

Wisconsin OES Newsletter



Vol VI, Issue 7 February 2024



Worthy Grand Matron
Debra Bower
409 Walnut St.
Sauk City, WI 53583
608-692-7775
sbnana98@gmail.com

Greetings Sisters and Brothers –
We hope you all have enjoyed the weather so far –
yes it has been blizzards and at other times almost
50 degrees. Welcome to Wisconsin!!!

On top of the craziness of the weather, time is
quickly passing, and Grand Chapter is only 4 months
away.

We hope some travels to those chapters that
remained open in January and February have
occurred whether for a meeting or a special
event such as a dinner or a fun night. It is always a
good feeling to continue seeing our sisters and
brothers. Please continue doing so but always
keep your safety in the forefront.



We are designating February as HEART month.
Please consider making a donation to the Heart
Fund on behalf of a loved one that has or is affected
by heart disease. Proceeds will be given to HERMA

Heart Institute/Children's Wisconsin which provides
comprehensive heart care from prenatal periods
through adulthood.

Continue getting out of your comfort zone and
extend some LOVE to someone or something in
your community, such as a smile, a kind word, or a
good thought. It will brighten their day and give you
a warm and fuzzy feeling as well.

The last of the Worthy Grand Matron/Patron
visits are scheduled and we look forward to
coming and relaxing with you. The schedule is as
follows: Sturgeon Bay, 2/1; Argyle 3/7; Shullsburg
3/11; West Allis 3/12; Janesville 3/13; Dodgeville
3/19; Eagle River (OV) and visit 4/2; Bristol 4/3,
Wisconsin Rapids 4/9; LaBelle 4/11; Wisconsin
Dells 4/25; and Wautoma 5/6.

WGM Deb and WGP LeRoy



Grand Chapter Information and Forms

These will be mailed/emailed out on February 12, 2024. Forms will also be on the Website after that date. Online registration and meals will be available then also.

Nominations for Grand Trustee and Elected Grand Officers

Nominations need be into the Grand Office no later than February 1, 2024. Please read the code on what is allowed in the nomination and rules concerning electioneering. Nominations are still allowed the morning of elections at Grand Chapter. Elections begin promptly at 10 am on Wednesday of Grand Chapter. If you have additional questions, please contact Debra Bower WGM.

Newsletter Deadline

DEADLINE for the March 2024 Newsletter is February 22, 2024

Please get your items in on time. Send pictures (with descriptions) that you want included in the newsletter to secretary.wioes@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

January 31 – Janesville Chapter – Fundraiser at Red Robin in Janesville. We will receive 20% back from diners who mention our Chapter fundraiser. Join our chapter at 6 pm or come anytime.

February 1 – Honor Chapter – Honoring Esther with a speaker

February 2 – Vega Chapter - York Rite education talk during refreshments. Vega’s meeting time is now 7 pm

February 8 – LaBelle Chapter – Honor Elected Officer’s Night. A Beekeeper to come and give a talk during the meeting. Refreshments and Pound auction after the

Meeting

February 9 – Triwaukee Club – Brookfield Masonic Center – Wauwatosa Chapter hosting

February 15 – Tychopera Club – Melody Chapter with Starlight Chapter hosting

February 19 – Kenosha Chapter Chili Supper at 6 pm with a program on Cybercrime

February 25 – Union Grove Chapter – Annual Turkey dinner

March 1 – Vega Chapter – Compass Night. Think Spring and wear your favorite baseball Jersey

March 9 – Southeast Club – Kenosha

March 9 – Northwest Club – Clear Lake

March 10 – Combined Grand Representative Reception for Betty Miller, Marianne Totsch, Shirley Cogan and Marcia Earl, Brookfield Masonic Center

March 11 – Sou’Westers Club – Shullsburg Chapter

March 16 – Grand Marshal & Grand Ruth Party, Oshkosh

March 21 – Melody Chapter with Melody Chapter Hosting.

