

Order of the Eastern Star
One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual Session

Season for Blessings

KI Convention Center

Green Bay, Wisconsin

May 19, 20, 21, 2009



Picture:

Front row: Mary Rasmussen, Mary Olson, Bobbi Jo Oyen, Ron Rasmussen, Kris Engbring, Jim Sedall, Sharon Swartwout, Rosie Fiscus, Karen Stauffer PGM

Back row: Marla McFetridge, Angela Pishion, Laura Dessereau, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Barbara Englund, Al Jennerman, George Winget, Carol Peterson, Renee Campbell, Connie Skarvan

Grand Officers:

Worthy Grand Matron: Kris Engbring (283)

Worthy Grand Patron: Ron Rasmussen (215, 26)

Associate Grand Matron: Bobbi Jo Oyen (4)

Associate Grand Patron: Jim Sedall (87)

Grand Secretary: Sharon Swartwout (40)

Grand Treasurer: Mary Olson (29, 49)

Grand Conductress: Rosie Fiscus (49)

Associate Grand Conductress: Mary Rasmussen (120)
Grand Chaplain: Renee Campbell (167)
Grand Lecturer: Karen Stauffer, PGM (289)
Grand Marshal: Connie Skarvan (1)
Grand Organist: Marla McFetridge (239)
Grand Adah: Angela Pishion (39)
Grand Ruth: Laura Dessereau (76, 75)
Grand Esther: Rae-Ellen Preuss (40)
Grand Martha: Barbara Englund (29)
Grand Electa: Carol Peterson (80)
Grand Warder: Al Jennerman (287)
Grand Sentinel: George Winget (71)
Grand Trustee, Chairman: Harold Carpenter, PGP (40,100)
Grand Trustee: Wallace Lindholm, PGP (98)
Grand Trustee: Laurie Twardy, PGM (172, 269)

Theme: Season for Blessings

Aim: To live by Faith, to Hope for the Future, and to Love one another.

Motto: Appreciate Everyday Blessings

Watchwords: Faith, Hope, Love

Bible Verses:

WGM: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

WGP: And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

Honored Stations: Adah, Marshal, Chaplain

Emblems: Evergreen Tree and Cardinal

Flower: White rose.

Colors: Hunter Green, Navy, Gold, Ivory

Fun Emblems:

WGM: Teddy Bear

WGP: Kangaroo

Project: HOPE of Wisconsin

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

Tuesday Afternoon

Musical Prelude at 12:30 pm Marcia Earl (159), FAGO

Description of the Grand East: The Grand East for the Season for Blessings session featured rock fireplace with two rocking chairs to warm up by the fire, a throw rug, and a couple of teddy bears and cardinals to make the east look inviting and welcoming. There were several evergreen trees around the room, giving the room a rustic look. The “Season for Blessings” logo was done on a green background, with the lettering in birch bark. Gazebo birdhouses sat behind each star point chair, along with a small evergreen tree and some snow.

Prologue: Written, arranged and narrated by Pat Lee, Queen of Sheba and Lemonweir Chapters. Organist, Marcia Earl FAGO. Soloists Roxanne Gnatzig, Queen of Sheba Chapter and Kristen Schoville, Dodgeville and Phoenix Chapters. Star Points: Adah Joanne Meade (164, 92), Ruth Sharon Livermore (1), Esther Gena Pontow (198), Martha Sylvia Kuester (112), Electa Diana Kifer (118, 289).

We have gathered here today to count our Season of Many Blessings, naming them one by one. Our seeds were planted in the Garden of Knowledge, followed by the Harvest of Prayers. Our seeds were fertilized, nurtured and grew in the Garden of Faith. We were Led by His Light to this final Season, the Season for Blessings. In the garden of Fraternity, the soft winds gently blow, to fan the sparks of kindness that you and I may show.

Bible Presentation:

Bible Bearer, Doug Engbring. Bible Escorts: Sharon Gruber, Pat Rasmussen PGM

Grand Chapter called to order by Karon Stauffer, PGM and Nick Schultz, PGP.

Invocation: Rev. Myron E. Christensen, followed by the ritualistic opening by the Grand Officers.

Opening Ode: “Hymn of Promise”

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Flag Ceremony: Presented by the Northwest Area Club and narrated by Tom Fedje (239). Written by Tom Fedje and Mary Norgard (239). Organist, Marla McFetridge, Grand Organist. The flags were presented one by one, and each given a tribute. At the conclusion of the presentations, all flag bearers and escorts returned to the Grand Chapter floor and all in attendance sang “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

A welcome was given by June Meilke, WM of Honor Chapter Sturgeon Bay, and the response was offered by LaVerne Storkson, WP of Starlite Chapter, Sun Prairie. Introduction of distinguished guests followed. The report of the Grand Trustees was given by PGP Harold Carpenter, and the resolution titles were read by WGP Ron Rasmussen.

