

Order of the Eastern Star
One Hundred and Twelfth Annual Session

Precious Memories
La Crosse Convention Center
La Crosse, Wisconsin
May 20, 21, 22, 2003

Grand Officers:

Worthy Grand Matron: Phyllis O. Eklov
Worthy Grand Patron: Harley E. Bennett
Associate Grand Matron: Karen A. Carpenter
Associate Grand Patron: W. David Olson
Grand Secretary: Sharon Swartwout
Grand Treasurer: Patricia M. Jameson
Grand Conductress: Karen S. Stauffer
Associate Grand Conductress: Martha E. Swanson
Grand Chaplain: Noreen (Reenie) Christensen
Grand Lecturer: Patricia L. Rasmussen, PGM
Grand Marshal: Laurie Twardy
Grand Organist: Karen LaCourt
Grand Adah: Dawn Jones
Grand Ruth: Patricia Koch-Wulff
Grand Esther: Janet Quinn
Grand Martha: Helen Wheeler
Grand Electa: Elaine Engelke
Grand Warder: Patricia Ratzlaff
Grand Sentinel: Nicholas (Nick) Schultz

Grand Trustee, Chairman: Mary J. Traupmann, PGM
Grand Trustee: Ronald D. Pete, PGP
Grand Trustee: Audrey J. Pavlik, PGM

Theme: Precious Memories

Aim: To increase membership and strengthen our order.

Motto: To believe in miracles. Always have a smile, for smiles are the windows to our hearts.

Watchwords:

H – Harmony

U – Understanding

G – Generosity

S – Smile

Scriptures:

WGM: For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. Psalm
91:11

WGP: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. John 14:6

Honored Station: Chaplain
Emblems: Angels to keep us safe. Open Bible and Cross.
Flowers: Roses – shades of pink.
Colors: Shades of pink and teal.
Fun Emblems:
WGM: Butterflies and Rainbows
WGP: Hummingbird

Projects: Membership, Alzheimer's Research, Make A Wish Foundation

Dedication to two very special Angels. PGM Sister Reba Fischer and PGP Brother Ray
P. Atkinson. Sister Reba was a member of Rainbow Chapter, Wisconsin Rapids and
Brother Ray was Phyllis' fraternal Dad.

General Grand Chapter Committee Members:

Barbara J. Bollinger, PGM, Member, Registration Committee

Phillip Schanke, PGP, Chairman, Knights Templar Eye Foundation

June Bjorklund, PGM, Member, Membership Committee

Tuesday, May 20

Musical Prelude, Emerson Kolda, FAGO

Description of the Grand East: The Grand East for the Precious Memories session
featured an angel theme, and paid homage to the Holy Bible as our Worthy Grand
Matron, Sister Phyllis, is a former Grand Chaplain. A life-sized kneeling angel swathed
in a flowing white robe provided by the Job's Daughters, was elevated from the stage
level. She held five "rays" painted in soft star point colors in her praying hands. These
rays flared up to a large suspended Holy Bible, upon which were written the Bible verses
chosen by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. They then continued up
to a suspended star within the pentagon. All these elements were beautifully set off by a
black curtain, which also backed the "Precious Memories" logo.

The new carpeting, used for the first time, was donated by Brother Roger Wetterau in
memory of his wife, PGM Sister Joanne.

Prologue: Written, arranged and narrated by Zelda Brunn, Shullsburg Chapter. Organist, Kay Scafe FAGO. Soloists, Debra Simpson and Sandra LeDuc, Rainbow Chapter, Wisconsin Rapids.

We look to the five points of our star and find the heroines of our order all appealed to God for help to perform their obligation in life. God sent his help in the form of angels. Throughout the Old and New Testaments angels appeared as messengers from God to help those in need.

Bible Presentation:

Bible Bearer, Birger Eklov. Bible Escorts: Ruth Bennett, Virginia Sturdevant

Grand Chapter called to order by Patricia L. Rasmussen, PGM (Phyllis' fraternal "Mom") and Harold W. Carpenter, PGP (Phyllis' "little brother").

We, as were our Sister Grand Jurisdictions, were saddened by the untimely passing of Sister Dorothy M. Dewing, Most Worthy Grand Matron, and now hold close in our heart memories of times we shared with her.

We are pleased to extend to Sister Pat Rasmusson, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron, and acting Most Worthy Grand Matron, a most loving Wisconsin welcome. You have endeared yourself to our members and we look forward to your leadership and the plans you and Brother Loyal have made. Thank you for coming to share this time with us.

Invocation: Rev. Myron E. Christensen.

Soloist & Violinist: Janet Finn
Soloists: Debra Simpson & Sandra LeDuc
Soloist: Dona-Rae Baumgart

Opening Ode:

As we gather here together
In our cherry chapter room,
Makes no difference what the weather,
Loving thoughts dispel all gloom.
May our loving Heavenly Father,
Ever present in this room,
Guide us, teach us, help us, love us,
As our labors we resume.

Flag Ceremony: Presented by the Western Stars Area Club and Northwest Area Club.
Written and narrated by Judy Bessinger, FAGO. Organist, Kay Scafe.

