roll this year! We would love to see malt shops and drive-ins, soda jerks and Jukeboxes –just a rock and roll good time.

John and I sincerely and prayerfully hope that each of Iowa's members will help support our Parkinson's Project. The Cherry pins will be sold to support this project. It is our hope to raise funds to donate to "On with Life", an Ankeny based facility that works with those afflicted with Parkinson's. Their work is remarkable; what they are able to accomplish with those afflicted with the disease is amazing. "On with Life" will also need our help in order to continue their programs which support the caregivers. They provide understanding and guidance to those who give of their time and resources to care for their loved ones. I have lived the life of a caregiver; I cared for my dad, who passed away from Parkinson's this past July. This project is very special and is extremely important to me and my family. I cannot help the passion I feel. I want to educate everyone about the earliest symptoms of this nasty disease because there is help available. There is no cure, but there is hope and help for patients so they can get on with life.

A special Poodle pin and a special Route 66 pin will be sold to support Grand Chapter's General Fund. Your support is greatly needed, and we are hoping to raise awareness that our Grand Chapter's General Fund is in need of immediate attention. I encourage each of Iowa's membership to consider other ways you and your chapter might be able to help.

This year, I have a special WGM pin for purchase; you can purchase it only from me. The proceeds will go the General Fund.

I would respectfully ask each of Iowa's members to help Grand Chapter by collecting your spare change. You know that loose change you get back when you purchase that coffee or soda at Casey's. I have asked my Pink Ladies to carry a jar to their schools to collect these Moonbeams in a Jar. If you think about it, would it be a hardship to donate a dollar and give up that one coffee or soda a month or even a day? Clean out the console in the car, check under the sofa cushions, look in your coat pockets, and consider helping us out.

The Youth Project will also be one of our Projects; John has the cutest little BEE pin to purchase, and that pin will also serve as our BEE a Traveler pin.

During the receptions we will again have the nut sales which will be sold by the Grand Officers to raise funds for the Grand Officers' ESTARL Fund. Buy them for yourselves or give them as gifts; either way you will be supporting a very worthwhile project. We thank you in advance for your support.

We will be visiting the Homes in Boone and Barthell for Christmas with the use of technology. It is my hope that we provide a link so that you may join us. It is my desire that the residents of the two Homes know that we are thinking of them and that we have not forgotten them because of the Virus ramifications. Technology is the next best thing we can do.

State School will be January 22, in Des Moines Chapter #89 in Pleasant Hill. We are looking forward to supporting our Pink Ladies as they perform their duties as District Instructors and to support the Board of Custodians as they conduct the School.

We will begin our Schools of Instructions in February. The Starlighters are so anxious and ready to go support each of our District Instructors and the Chapters in their districts. I am so looking forward to visiting and seeing all the members and to be in attendance to support each of our Iowa members. We gratefully say thank you to all the chapters who are hosting our Official School Visits.

Please remember to submit any news items, pictures, articles, community events, Chapter events and any other items of interest to the Galaxy committee. The next publication date is March 10th and articles are due by February 15, 2022.

Our Starlighters Grand Family is most anxious and very excited to see you all at the receptions, and at our official visits. Let's have a little fun this year! Come on out and BEE with us as we Rock and Roll in 2022. Let's have a little fun this year.

The Starlighters would like to wish you a most joyous Holiday Season. Please take the time to really enjoy your time with your family and your friends. Make those memories while you can, and cherish every moment you have. Time goes by very quickly and you don't get it back. Love and support them while you can; if you do it now, you won't regret it later.

Love and best wishes to you all.

Cheryl Payne

Worthy Grand Matron

What is the point of this 'confession'? What could that change have done for a good cause? I look at it this way--a little over three dollars per month is a small impact but if we all gathered our "sparechange" what would our collective impact be? If every member of Iowa OES put one dollar per month toward sustaining Grand Chapter, our deficit would be gone. If every member put another dollar per month toward our special project, it would be almost an additional \$50,000 for the project. If we use that final dollar of 'spare change' to support our Most Worshipful Grand Master Bill Post's project, 50 more children who are burn victims would have the opportunity to go to camp.

My spare change was a bad habit. From now on, it will be put to good use.

Take care,

John

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grand Chapter 2021 is in the books and it's time for a new and fresh beginning. I am excited we are bringing the 50's back into play. I wish to see Sister Cheryl and Brother John on the same dance floor. I'm looking forward to "Rock in and Roll in 2022.