Tuesday Evening (Informal); 7:00 pm

Musical Prelude: Karen LaCourt, FEGO (249)

PGM Sister Laurie Twardy and Brother Paul Twardy introduced the 2009 Grand Officers and their escorts using references to a football team, since we are in the city of the Green Bay Packers. The

WGM was the Head Coach and the WGP was the Assistant Head Coach. There were several pom-poms in the audience and a lot of "Go Pack Go."

Entertainment: Bill Reed (116); Magician and entertainer

Various checks were awarded. World of Youth had 29 applicants and everyone received a check. A check was presented to HOPE of Wisconsin in the amount of \$15,300. Eastern Star charitable donations totaled \$31,200, for a grand total of \$46,500 during the 2008-09 year. The membership committee presented new members who were in attendance at Grand Chapter. Remarks were given by our Masonic Family dignitaries.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

Wednesday morning:

Musical Prelude: Organist Joye Kuhlka (87) FAGO; Soloist Jim Campbell (167)

Grand Chapter called to order by Sister Helen Wheeler, PGM and Brother John Knee, PGP.

Opening Ode: "How Great Thou Art"

ESTARL Service was held, with guest speaker Cindy Warmbier-Meyer, a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque IA.

Worthy Grand Matron's Report:

Dedication: this year of service was dedicated to Bob and Sharon Gruber, parents of our WGM. The Season for Blessings session was dedicated to Doug Engbring, husband of the WGM, Megan and Kelly Engbring, daughters of the WGM, and Pat Rasmussen, wife of the WGP.

Grand Trip: In January 2009 a group of 70 set sail from Ft. Lauderdale FL to the Eastern Caribbean for a seven day cruise. It was a week of friendship and fun.

Special Events: We held a Unity dinner in Madison, which was attended by many different Masonic representatives. The Bar B Q at Three Pillars in Dousman was a delightful time. We also held a picnic for the residents of Mason Woods, which was a fun day for all. The highlight of the year was the Christmas Party at the Masonic Home at Dousman.

Visitations: The WGM attended a meeting in every Wisconsin Chapter (76 Chapters). Grand Chapters in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota, Grand Lodge; Grand York Rite, Rainbow Grand Assembly, Jobie Jamboree, Job's Daughters Grand Guardian Council. Travel 34,495 miles during the year.

Exemplifications were held in Janesville, Green Bay and LaCrosse. Initiations were held in West Allis and New Richmond.

Consolidations and Surrenders: Tomah Chapter and Charles A. Lawton Chapter surrendered their charters. Consolidations: Owen Chapter consolidated with Everett Chapter; Venus Chapter consolidated with Oregon Chapter; Oriental Chapter consolidated with Fond du Lac Chapter; Pike Chapter consolidated with Kenosha Chapter; Twilight Chapter consolidated with Starlite Chapter.

Anniversaries: Halcyon Chapter, Crandon and Mabel Chapter, Rhinelander celebrated 100 years.

A big *thank you* to all chapters who participated in the "Huggers Club" – we asked Chapters to collect teddy bears and donate them to agencies in their communities, as a way to provide comfort to those in need. 3,962 teddy bears were collected!.

Worthy Grand Patron's Report: I was able to visit all but 5 Chapters with the WGM and received many honorary memberships. I traveled to three Grand Chapters, Amaranth Grand Court, Grand Guardian council for Job's Daughters, Jobie Jamboree, Rainbow Grand Assembly, and Grand York Rite. We

held a joint party for the WGM and WGP, and it was wonderful, as was the trip to the Caribbean. To encourage membership and traveling, we had 13 stuffed kangaroos that traveled from Chapter to Chapter. We encouraged the Grand Officers to travel to subordinate Chapters to support them and asked that they keep track of their travels – no chapter received less than 4 visits from a Grand Officer this year. In closing, we look to the past with gratitude, we look to the future with hope, we look upward and find strength, we look inward and find peace.

Elections: Total in attendance 496; total voting members 393.

Associate Grand Conductress: Winona Olson (239)

Grand Trustee: Harold Carpenter (40, 100)

Memorial Service – Presented by the Sou'Westers Area Club. Written and Narrated by Carol Paynter; Organist Kristen Schoville.

We have come to a Holy Hour in our Chapter session. We will dedicate a portion of this session to honoring the memory of our departed members who once sat with us in this room and who were tied to us in the ties of fraternity.

