

Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Wisconsin

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy September! This is the time of year when our Grand Officer visits begin and the Grand Officers are excited to meet you at your chapters. Your District Deputy will be visiting, too, and that is the perfect time to ask questions and to get your floor work perfected. As I told you in my acceptance speech at Grand Chapter, I LOVE RITUAL! It is our ritual that makes us different from every other organization. The stories of our heroines are beautiful and even more beautiful when delivered properly. Do try to memorize your work so that "first impressions may be more lasting and as we desire they should be."

September is also the time when we will have our last two exemplifications and we understand that we will have candidates to initiate at both of them. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Tomah on Friday, September 11, at 7 p.m. at the Tomah Masonic Center. The following day we will exemplify the work of the Order at the Chippewa Falls Masonic Center at 1 p.m. Also in September, we will have the first of our Grand Officer parties. This will be a "triple treat" as we honor Sisters Laramie Reissner, Grand Marshal; Joan Lillie, Grand Ruth; and Dolores Waltz, Grand Electa. The party will be held on Sunday, September 27 at the Clear Lake Community Center. Social hour is at 11 a.m. with dinner at noon and a program to follow at 1 p.m. See the flyer in last month's mailing for full details. This year we will have all the Grand Officer parties before Thanksgiving so that (hopefully) the weather won't deter any of us from getting to these special events.

In October, we will have our two carnivals. The South Carnival will be at the Beloit Masonic Center on Saturday, October 3, and the North Carnival will be held at the Eagles Club in Marshfield on Sunday, October 25. Past Grand Matron Jane Blackwood is the chairperson of these events and we will promise you a fun time, great food and silent auctions, the proceeds from which will be divided between the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's projects. We hope that you and/or your chapters will contribute liberally to the auction lineup. The Traveling Twins, Sisters Tammy and Terri Hundhausen, are in charge (if we can keep them in Wisconsin long enough!).

A big "thank you" to all who volunteered to help with the Friends and Family picnic at the Masonic Home. I had just gotten home from the hospital on Wednesday morning and didn't feel I could make the trip. I'm sorry to have missed this fun and exciting day. Also, I truly regret that I couldn't be with the members of Columbia Chapter as they consolidated with Oregon Chapter. I hope and pray that Oregon Chapter will become stronger by the addition of their new members.

On a personal note, thank you to all who sent cards, notes and emails wishing me well. Sometimes it is mind boggling to think that in six weeks I underwent surgery for breast cancer and then had a heart attack. I am doing very well and look forward to seeing many of you at the Exemptions and the Officer Visits which I will be doing.

Until we meet on the Star Trail, remember to

Let YOUR light shine!