On a more serious note, during our Grand Chapter Session, the piano that belongs to Grand Chapter and has been used at numerous Grand Chapter Sessions and State Schools started acting up. Just into the opening of the first session it was not sounding very musical as parts were not working correctly. Our Grand Organist, Sheila was a trooper and finished out the weekend. However, by the time Sunday arrived the piano was done. I expressed my concerns to Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Cheryl, and we put a plan together to raise the funds we would need to replace the piano. The "Music Fund" has been set up and if you wish to contribute to the project please send your donation to the Grand Chapter of Iowa and place in the memo "Music Fund". Any amount you can give would be most appreciated.

Wishing you a very happy and blessed holidays.

In Star Love,

Nancy



Don't just
talk

about it,

Bee about it!



NEW HAMPTON CHAPTER COMPLETES ADDITIONAL ANGEL GOWNS

One of New Hampton Chapters TLC projects are Angel gowns for those infants who never come home from the hospital. Up cycled white formals left over from the dress exchange at Grand Chapter were used to make the gowns. To date New Hampton Chapter has made 12 gowns of various sizes and plan on making more including some with blue vests from blue formal brought from this year's Grand Chapter.





"The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Iowa met in Forty-fourth Annual Session in the Auditorium, Sioux City, at 8:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 25th, 26th and 27th, 1921, being called to order by Worthy Grand Patron, Harry L. McGrew, of Mount Pleasant."

Grand Matron, Etta Carpenter was born on a farm near Olin in 1868. After graduation from Olin High School she attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon and taught two years before her marriage to Fred Carpenter. She joined Mt. Moriah Chapter No. 16, Anamosa in 1900. In 1913 she served as a Grand Chapter Committee Member on Dispensation and Charters and was also appointed Grand Representative of New York (1913-1915). In 1916 and 1917 she served as a District Instructor and as Grand Warder in 1918. She was elected and served as AGC in 1919, GC in 1920 and due to the death of AGM, Stella Koontz in January of 1920 she was elected WGM at Grand Chapter that year. "Through her many years of faithful service she has won the love and admiration of the membership throughout the state, and her election to the office of Grand Matron of Iowa was the crowning reward of patient industry."

Grand Patron, Harry McGrew was born on a farm in Van Buren County in 1869. He was educated in a country school, two years in high school and one year in commercial school. He married Rose Culbertson in 1892. He left the farm in 1898 and entered the world of politics, serving his county as Deputy County Treasurer for one year and County Treasurer for seven years. In 1908 after having spent a year as a traveling salesman he entered the banking business, opening and conducting a bank as East Pleasant Plain, Iowa for one year. In the years that followed, he held various positions in several banks in southeast Iowa. While serving as WGP he held the position of Secretary of the Prairie Life Insurance Company of Omaha, NE. He was a member of Bethlehem Chapter No. 38, Mt. Pleasant and also a Past Patron of New London Chapter.



The list of elective Grand Officers for 1921 includes the names of George E. Hamilton, Associate Grand Patron and Grace B. Sprecher, Grand Conductress. Brother George is noteworthy because with the help of Ray W. Lockard he wrote the lyrics to the "Iowa Corn Song" for a Shrine convention in Los Angeles, CA in 1912 to advertise the chief product of the state: Corn. Mrs. Sprecher is known as the organizer of Rainbow for Girls in Iowa. It was at her session in 1923 that legislation was adopted to endorse the organization. She served many years as Supreme Deputy and had attained the title of Supreme Worthy Advisor Emeritus at the time of her death in 1969.

Words of welcome were given by the WM of Isis Chapter, where she indicated that this was the third time that Grand Chapter had been held in Sioux City (1901, 1909 & 1921) and noted "we hope these fine October days you spend with us may be golden days in friendship's hall of memories."

From November 12, 1920 to January 11, 1921, nine chapters were constituted, having been instituted the previous year: Becker, Waterloo; Williams; Victory, Sutherland; Bethel, Milo; Story, Story City; Ally, Dows City; Heather Hill, Manly; Gertrude, Renwick and Wayland.

In addition, fourteen new chapters were instituted between December 1920 and September 1921: Bayard; Morningside, Sioux City; Kanawha; Avon, Stratford; Thompson; Bristow; Garfield, Wheatland; Ossian; Pierson; Grand River; Mary White, Lynnville; Hubbard; Danville and Ankeny.

Statistics indicate the following: Membership on January 1, 1921 was 61,787, a net gain of 6,959 from the previous year. (Over 8,450 were initiated with another 1,830 affiliated or re-affiliated. 551 Deaths were reported and over 2,350 demitted.)

The 450 chapters were divided into 20 districts, with each District Instructor having from 20 to 28 chapters in her district. (The Associate Grand Matron had 25 chapters in her district.) Instructor visits were held in February, March, April and May with a very few being held in January and June.