March 23 – Grand Chaplain, Grand Martha, Grand Electa Party, Wauwatosa

April 4 – Honor Chapter – Honoring Esther and a speaker.

April 6 – Grand Sentinel Party, Fond du Lac

April 13 – WI/IL/MI Exchange, Henry Palmer Lodge, Wauwatosa

April 20 – Announcement Party for 2024-2025 Grand officers – Wisconsin Rapids

April 24 – Western Stars – Lemonweir Chapter with Viroqua Chapter hosting

June 15 – Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting Event at Three Cellars

WGM 2024 Accomplishment Award

The deadline for submitting the WGM 2024 Accomplishment Award is sooner than you think. Please complete the form for your chapter and include a plate from your plaque and mail by April 10, 2024, to Debi Ahrens 107 County Road M, Star Prairie WI 54026.

Don't forget to include your chapter's name somewhere on the plate. If you need a new wooden plaque, please let me know ASAP. Looking forward to reviewing your forms.

Debi Ahrens (715.441.5477)
debiahrens56@yahoo.com

Marissa Couch (715-607-0681)
marissajcouch@gmail.com

Congratulations

New Grand Representatives:

Florida – Marty Swanson, PGM – Janesville

From the Grand Secretary

Thank you all for your patiences with our Database problems, we are working hard to get it resolved.

I had a wonderful vacation in Florida with members of the Garden of Knowledge Grand Family (2004-05). It was not very warm there, but it was better than the negative 4-degree temperature on the day I left.

It was wonderful to see PGM Marty Swanson and to be able to be there when our Grand Lecturer, Kris Gruber-Twardy presented her with a Grand Representative Appointment to Florida. She was very surprised and speechless. Congratulations Marty.

On February 12 you will get the Grand Chapter Information and forms from me. I am still in the process of compiling them. They come from several sources.

Happy Valentine's Day!



The Grand Office's Address has Changed

The new address is: 275 Sunset Dr., Dousman, WI 53118

Hwy 18 Construction

Hwy 18/Sunset Drive, will be closed to through traffic from WIS 67 in front of Three Pillars and the Grand Office for bridge replacement and other projects from mid-February to early summer of 2024.

From the Grand Lecturer

Rescheduled Official Visits

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the official visit for three subordinate Chapters has been rescheduled to take place after Chapters return from their recess. Please note the new dates listed below. Contact Kris Gruber-Twardy, PGM and Grand Lecturer if you have questions (608-332-8281; krisoes2009@sbcglobal.net)

March 28: WGP to Kilbourn Chapter, Wisconsin Dells

April 1: WGM to Superior Chapter, Superior

April 2: WGM to Eagle Chapter, Eagle River

Proficiency Testing for 2023-2024

If you are interested in taking the proficiency test or testing for a station, please contact PGM Mary Barnett or AGM Lori Williams.

We will provide you with study materials and work with you to schedule a testing date that works for you. The Red Book and Ritual are very good resources to study from as well. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have questions.

Mary Barnett
608-873-5527
mbarnett041248@gmail.com

Lori Williams
815-275-0323
WiQueenbee2425@gmail.com
Ljacksonrncnd@aol.com

Thank You

I want to send a BIG thank you to everyone who donated to the Silent Auction at the Christmas Party. We raised \$1308.00 for Memory care and \$351.00 for Vest-a-Dog!

Without your generosity the auction would not have been this successful. Also, a thank you to the Christmas Party Committee for all their help with the raffle.

Watch for upcoming news on future raffles for Grand Chapter.

Cindy Ryan, WGM/WGP Project Team

Notice from Kenosha Chapter

Kenosha Chapter is meeting at Unity Masonic Lodge at 4320 Washington Rd, Kenosha until further notice.

Wisconsin OES Foundation



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The OES Foundation was set up to assist Sisters and Brothers who belong to the Wisconsin Order of the Eastern Star. We are sustained by the contributions of our members and Chapters. This past year only six Chapters donated to the Foundation and we want to remind you to add the Eastern Star Foundation to your Charity budget for the upcoming year. Our purpose is to assist our Eastern Star members in their time of need.

