

# Wisconsin O&S Newsletter



**Vol VII, Issue 6 December 2024 /  
January 2025**



**Worthy Grand Matron  
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## **Greetings from the WGM,**

Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe as I write this message that December will be here in a few short weeks. We are breathing a sigh of relief for all that has been accomplished this far but know there is still much work to do. We plan to continue to be out supporting our chapters as our health and weather allow.

Our activity focus for December is Cheer. This is the time of year chapters reach out to their members who are not able to come to meetings. This is also the time we spread holiday cheer to our residents at Dousman. Our festivities with them will be on December 6, starting at 10:30 am. We will begin at the Masonic Health Care Center and then Riverside Lodge (Memory Care Facility).

In the afternoon, we will have our annual tea with the residents living at Compass Point. All are welcome to join the Grand Family. Please RSVP with Lori so we can plan for enough cookies.

We look forward to celebrating a Scandinavian Christmas with members on December 14. Please see the invitation attached. We are very excited to be working with the Star Cruisers who are hosting this event. Please contact Sister Daylene Bain if you have silent auction items.

On behalf of the Grand Family, we wish you the most bee-utiful of holidays. Safe travel wherever the holidays take you. We are so grateful to be serving our Order this year.

Until we see you on the Star trail, bee grateful!  
Lori

*Bee Merry*



*Bee Bright*

## Newsletter Deadline

**DEADLINE for the February 2025**

**Newsletter is:**

**January 15, 2025**

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



*Please check out the  
OES BLAST by EMAIL  
for more OES News, updates, and events.  
Subscribe at  
[jobiemom@wi.rr.com](mailto:jobiemom@wi.rr.com)*

## Traveling Bees Update



We hope you are enjoying the adventures of our travel bees on the Wisconsin OES Facebook page.

Queen Bee Lori and Prince Alan are at Oregon Chapter,  
King Orville is at Alpha chapter.  
Princess Judy is at Trillium chapter.

Princess Linda is at Wauwatosa Chapter.  
Moses Bee is in the Kinnickinnic Chapter.

All these chapters have special nights in addition to their stated meetings. Load up your car and plan a visit. Bees can be captured at any stated/ special meeting or publicized event hosted by a chapter. At least three visitors must be present, with one visitor being an elected officer.

If more than one chapter arrives on the same night to capture a bee, the following criteria should be used to determine which chapter captures the bee-

- a. The chapter with the most members visiting
- b. If there is a tie, the chapter that traveled the furthest based upon the location of their home chapter.
- c. If there is a still a tie, the chapter with the highest-ranking officer in attendance would capture the bee.
- d. If there is still a tie, the chapter with the newest member (based on initiation year, month, day) would capture the bee.
- e. A bee can only be transferred one time per day.
- f. Only one bee can be captured if a chapter has multiple bees.
- g. The capture should be documented via a post on our WI OES Facebook site.
- h. If there are questions, contact the WGM for clarification.

## Note from PGM Brenda Gaulke

My address is 221 W. Hamilton Dr., River Falls, WI 54022. It is listed wrong under Northwest Chapter.

Kinnickinnic Chapter's meeting times are the first and third Mondays, first Monday only in September, November, and December.  
Dark in January & February.

## Upcoming Events

- Dec 4** – Western Stars Area Club – Annual Christmas Luncheon/Meeting at the Tomah Masonic Center at Noon.  
Dec 7 – 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Open House for PGM, Evelyn Menke at the Markesan Community Center, 1–4 pm
- Dec 4** – Bristol Chapter – Bring your favorite “Dip” to share. Refreshments at 6 pm – Stated Meeting at 7 pm
- Dec 6** – Cheer Committee and Grand Family Christmas with the residents at Dousman
- Dec 9** – Northwest Area Club – Ready Randy’s Restaurant, 5 pm gathering, 6 pm dinner. There will be a raffle, bring goodies.
- Dec 9** – Kenosha Chapter – Ugly sweater night – Stated meeting at 7 pm
- Dec 9** – Lemonweir Chapter – Honoring Jim DeVoe, Grand Representative of Kansas in Wisconsin – Sister Rhonda Roalkvam will receive her 50-yr pin and card. Luncheon at 11:30 am – Stated meeting at 1 pm.
- Dec 10** – West Allis Chapter – Christmas attire – PGM Laurie Budwick will receive her 50-yr. pin and card.
- Dec 11** – Janesville Chapter start time changed from 7pm to 7:30 pm – Honoring Masons before the meeting with a dinner
- Dec 13** – Triwaukee Club – Filippas, 6915 W Lincoln Ave. Bring a silly Christmas card to exchange and a minimum donation of \$5.00 per person for LEDR.
- Dec 14** – All-State Christmas Party – Beja Shrine, Green Bay. Dress code, Christmas attire, Scandinavian theme appreciated.  
11:30 am Social, 12:30 pm Buffet
- Dec 16** – Sparta Chapter – Christmas Potluck at 11:30 am – Stated meeting at 1 pm
- Dec 17** – Eagle Chapter, Eagle River (changed from Dec 3) –1:00 pm
- Feb 23** – Union Grove Chapter’s Turkey Dinner
- Mar 29** – Wisconsin/Michigan Exchange, Grand Rapids, Michigan

