

Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Wisconsin

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May 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It hardly seems possible that this will be the last letter you will receive from me and your "A Light in the Harbor" Grand Family. These months have passed so quickly and as our Session draws nearer, each day seems to pass more quickly. Our Worthy Grand Patron Brother John and I both hope to see many of you in Stevens Point for our 125th Anniversary Session, May 17-19. Please make every effort to attend and support our Order and take part in the legislation which will be before us. Only through discussion and voting can Grand Chapter know your feelings about the future of our Order.

These past months have brought many good times and some not so good. My health is now very good and I thank God for giving me the strength to complete this year. I can truthfully say it has been the greatest and most exciting year of my Eastern Star life, which dates back to 1963 when I was initiated into Superior Chapter. Certainly at that time, I could never have even dreamed that someday I would hold this, the highest office to which one may be elected. I thank each of you for your confidence and for your many prayers and well wishes as I recovered from breast cancer and then the heart attack. I firmly believe that every prayer offered was heard and answered. Nearly a year ago, in my acceptance speech, I told you that I couldn't promise any great accomplishments or achievements, but I have given my very best to promote the welfare and prosperity of Eastern Star in Wisconsin. As I stood at the Altar and promised to uphold the laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter, I can truthfully say that I never felt so humble as I did at that moment. I could go on and on, but only time will show what part in our Order's history this year will have played.

It is sad to report that by the end of my term, we will have had seven consolidations, bringing the number of Chapters to 49. It is sad to think that for whatever reason or reasons, we cannot seem to attract more new members. For those of us who still remain, I believe that we must hold fast to that which is good and hope for a reversal in this trend.

On a brighter note, I must thank everyone who, in any way, helped to make this year special. We will only celebrate this 125th anniversary this one time and I hope that each of you will be present to make the celebration one which will be long remembered in the annals of our history.

With constant faith and a reminder to "let YOUR light shine," I am

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne Freiman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'J' and 'F'.