Members can also donate through memorials and estate allocations. Again, your help is needed to sustain the Foundation. We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.

Star Love
LeRoy Kifer, President
Ruthann Watts, Treasurer

Deadline for applications: March 1, 2024.

The next Foundation Meeting: March 9, 2024.
Applications are available online on our website which is www.wioes.org

Applications for assistance should be sent directly to: Mary Olson, Secretary, 293 State Road 138, Stoughton, WI, 53589.

Donations should be sent directly to: Ruthann Watts, Treasurer, 1361 Mockingbird Drive, Oconomowoc, WI, 53066.

ESTARL Ornaments

ESTARL Ornaments are on sale at for \$15.00 each. you may contact the Grand Secretary at [secretary.wioes@gmail](mailto:secretary.wioes@gmail.com) and she will make arrangements for you to get an ornament.



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Calling all crafters!!!

Do you have the love to make crafts or attend and shop the craft fairs? The Arrangements Committee needs your help! How can you help, attend a craft fair, find something you love... would others love it too....?

So, if you could grab an email address, or other contact information from them that would be great. Pass it on to me, and I will reach out to them. Thank you in advance for your assistance with finding vendors!

One last thing, if they are within one hour of Stevens Point, that is best as they are more open to participating.

Brenda Gaulke

brendagaulke59@gmail.com

Union Grove Chapter Annual Turkey Dinner



Union Grove Chapter will have its Annual Turkey Dinner on Sunday, February 25th, at the Union Grove Masonic Center, 1021 11th Avenue.

The dinner will be from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. The cost is \$15 per person and includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, carrots, salad, roll and a homemade dessert.

Proceeds from this dinner help support our chapter and the Union Grove Elementary Music Scholarship Program that provides funding for music students to attend summer music camps.

Have you ever made a dreamcatcher?



Buy a feather from any Grand Officer and help us make one for Grand Chapter. You can write on this feather a word about dreams, faith, an inspiration, goal, name of loved one you want protected by the dreamcatcher – anything that makes you happy or creates a memory!

Our webbing and band will be colorful, so coloring your feathers is optional. Return it to a grand officer and at Grand Chapter we will have them all collected in at least 1 dreamcatcher to collect all your thoughts, prayers, love, and memories. We hope you can have fun with this and maybe if you dream it for us, it will come true for you!!

Each feather costs \$1.00 and the proceeds will benefit the WGM/WGP Project.

There are still WGM & WGP pins available for sale, along with roster books. Ask ANY Grand Officer to purchase your items.



Our Youth





Grand Chapter Happenings

Grand Officers at Dousman



**All State Christmas Party
Belvidere Supper Club, Marshfield, WI**



News from the Chapters



PGM, Marty Swanson of Janesville Chapter, being presented with her Grand Representative Appointment to Florida by PGM Kris Gruber-Twardy



Sunday brunch at Cotton Exchange with all of Union Grove's Masonic bodies. A lot of fun and Fellowship.





Brother Bob Mehle was installed as Worshipful Master of Milwaukee Harmony Lodge. He had many OES Sisters and Brothers supporting him.



Mr. & Mrs. OES Club new officers: Alan Weir, President, Gail O'Connell, Secretary and John Dorsey, Vice President



Laryssa and Bob LeFebve and Lorraine Beeman received their Travel Award Pins from Grand Electa, Daylene Bain



Honor Chapter No. 1 had a short program on Vietnam as part of their monthly stated meeting. Terry Schneider(R), standing next to WM Sue Shefchik(L), is dressed in traditional Vietnamese attire. Terry traveled to various Southeast Asian countries in 2023 and presented highlights of her journey through Vietnam.



Vega Chapter honored Masons with Beef Stew, salad, pies & Tin auction for Vesta-a-Dogs. They raised \$347 and received 2 petitions.





Lefse demonstration at Martha Chapter!
Krumkaka made as well! Norwegian family
history was fun to share. The best part was
eating!!