A golden chain was presented in the West, with names of departed members written on the chain.

Wednesday afternoon:

Musical Prelude: Organist Shirley Storkson (150, 283); Soloist Jim Campbell (167)

Grand Chapter called to Order by Sister Patricia Rasmussen, PGM and Brother Jerry Gant, PGP.

A ceremony was presented honoring the 25 year “Showers of Blessings” Grand Family. Five officers from 1983-1984 were present, and following the tribute to them, PGP Brother Jerry Gant made remarks on behalf of the “Showers of Blessings” Grand Family.

Tribute to Life Members by Western Stars Area Club. Originally written by Dorothy Lee (18); Revised by Rhonda Roalkvam (158); Narrated by Sharon Bollig (158); Organist Kay Scafe (18) FAGO. “You have served your chapters as these heroines have done. Through joys and disappointments along its path, you have won. With tears and laughter mingled you have passed each milestone well, the funny things have cheered you and sorrow cast a spell. But through the years you have weathered the sunshine and the rain. Where love holds all hearts captive, let this be your domain.” The response for the life members was given by Hyacinth Aude (1).

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

Wednesday Evening:

Musical Prelude: Organist Kay Scafe, FAGO 918); Soloist Kathy Glunz (239)

Grand Chapter called to Order by Sister Diane Williamson, PGM and Brother Donald Haas, PGP.

Honored Station Ceremony, written and presented by Angela Pishion (39), Grand Adah, Renee Campbell (167), Grand Chaplain and Connie Skarvan (1), Grand Marshal.

Narration for Chaplain included:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Solo: “Here I am Lord”.

Narration for Adah included:

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

Solo: "The Gift of Love"

Narration for Marshal included:

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

Solo: "He Leadeth Me".

As you continue along life's path, may you always remember: "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Grand Chapter Accomplishment Awards: 49 chapters received the award.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009

Thursday Morning

Musical Prelude: Organist Carol Fick, FAGO (208); Soloists Diane Thomas (80, 37) and Jill Thomas (37)

Grand Chapter called to Order by Laurie Twardy, PGM and Curt Lang, PGP.

Opening Ode: "Here I Am Lord"

Presentations:

Doug Engbring, Sharon Gruber, and Pat Rasmussen were presented and thanked.

Those members who received a Masonic/OES and/or white rose pin from our WGM were recognized.

Hospitality Committee: The theme of the Hospitality Room was evergreen trees, cardinals and white roses. The centerpieces were trees with cardinals and white roses on them, made by Sister Jean Chadderdon. The centerpieces were presented to the WGM and WGP

Grand Pages, Grand Ushers, Collectors/Tellers and Assistant Grand Sentinels gave their name, chapter and city and were given a hearty welcome in the East.

Arrangements Committee: The Un-Rooly Bears entered the room and presented a skit while the WGM and WGP sat in the rocking chairs on the floor in the East.

Grand Escorts (the B.E.A.R.S. – because escorts are really special), Narrated by Major Kangaroo, Pat Rasmussen, presented the "Great B.E.A.R. Story), which included the 3 bears, Goldie Locks, Snow White and the 7 dwarfs, sleeping beauty and a fairy godmother, a big bad wolf and 3 little pigs. It was very entertaining!

Grand Officer Farewell: The WGM and WGP were escorted around the room to each officer, who presented their "mom and dad" with a picnic basket and goodies.

WGM: Sisters and Brothers, continue to take care of each other, living our Obligation along with the tenets of fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love. Work with each other, and for each other, and remember to love one another. I wish you all many seasons filled with God's abundant blessings.

WGP: I don't know how to properly thank you for the honor you bestowed upon me by electing me your Worthy Grand Patron. I have tried to do the best I could in carrying out the responsibilities of this position. I hope what I have done meets with your approval.

The 118th 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 Linda Knee (76), with Marcia Earl FAGO (159) as Organist and soloist. This Grand Family came together on a beautiful spring day to unite and become

one special family. As spring passed and the summer winds blew warm and soft in the bright sun, they gathered to exemplify our work and reach their hands out in friendship. Fall came and with big smiles and a special gift for listening with their hearts, they watched us do our work. Winter winds blew and snowflakes fell, but that didn't stop this Grand Family from having fun and sharing the magic of the Holiday Season. Spring is here again and the Grand Officers' jewels are now returned to our Altar. They were worn in faith, hope and love, and with appreciation of our everyday blessings received from God. The song "Til the Season Comes Round Again" was sung. The Grand Officers retired in form.

Thursday Afternoon:

Installation of 2009-2010 Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star