October 2026 VOLUME 54 ISSUE 3

IOWA GALAXY



Message From the Worthy Grand Matron

Submitted by: Janice Alger

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I cannot believe that Grand Chapter will start in 3 weeks, so many details to complete and so little time.This year has been filled with Fun Day Official Visits. We traveled from Sibley to see Iowa's Highest Point to the beautiful rolling hills along the Mississippi River. We had 23 fun Events, plus two Exchanges since we returned from the "Gone to Texas Trip". In addition, we held 2 conferring of degrees.

The Grand Officers conferred the degrees at Davenport Chapter in August and in September at Des Moines Chapter, Pleasant Hill. During the 3 conferring of degrees, we initiated 9 new members. In addition, in January several Tracers helped to initiate 3 new members at Council Bluffs Chapter. If you are counting that is 12 new members. In addition, several Chapters also held initiations this year.

The Fund Raiser for Service Dogs was a fun time, but we did not find "Who Let the Dogs Out". The Tracers are anxious to see how much was raised for this project and who let the dogs out. I know the fun meter was off the charts.

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The "All Iowa 250th Semiquincentennial Heredity Event" what a blast. We had as many tables to up the facility would hold.The table decorators showed a lot of creativity. The centerpieces were so unique, President Ulysses S. Grant gave quiet the oration out his life. Brother Mike Shannon entertained us with his bagpipes

Many Tracers and other Iowa OES Members attended the 5 State Get to Together (Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota) in Leavenworth Kansas. You must ask Brother Bob Burch about the route he took to get into the resturant parking lot in Weston, MO. It was a fun weekend, with lots of laughter and one huge Farkle pwa. I am proud to say no had to stay at the Federal Penitentiary.

I attended Missouri Grand Chapter and was asked to give the response for the distinguished guests. Since I started my Eastern Star membership in Missouri, I have lot of friends there and many of them were at Grand Chapter. I was so nice to get to be able to visit with them and renew old friendships. The Tracer's congratulate Iowa's own Brother Grant Bargfrede on his election to Associate Grand Patron in MO. Iowa is proud of this young man and look forward to hearing more of their plans in the coming year.

As my year draws to a close, I want to give a heartfelt thanks to Iowa's OES Members. You embraced my ideas and made them your own. I love to see the venues we toured, the museum we browsed through and histories of your area. I also want to give Sister Victoria Means and the Galaxy Committee Members a big thank you. I know Victoria your plans did not go as expected, but some times that's life.

Janice Alger
Worthy Grand Matron



Message From the Worthy Grand Patron

Submitted by: Carroll Duysen

Sisters and Brothers,

We had a Fun Day on July 19th at Exodus Chapter, Exira. On July 24th through July 26th we went to Leavenworth Kansas for the 5 State Exchange. On July 31st we had a Fun Night at Polk City Chapter. On August 1st we had a Fun Night at Amber Star Quick Chapter at the Museum in Oakland. On August 8th we had a Fun Night at the Greenfield Chapter. On August 9th we had a Fun Day at Coinette Chapter Reinbeck. The Iowa State Fair started August 13th and several of our Grand Family work at the Fair, so we had a brief relaxing time. On August 22nd we had Confering of the Degrees in Davenport. On August 23rd we had a Fun Day at Clinton Chapter, Comanche. On August 29th we had a Fund Day at Algona Chapter. On August 30th we had a Fun Night at the Jessamine Chapter, Iowa City. With the Clay County Fair starting September 12th we had another small break as our Worthy Grand Matron works at the fair. On September 17th the Worthy Grand Matron and I were guests of the Grand Master of Masons in Iowa at the Membership Banquet. On September 19th we had a Fun Day at Bellevue Chapter. On September 20th we had a Fun Day at Decorah and New Hampton Chapters. On September 25th we had a Fun Night at South Gate Chapter. On September 26th we had Conferring of the Degrees at Des Moines Chapter, Pleasant Hill. On September 27th will have a Fun Day at Heartland Chapter Des Moines. On October 17th we had a Fund Day at Marion Chapter. Our Grand Chapter will be November 12th through November 15th. Hope to see you there!