Debra Angers with Janice Michalski, LaBelle
Chapter's newest 50-year member.

In Memorium
Past Grand Matron Helen Wheeler of Wisconsin



Helen H. Wheeler was called home to eternal life on Wednesday December 27, 2023, at the age of 83.

Loving mother to three daughters: Debra (Gary) Householder, Brenda (Michael) Konemann and Margaret (Timothy) Zander; grandma to: Daniel, Kevin, Jamie, Kyle, Krissy, Casey, Michaela and Ashley. She was known as Grandma Helen to 24 great-grandchildren. Helen is also survived by her sister, Marilyn Walden.

Helen was born February 13, 1940, in New Lisbon to Heath B. and Margaret V. (Georgeson) Walden. She attended New Lisbon Public School, graduating from the Class of 1958. She was united in marriage to James A. Wheeler, Jr. in Oshkosh on February 7, 1959. They were married 53 years before Jim's passing June 1, 2012. In 1973 she joined the Army National Guard. Helen became a Data Processor/Computer Programmer working at Camp Williams in Camp Douglas. Before retirement in 1997 she taught at the Wisconsin Military Academy at Volk Field.

Besides military life Helen was also very involved with the Masonic family. She was the Guardian of Job Daughters Bethel 46, New Lisbon, Past Grand Guardian for the State of Wisconsin, Worthy Matron Lemonweir Chapter, Mauston, member of Rainbow Chapter, Wisconsin Rapids and Electa Chapter, Milwaukee. She was also a Past Grand Matron of Wisconsin.

Sister Helen was appointed Grand Martha by PGM Sister Phyllis Eklov and PGP Harley Bennett. In her Installation Address as Worthy Grand Matron Sister Helen stated "As long as we do not lose the respect of the past while moving ahead and embrace the future with change – in charity and friendship, and as long as we always remember the values and the heritage of Masonic principles it will be good.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers: James and Ryan, one sister, Priscilla and her husband, Jim.

A memorial visitation was held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at the New Lisbon Community Center. A graveside service was then held at the Brewster Cemetery with Military Honors provided by New Lisbon American Legion Post 110.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials or donations given to Alzheimers, www.alz.org, Honor Flights, www.wisconsinhonorflight.org, Preceptor Home Health & Hospice, W175 N11117 Stonewood Dr., Unit 100, Germantown, WI.

Debra Bower, WGM of WI

LeRoy Kifer, WGP of WI

Jane M. Blackwood, PGM, Grand Secretary of Wisconsin

*Come join us for a combined
Grand Representative Reception!*

We will be Honoring
*Sister Betty Miller, British Columbia and Yukon
Sister Marianne Totsch, South Carolina
Sister Shirley Cogan, Tennessee
Sister Marcia Earl, Texas*



On
March 10, 2024
Social: 1pm
Reception: 2pm



At
Brookfield Masonic Center
4350 N. Pilgrim Rd
Brookfield, WI 53005



***RSVP: Denise Koehler (414) 588-6187 or
Denise.Koehler@marekgroup.com no later than February 20, 2024***

Wautoma Chapter, Loyalty Chapter
And
Fond du Lac Chapter

Cordially invites you to a
Reception Honoring

**Paula Ausloos, Grand Marshal
and
Mary Lubach, Grand Ruth
of Wisconsin**

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Time: Social hour – 11:00 A.M.
Dinner and Program – 12:00 P.M.

Place: LaSure's Banquets Hall
3125 S Washburn St
Oshkosh, WI 54904

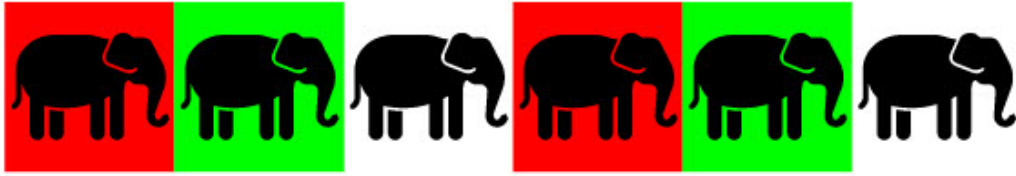
RSVP by: March 1, 2024

To: Carol McAllister
983 Majestic Trail, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Cost: \$30.00 per person (non-refundable)
Checks made out to "Wautoma Chapter #198"

Please include names and titles when making reservations.