Read "Armed with only Needle and Thread" by Senator John McCain of an incident during his time as prisoner of war during the Viet War.

Tuesday Evening:

Musical Prelude: Kristen Anderson, FAGO

Entertainment: Onalaska Show Choir, directed by Mr. Paul Guisvig. Mr. Guisvig is a native of Westby.

Sister Kathy Glunz sang and signed "He Touched Me"

Sister Evelyn Menke, PGM and Brother Marlowe Nelson, PGP introduced the 2003 Grand Officers and their escorts by using verses about angels appropriate to each officer.

WGM: This angel's leadership was awesome. Under her wings we did blossom. She led us here and there with oodles of angel prayers and flair.

WGP: This angel was a Navy guy. He gave us goals to reach for the sky. He kept us under his wings, but on a short halo string.

Various checks were award. World of Youth had 29 applicants and everyone received a check.

For the closing, the Grand Family and escorts assembled on the ramp in the East and sang "I Believe in Angels".

Wednesday morning:

Musical Prelude: Mary Lou Reilly, PGM, Soloist – Carol L. Falkowski, WM #269

Grand Chapter called to order by Sister Carol M. Hauri, PGM and Brother William F. Kelly, PGP.

Opening Ode: "How Great Thou Art"

Worthy Grand Matron's Report:

In Memoriam for Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Dorothy M. Dewing; Past Matrons, Sister Patricia Damon (1976) and Sister Isabelle Black (1945).

The Bible was a gift from Viroqua Chapter. The gavel was a gift from Brother Harley and Sister Ruth and was made by Brother Eugene Edwards.

Grand Trip: In June a group of 25 flew from Chicago to Stockholm. Birger's family entertained the entire group for two days. Leaving Sweden via a bus to Copenhagen, Denmark, touring Copenhagen and then boarding the DFDS Scandinavian Seaways for

the trip to Oslo, Norway. The final destination in Europe was Bergen. The scenery was breathtaking.

The Bar B Q at Dousman was a delightful time. The highlight of the year was the Christmas Party at the Masonic Home at Dousman. The gift this year was a standing table (Easystand) to the Health Care Center and ten stacking armchairs for the Community Room at the Village on the Square.

Visitations: Grand Chapters in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota/ Grand Lodge; the installation of the DeMolay State Master Counselor Phil Itzenhuiser; attended DeMolay Sweetheart weekend; Jobie Jamboree; installation of the Grand Bethel Council and was part of the installation of Sister Hazel Edwards as Queen of Antioch Temple, Daughters of the Nile, Madison.

The bus trip to the pilgrimage at the Peace Garden was very enjoyable. One of the highlights of the year was that of constituting a new chapter, Island City Chapter, Minocqua.

Exemplifications: Tomah Chapter, Oregon Chapter, Electa Chapter, Milwaukee, Marathon Chapter, Wausau, and Ellsworth Chapter.

Study classes were put on by Sister Phyllis and Brother Harley and were held in Tomah, Green Bay, Racine, Frederic and Madison.

Consolidations and Surrenders: St. Elmo Chapter, Prescott surrendered their charter. Consolidations: Mizpah, Rice Lake consolidated with Frederic Chapter, Truth Chapter, Durand consolidated with Ellsworth. Waupaca Chapter consolidated with Wautoma and Eau Claire chapter consolidated with Chippewa Falls.

Exchange Nights: Bus trip to Mason city, Iowa in August for the Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin exchange. Bus trip to Kalamazoo, Michigan in February for the Michigan/Wisconsin Exchange.

Anniversaries: In October, the 75th anniversary of New Holstein Chapter.

Grand Representatives: There were 32 appointments. The Grand Family had a great time at the Christmas Party as they, along with Santa, presented 10 members with Grand Representative appointments.

The all-state Christmas party was held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

A big thank you to Past Grand Matron Sister Audrey Pavlik for writing and narrating the lovely outgoing formation.

The entire Grand Family would like to thank Past Grand Patron Brother Marlowe Nelson for writing and helping us with the formation that was used for our closing at the exemplifications as well as our theme song at the end of our special events.

Worthy Grand Patron's Report: I was installing Officer at several installations – to those chapters a big “thank you”. I was at one Official Visit of each of our Appointed Grand Officers. We had five exemplifications, the 75th anniversary at New Holstein, many compass nights, friends' nights and Grand Representative parties. I attended many club meetings and to the new officers I have this to say – make use of the clubs as they are ready, willing and able to help you in any way that you need.

I was able to attend Grand Lodge, Grand Guardian Council of Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay installations.

Elections:

Associate Grand Conductress: Helen Wheeler

Grand Trustee: Sister Mary Traupmann, PGM

Memorial Service – a Rainbow of Remembrance. Presented by the Star Cruisers. Narrated by Ruthann Christensen, Necrology Report by Lorraine Beeman and organist Emerson Kolda.

Today we pause from our labors to pay tribute to the members of our Eastern Star who have answered the call to the Ultimate Chapter on high. They are gone from our sight now, but their presence among us will live long. Their example of loving service has inspired us to follow. With grateful hearts, we recall their service today.