During her year, the WGM granted 19 Interstate Courtesies for a chapter in Iowa to confer the degrees for chapters in 11 different states and the District of Columbia. Likewise, 23 chapters in 13 different states and the Canal Zone conferred the degrees for Iowa chapters.

The WGM received a contingency fund of \$500 plus \$50 for postage for the year. Some of her expenses included \$325.00, railroad fare; \$28.20, hotels; \$90.40, constituting and instituting chapters; \$13.16, parlor and sleeping car; \$38.55 automobiles, taxi and baggage; \$1.12, street car fare; \$4.00, rent for typewriter; \$9.10, telegraph and telephone; \$1.94, incidentals and \$65.00, stamps.

Mrs. Carpenter concluded her address with the following words: "It is hearts that make friends, and in giving me this office you have brought into my life many beautiful friendships."

The Grand Secretary reported that a committee had been appointed to purchase equipment for her office and she noted that she was indebted for two steel desks, two office chairs, a Remington Typewriter No. 10, a Burroughs Adding Machine, a Bates Numbering Machine and steel documents and correspondence files. *(Continued on Pg. 5)*

In her Memorial Address, Queen Banks, Grand Chaplain began with the following: “The chimes of nature are ever ringing out the signal of some departing spirit. How true it is! It seems but yesterday we met to pay tribute to our honored dead, yet a year with its joys and sorrows has past, and again we meet in loving memory of those whom the Master has called home.” She noted the passing of Brother William H. Wray, a charter member of the first Eastern Star Chapter in Iowa and WGP in 1902. (Note: Mr. Wray was a member of Oskaloosa Chapter No. 146, however this chapter was not instituted until 1894, so it wasn’t the “first” chapter in Iowa. His death was reported in newspapers across the state and indicates that he was a pioneer and former mayor of Oskaloosa.)

The “first” Eastern Star Chapter in Iowa is unknown because it happened a few years prior to the organization of Iowa Grand Chapter in 1878. According to the History of the Order of the Eastern Star written by Jean M’Kee Kenaston, Past Grand Marshal of South Dakota in 1917 “The first, introduction of Eastern Star in Iowa was when a charter was granted by Brother (Robert) Macoy for a chapter in Clermont in April 1870, which was followed by 58 other chapters.” There is no record of where these 59 chapters were located. However, it is known that some of these chapters did reorganized and were recognized chapters in the early years of Iowa Grand Chapter, while some of the chapters just faded away. (Note: Clermont did not have chapter recognized by Iowa Grand Chapter until 1923).

A few interesting tidbits about this session were included in the “Side Notes” of the proceedings. “The delegates began arriving early at headquarters, the ‘Hotel Martin,’ so they might not miss the social as well as the business part of the program planned.” “As customary, of recent years, ‘out going’ and ‘in coming’ Grand Officers were showered with money, flowers and gifts. The gift of the Grand Officers, Instructors and Committee Members to the Mrs. Carpenter was a pair of diamond earrings. Each officer was remembered by their home Chapter, and flowers blossomed in profusion, even the brothers receiving a goodly share. Gifts from the Grand Chapter were presented: Fifty Dollars in gold to Sister Chapin (Most Worthy Grand Matron, General Grand Chapter), a boudoir clock to Sister Huehl (Right Worthy Grand Trustee, GGC), and candle sticks to Sister Anna Struble, who had added so much to the pleasure and delight of visitors and delegates by her beautiful voice.

There being no further business to come before the Grand Chapter, the Grand Conductress presented Sister Ellie Lines Chapin, MWGM as Installing Officer. Following the installation “the Forty-fourth Annual Session of the Grand Chapter was closed in form by the newly installed Grand Matron, Edna Zerwekh and Grand Patron, George E. Hamilton, to meet again the fourth Tuesday of October, 1922, at a place to be determined at a later date.”

Thanks for listenin’
Janelle Hammarstedt

Wondering what has changed in 100 years? District Instructors learned how to smile.



STARLIGHTERS Grand Family Appointive Officers



Brother Charles Sloniger, Grand Chaplain, has his wife, Joyce, as his companion. They live in Cambridge. . They are members of Ankeny New Hope Chapter, Ankeny.

Sister Kaylene Kiewiet, Grand Marshal has as her companions her husband Tom and Sister Marla Norman. Kaylene and Tom live in Buffalo Center and Marla resides in Rutland. Kaylene and Marla belong to Algona Chapter, and Tom is not a member...yet.