Wearing of the green is encouraged!



ELEPHANTS NEVER FORGET LET'S REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE:

MIKE CLINNIN, GRAND CHAPLAIN

LORIN CHRISTIE-JONES, GRAND MARTHA

DAYLENE BAIN, GRAND ELECTA

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

CASH BAR AT 11 AM, LUNCH AT NOON, PROGRAM AT 1 PM

LOCATION: ALIOTO'S

3041 N. MAYFAIR ROAD, WAUWATOSA, WI 53222

COST: \$30.00

MENU: CHICKEN PARMESAN WITH MOSTACCIOLI

TENDERLOIN TIPS ON NOODLES

BAKED COD WITH POTATO AND VEGETABLES

ALL MEALS INCLUDE: SALAD W/DRESSING, BREAD, COFFEE, MILK, TEA AND CAKE

ELEPHANTS ON PARADE RAFFLE TO BENEFIT VEST-A-DOG

ALL CHECKS MADE OUT TO: UNION GROVE CHAPTER #71

PLEASE RSVP WITH FEE AND FOOD CHOICE BY MARCH 2ND TO:

CINDY RYAN 951 MAIN STREET 201 UNION GROVE, WI 53182

PRINT NAME/TITLE: _____

GUEST _____

MENU CHOICE: _____

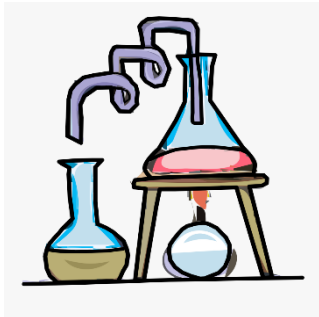
GUEST CHOICE: _____

Enroll in the

9 92 7
F U N

Grand Sentinel Party for

Brother Alan Weir



15 18 73 39
P A R T Y



Saturday April 6th

Fond du Lac Masonic Center
500 W. Arndt St, Fond du Lac

57 5
L a B

Begins 11:30 (Social and activities)

*Perform Outstanding, Incredible,
Spectacular, even edible experiments!*

1:00 your: 71 7 6 1
L u N C H and Program Bring
White Lab coat, Safety
Goggles and Protective Gloves!

You really don't need them, but won't it be fun to dress up?

Class Registration by April 1st and that's not
"Fooling Around." *Late will be accepted, just not too late.*

Lunch Money \$15.00 per tray

Check Payable to: Fond du Lac Chapter #289

With: Name, Chapter and Titles

Send to: Gail O'Connell, N7819 Lakeshore Dr, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Questions: alan.weir8510@fvtc.edu or 920-933-2954



WE’VE GOT THE CLUBS, WE’RE READY TO HOP ON THE HARLEY, HIT THE ROAD AND TOUR!!

Join us in the sidecar on **SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**, as we roll into Milwaukee for the WI/IL/MI exchange.

Itinerary: Tour National Bobblehead Museum
 Tour Great Lakes Distillery
 Tour The Famous Harley Davidson Museum and Campus

Meet at hotel 10:45 am, leave on a chartered motorcoach at 11:00
 After tours, return to hotel to freshen up and leave on bus at 5:00 for
 H.L. Palmer Lodge, 4315 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222
 for dinner at 5:30 followed by jurisdictional skits & introductions

Accommodations are at Springhill Suites by Marriott
 N91 W15901 Falls Parkway, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
 King and double queen rooms are \$134.00/nt plus tax. Rooms can accommodate up to 4 in kings and 6 in dbl. queens, as all have a pullout couch with a trundle bed.