“Nearer My God to Thee” was played.

Wednesday afternoon:

Musical Prelude: Roberta Limberg, PGM

Grand Chapter called to Order by Diane J. Williamson, PGM and Brother Philip W. Schanke, PGP.

Opening Ode: “Surely the Presence”

Tribute to Life Members by Sou'westers Club. Narrated by Gleen Enright, FAGO.
Organist – Kristen Anderson, FAGO.

The faith of each of these Sisters and Brothers here today and those who could not be with us is seen in the life of each of these dedicated and loyal life members who carry

with them memories of events and dear friends. Where can we find more “Precious Memories”?

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for these devoted servants who have been true over the years. We pray that You continue to shed Your light and love over and around them. we give You thanks for the blessing of shared memories and the faithfulness of these Sisters and Brothers. We praise You in the name of our Savior. Amen

I hope our Life Members will recall many happy events and associations with our beautiful Order and that they are blessed through their lives with many more “Precious Memories.”

Fifty-seven Life Members were escorted to the microphone in the West where they gave their name and number of years they have been a member.

Wednesday Evening:

Musical Prelude: Kay Scafe, FAGO

Grand Chapter called to Order by June Bjorklund, PGM and Brother Donald Haas, PGP.

God gives us strength that we may be servants
God gives us hope that we may be encouragers
God gives us compassion that we may be comforters
God gives us Jesus that we may be family.

Opening Ode: “Everything is Beautiful”

Chaplains’ Ceremony, arranged and narrated by Noreen Christensen, Grand Chaplain. The open Bible on our Altar is symbolic of our faith that the words of God are always available to us. Prayer is our lifeline to the Lord. As Chaplains we speak the word of God through prayer. As Chaplains we ask for guidance for our beloved Order and faith that we will all enjoy the many bounties that have been prepared for us.

Song: “I Asked the Lord”

Grand Chapter Accomplishment Awards: 71 chapters received the award.

Heart Fund: \$3,900 to Wisconsin Heart Association. Knights Templar Eye Foundation: \$1,900 from chapters.

To Cancer research: \$3,500.

The collection for ESTARL was \$623.

Closing Ode: “God’s Little Candles”.

Thursday Morning:

Musical Prelude: Marcia Earl, FAGO

Grand Chapter called to Order by Jean James, PGM and Bill Swartwout, PGP.

Soloist: Jim Thomas and Diane Thomas

Opening Ode: "The Bond of Love"

WGM: It only takes a little love to make the day more sweet. It only takes a little cheer to make the day complete. It only takes a little hug to brighten all the day. And you have given me much of each as I came along your way.

Solo: "Special Angel" for Brother Birger and Sister Ruth.

Presentations:

Hospitality Committee: The theme of the Hospitality Room was roses. A centerpiece of silk pink roses was arranged by Sister Lois Baker. A pink tablecloth and pink and white napkins completed the elegant arrangement. The centerpiece was presented to Sister Phyllis, WGM.

Grand Pages and Grand Ushers and then Guards and Sentinels gave their name, chapter and city and were given a hearty welcome in the East.

Arrangements Committee: The Memory Makers entered the room and a past-her-prime angel rode a moped up the ramp to the east.

WGM: Your feet may be sore and your backs may ache, the pay is poor and the hours late, but I hope that when this year is through, you'll remember it with happiness and that God blesses you.

Collectors and Tells were presented and escorted to the East.

Grand Escorts (the Guardian Angels), Narrated by Marv Engelke, "We look like real angels, we walk like real angels, we talk like real angels, but they got wise, we're the devil in disguise – oh yes we are devils in disguise"

Grand Officer Farewell(The Cherubs): Sister Phyllis and Brother Harley were invited to relax on two lawn chairs. Two pairs of comfortable booties were placed on their feet. They were invited to join the Precious Memories Cherub Barbecue. A large Weber grill was brought in and the Grand Family entered playing "As the Saints Go Marching in" on kazoos. All were dressed as angels, but then some turned into devils. Each grand officer presented a farewell gag gift to Phyllis and Harley. Reenie sang: We have someone to see us through. We have someone, they're tried and true. We believe in escorts,

someone always watching over us; we believe in escorts, carrying our luggage to the bus.
In night and day, in every way.”

Sister Nancy Ryburn, Grand Representative of Vermont in Wisconsin.

Duet sung by Jill Thomas and Diane Thomas.

WGM: I would like to leave you with this thought: I have memories to treasure all unknown a year ago, like sparkling gems of pleasure which forever I may know. I will pray this little prayer that all your years will be, filled with days of happiness like those you have given me. Thank you.

The 112th Annual Session of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Wisconsin was closed in ritualistic form.

Badge Ceremony, written and Narrated by sister Marion Crivitz #249. “The Gavel within the Star is symbolic of the East’s authoritative command. With knowledge, justice and discretion displayed, inspiration was readily at hand. The Square and Compasses within the Star speak of true official passion. The station upholds correctness, while sharing the East in a creditable fashion”

Respectfully presented for the Western Area Club.

Grand Officers retired in form.

Thursday Afternoon:

Installation of Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.