

February 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is almost impossible to wrap my head around the fact that 2/3 of our Eastern Star year has passed and that now we are on the way to preparing for Grand Chapter in May. Much of the information regarding the session is included in this mailing. This is our 125th annual session and Brother John and I look forward to greeting a large number of you at the "A Light In The Harbor" • Session in Stevens Point, May 17-19.

Our trip to Branson was wonderful and more than we could have anticipated. We had a full bus and our thanks go to Sister Marianne Totsch who planned the entire trip, to our Most Worthy Bus Driver Mark, and to those members who joined us as we celebrated "Christmas in Branson." •

Our next planned function will be the Illinois/Wisconsin Exchange on March 5 in DeKalb, IL. It would be great to have many of our Wisconsin members join us in Illinois as we share our fraternal love with our sisters and brothers in Illinois, our neighbor to the South. All the information has been sent to you and all you have to do is make your reservations.

On Saturday, January 16, my brother and our Past Grand Patron Ron Pete was installed as Potentate of Aad Shriners in Duluth, Minnesota. In his acceptance speech, he introduced the Eastern Star members present as part of his family. • My heart swelled with pride as many of our members stood to be recognized. Many OES members were present from all over the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Of the 160 people there, we had a great contingent and showed the support that our members give to each other. It was a really special time for me as I counted half of this year's Grand Family in attendance.

Some of the things we need to remember are to contribute as liberally as possible to our appeal for a penny for each year of membership (or round up to \$1.00) for the Shriners Hospital for Children in the Twin Cities. It would be great to present them with a substantial gift at our session. We also need to remember to send our donations for the other Eastern Star charities to our Grand Secretary. We are well known throughout the world as supporters of many worthy causes. Let this year be even more special as we celebrate 125 years of Eastern Star in Wisconsin.

Our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron will attend our 125th session in May. We look forward to greeting them and making them feel welcome in the Badger State. A large contingent of our own members would be a terrific "welcoming committee." • Please make every effort to attend.

Remember that February is Heart Month. This is the time to share our love with our families and our OES Sisters and Brothers. It is also the perfect time to share the treasures of our hearts with those who are working diligently to find more cures for heart disease. As the recent recipient of two stents, I appreciate all that has been done to alleviate this dreaded killer.

Let YOUR light shine!

Joanne Freiman

Worthy Grand Matron