Sister Peggy Lickweg, Grand Organist, and has Sister Karen Miller as her companion. Peggy resides in Iowa Falls, and Karen lives in Eldora. Peggy has dual membership with Unity Chapter, Mason City and New Hampton Chapter and Karen holds her membership in Coinette Chapter, Reinbeck.

Sister Sue Jensen, Grand Adah, lives in West Des Moines and her companion Sister Anita Lee. Anita resides in Des Moines. Sue is a member of Southgate Chapter, Des Moines and Altoona Chapter and Anita belongs to Southgate Chapter



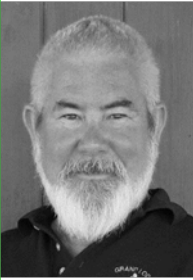
Sister Lark Randall, Grand Ruth, has Sister Marry Fanning as her companion. Lark makes her home in LeClaire and belongs to Silver Creek Chapter, LeClaire and Mary has her home in Bettendorf and also is a member of Silver Creek Chapter.

Sister Marilyn Culver, Grand Esther, and her companion is her husband Brother Larry, have their home in Panora. They are members of Linden Chapter, Panora.



Sister Pam Spratte, Grand Martha, and has her husband Jim as one of her companions; they live in Cedar Rapids. Sister Sally McCormick-Hill is a companion and Sally lives in Marion. Harlan LeClere is also a companion and he resides in Cedar Rapids. They are all members of Marion Chapter; Brother Harlan holds dual membership with Cedar Chapter, Cedar Rapids.

Sister Gail Dyer, Grand Electa, lives in Grimes and she is a member of Heartland Chapter, Des Moines. Her companions are Sister Martha Ross, and Sister Jeaneen Kain. Martha lives in Carlisle, and Jeaneen lives in Des Moines. They are both members of Southgate Chapter, Des Moines.



Brother Tim Anderson, Grand Warder, has his wife, Sister Debbie, as his companion. They have their home in Albia and are members of Albia Chapter.

Brother Kevin Brown, Grand Sentinel, has his wife Sister Chris, as his companion. They reside in Manilla. Chris is a District Instructor for 2022. They are members of Signet Chapter, Carroll.



BINGO NIGHT AT MASON CITY MASONIC TEMPLE



The Temple Association, seeking a new source of income for the Masonic bodies has set up a Bingo Night.

Each Friday night a goodly number of guests gather to enjoy an evening of "dabbing" cards and winning the many varieties of bingo games created over the years.

To sweeten the evening Unity Chapter members host the concession stand providing beverages and snacks.

Pictured at work on October 15, Unity Chapter members, left, Dianne Robinson, Associate Matron and right, Peggy Liekweg, Grand Organist and Worthy Matron. Various members of Unity Chapter work the stand on each Friday night.





The Algona Chapter # 68 Order of the Eastern Star at the monthly meeting on November 9th welcomed Pastor Debra Devine.

Pastor Debra has recently completed her course of study after spending the last ten years taking classes to be certified as an Ordained Minister in the United Methodist Church.

Debra was informed 3 years ago about the ESTARL fund through the Iowa Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership (ESTARL) has been awarding grants to individuals entering training in ministry fields since 1954. Annually individuals may apply for a grant to help with expenses in their studies/training. Debra applied and received grants for the past 3 years and was awarded her Course of Completion certificate in 2021. She attended the Algona Chapter meeting to personally thank the members for their help and support. She is a full time pastor at 3 local churches in Klemme, Goodell, and Thornton. She is a busy woman who shares her faith and pastor duties with each of these congregations.



District #2 held a fun Sewing Day on Saturday, November 20, 2021. The event was held at One Block Over in West Union. After the delightful drive to northeast Iowa, seven members from three Chapters created port-a-cath pillows, Teddy bears, and an adult size bib. Even though the numbers were small, many items were made and fun was had by all!

Identifying people in the picture from L to R: Harvey Davis, Gean Cummings, Diane King, Peg Liekweg, Luke Reicks, and Mary Davis. Not pictured (taking the picture) was Mary Reicks, Grand Conductress and District Instructor.

Thank you to all of you who have submitted pictures and articles for this first issue of the 2022 Galaxy. Please remember that the future of the Galaxy depends on the membership continuing to submit articles about your Chapter's activities and achievements. This year's Galaxy committee looks forward to working with all of you for the next twelve months. The next issue will post to the website on March 10, 2022. **Articles are due by February 15, 2022. Please submit articles to janicewauson@yahoo.com**

Committee Members: Janice Wauson, Editor; Erin McCroskey, Assistant Editor/Reporter; Elizabeth Reicks, Assistant Editor/Reporter