Carroll Duysen, WGP



Who Let the Dogs Out Fundraiser

Photos submitted by: Connie Esbeck













Dementia Friendly Iowa

Since the initial Dementia Friends Session was held on April 19, in Council Bluffs, several Chapters have reached out to have a session held in their area. As of August 9th, Dementia Friends Sessions have been held in Altoona, Carroll, Cedar Falls, Exira, Davenport, and Greenfield. Thank you to the OES members for inviting members from their faith communities, friends, family members, and caregivers to these sessions. These sessions are for anyone and everyone. The total number of people attending these sessions to date is 142. At the completion of the course, Janice Alger our Worthy Grand Matron, has furnished poppy pins for all that attend. These are pictures of the course participants since the last galaxy.

Submitted by: Claudia Hauser, Dementia Friends Champion



ESTARL

Pastor Tyler Walker was recently awarded an ESTARL grant (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership) through the Grand Chapter of Iowa, Order of Eastern Star - a program established in 1952 to support clergy education in Christian service. A special thank you to Gordon Bull for supporting Pastor Tyler's application and to the Grand Chapter for their generous support of his continued Doctoral studies.

Carol Nelson, President
Eastern Star Educational Board



ESTARL

ESTARL recipient, Carrington Wells receiving her check from Jody Mangler. (Left)

ESTARL recipient, Julie Faas receiving her check from Gail Dyer. (Right)





Chapter News

Laurens Summer Celebration
July 11, 2026

Laurens, Iowa was the scene of their annual Summer Celebration on Saturday, July 11, 2026. The day of events included a parade and food vendors. Laurens Chapter No. 265, OES hosted a food booth in the city park in cooperation with the brothers of Laurens' Grace Lodge No. 519. Star members included Allison Price, Bill and Barb Howe, WM Susan Krueger, and WP Don Krueger. They served "Tacos in a Bag" which was a big hit with the public. Laurens Chapter, Pomegranate Lodge No. 408 at Alta, and Speculative Lodge No. 307 at Cherokee have donated money to the refurbishment of a Masonic float representing OES and Masonic fraternities. Brother and WP Don Krueger houses the float and has donated many hours to its upkeep and parade entries. The float has traveled throughout the NW Iowa parade circuit, and its exposure is all thanks to Don's dedication and his out-of-pocket fuel cost. The pictures are from the parade in Laurens on July 11th.
Article by Bill Post





The 201 3 Whispering Winds Grand Family met on July 26th at the Niland Cafe in Colo, Iowa. Great food and great fellowship!!



Fun Day with Liberty Chapter, Marne was held in June. Despite the wind, fun was had by all. Lunch was held on the lawn of the Danish Windmill in Elk Horn, IA. Tours of the windmill were also given.



On September 20th, the Decorah and New Hampton Chapters hosted an official visit for the Tracer Grand Family at the Montauk State Historical Site near Clermont, IA. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the home of Iowa's 12th Governor, William Larrabee (who served from 1886–1890), where his family lived from 1874 to 1965. Montauk is listed 5th as one of the best historical places to visit in northeast Iowa.

Featured guest speakers Wendy Novak and Jill Amdahl joined us for lunch at the Big Four Fairgrounds in Postville and presented on the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Founded in 1890, the DAR is a federally chartered, lineage-based organization for women directly descended from a patriot of the American Revolution, dedicated to historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Additionally, Mary Reicks spoke about the Driftless Area—a unique unglaciated region of the Midwest covering parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, and northeastern Iowa. Luke Reicks spoke about his German heritage.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Krauskopf
Decorah Chapter Worthy Matron







Oelwein Chapter #45

Two lifetime members of the Order of the Eastern Star were recognized at a recent meeting and thanked for their many years of dedication and service.

Harvey Davis joined Iowa Chapter #381, Hazleton on October 24, 1966, and became a member of Oelwein Chapter #45 through consolidation in 1994. He received his 60-year certificate and a gift.

Sandra Hemmingsen joined Oelwein Chapter #45 on March 16, 1961. She received her 65-year certificate and a vase of flowers.

They were each asked to share a few memories of their past years in Eastern Star. Both Harvey and Sandra told that during their individual initiations, special highlights were having several family members participate in the ceremony. They both noted having many good times through the years, even with declining memberships. Oelwein Chapter #45, Order of the Eastern Star, congratulates Sandra and Harvey on these special milestones!



Notes from the Galaxy Commitee

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for the Galaxy!
The Galaxy email access does get passed down. So feel free to email with submissions any time!

Please send all submissions to the Iowa Galaxy email: iaoesgalaxy@gmail.com.

We kindly ask that you include both the text and any photos you'd like featured in your email submissions. Thank you for your understanding and continued contributions!

Galaxy Committee Members: Victoria Means, Janelle Miller, and Deb Shroeder