For reservations, please use the following link.

[Book your group rate for EASTEN STAR](#)

If you have issues call (262) 509-9100 and ask for the “EASTERN STAR BLOCK” and the dates you are staying (Friday, April 12 and/or Saturday, April 13).

BLOCK WILL EXPIRE March 16, 2024 – PLEASE RESERVE IMMEDIATELY!!!

NOTE: YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION NEEDS TO BE MADE IMMEDIATELY AS COUNTRY SINGER

LUKE COMBS IS IN CONCERT IN MILWAUKEE THAT EVENING AND ROOMS ARE BEING SOLD OUT EXTREMELY FAST.

Cost for HD Tour - \$12.00 Cost for Bus - \$26.00 Cost for Dinner - \$20.00

Send your remittance for tours, bus and/or dinner, payable to Grand Chapter of Wisconsin to:
 Vicki Kuharske; 3125 N. 102nd Street; Wauwatosa, WI 53222, 414-975-2203 no later than March 27, 2024

Name: _____ Title if applicable _____

Jurisdiction _____ Reserving for: Tour _____ Bus _____ Dinner _____



COME FLY WITH US

At Lori and Orville's Announcement Party!

Saturday April 20, 2024

We encourage you to dress as you would for your dream travel destination.

Departing From (Party Location):

Ridges Golf Course and Banquet Facility
2311 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Gate (banquet room): West Wing

Boarding Time (social time with cash bar): 11:00 am

Departure/In flight Meal Service (buffet lunch): 12:00 pm

Airfare: \$28 per person (non-refundable)

Please "book your flights" with Bridget Briski no later than 4/10/2024.

Bridget Briski, 624 Cole Street, Watertown, WI 53094

Make checks payable to: WI OES Tychopera Club



Name: _____ Chapter(s): _____

Title(s): _____

Name: _____ Chapter(s): _____

Title(s): _____



Chapters **Start your Engines** for Membership

All Star 200 here at **OES Dream Way** in Wisconsin

There are quite a few “Chapter Cars” that have not made it to the track. Review the forms and get your activities to the membership co-chairs so we can get you in the race.

Looking ahead – in spite of all this snow and cold weather Spring is coming.

Spring Membership Theme Ideas

Help Us Grow

Be a Part of Our “Bunch”

Join the Star Team (baseball theme)

Hit a Home Run – Join Our Team

Plant Your Seeds In Our Star Garden

Every Member is a Treasure (pirate theme)

Easter Parade

March Madness

Make your Chapter the fun place to be!

HOLD A MEMBERSHIP EVENT! Your Chapter can receive a \$35 reimbursement Membership Event expenses by submitting your request to Rosie Fiscus, PGM, GGCCC, Membership Co-Chair

If you need any help with ideas or planning for a membership event, or advice for mentoring your new members, or if you have any comments or suggestions for us, please contact us.

Membership **Pit Crew,**

Rosie Fiscus
oesrosebud@charter.net
608-692-0530

Karen Larson
kare4uall2day@gmail.com
608-444-4536



"By The Shore in 24"

General Grand Chapter will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC October 24th through November 1, 2024.

We hope to have a great Wisconsin turnout.

AGM, Sister Lori has asked me to coordinate our Wisconsin get together during the session. Information will be shared from the General Grand website when it is available.

1. Please let me know if you are thinking of attending. This is not a commitment; I just need an idea to make plans with the restaurant.
2. We need to determine if there is any interest in planning a bus trip during this time.

You can email or text me with "yes" thinking of attending and "yes" interested in a bus trip.

Please notify me by March 1st so I can finalize a tentative number with the restaurant.

PGM Rosie Fiscus GGCCM

Oesrosebud@charter.net

608 692-0530



LOVE IS IN THE AIR AND SOON TO BE ON THE COURSE

Become a member of EASTERN STAR and share the love with your spouse, significant other, sisters and brothers.



For information contact (262) 965-2200 or secretary.wioes.com.
All Master Masons and the female relatives are free to join.