## Congratulations

### ***New Grand Representatives:***

Massachusetts – Malia Knaup – Honor Chapter

### ***OES Life Members:***

Margaret Veum - Viroqua Chapter

Laurie Budwick - West Allis, Kenosha, and Bristol Chapters.



## From the Grand Secretary

The Wisconsin OES Code of Laws has been updated and is included with this newsletter at no charge. If you desire to receive the updated pages or a complete Code of Laws by email, please contact me.

If you wish to receive either the printed Code updates, it will cost \$2.00 plus postage. If you would like the printed version of the entire Code, it will be \$15.00 plus postage. Please order these through your Chapter Secretaries.

The Red Book updates are available for \$3.00 plus postage for just the updates or \$25.00 for an entire new Red Book w/update. The cost has gone up due to the cost of paper.

Two sets will be mailed out to each chapter with a bill for the updates and postage. If you wish to order an update, please contact your Chapter Secretary and they will send in an order to Grand Chapter.

**Newsletter materials are going to be due no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. This will give the WGM time to review the newsletter before it is printed and emailed to our members.**

As a member of the Alzheimer's Committee for the General Grand Chapter I have pins for sale. They are \$10.00 and all monies collected will stay in Wisconsin. Email me at [stormkat1216@gmail.com](mailto:stormkat1216@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Just a reminder: If you need to contact me when I am not in the office you can contact me by email at [secretary.wioes@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.wioes@gmail.com) or 262-965-2200, Ext 210 or call my cell which is 608-346-8435 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

*Jane M. Blackwood, PGM Grand Secretary*

## Nominations for Elected Grand Officers and Grand Trustees

Nominations need to be in to the Grand Chapter office no later than February 1, 2025.

Nominations are needed for the following Offices: WGM, WGP, AGM, AGP, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress, and one Grand Trustee.

Please read the Code regarding qualifications for each of these positions and the rules concerning electioneering. Nominators should read the Code to familiarize themselves with what is allowed in the nomination statement. Nominations are still allowed at Grand Chapter during elections (which begin promptly at 10:00 am on Wednesday morning). If members have additional questions, please contact Lori Williams WGM.



## Resolutions to Change the Code of Laws and/or OES Floor Work and Instructions (Red Book)

All resolutions shall be in writing with the Name(s) of the sponsoring member(s), and the Chapter name, number, and City of each sponsor. These resolutions must be received by the Grand Secretary, by the first business day following January 10, 2025, to be considered. (Rule 5, page 30)



## All State Christmas Party Silent Auction

I hope everyone is enjoying the GREAT Fall weather! So pleasant and it is difficult to think about cold weather being right around the corner. I can't believe that Christmas is around that same corner. Such a busy time of year. It is that time again to start thinking about the OES Christmas party silent auction. If you are bringing an item for the auction, please let me know at [dk326@aol.com](mailto:dk326@aol.com). Getting the bid sheets made up ahead of time sure helps. It also helps the party committee know how much table space to reserve.

SOME EXCITING NEWS! We are going to try using the "square device" to enable you to pay by credit card. There will be a 3% service fee. This ensures your total bid will go to the charity. If this works out favorably, then we will do it at Grand Chapter in May.

Star Love,  
Daylene Bain, Chairman WGM/WGP Project



# Wisconsin OES Foundation



If there are questions regarding information requested on the application, our Foundation Secretary and Treasurer are excellent resources.

**Deadline for applications:** March 1, 2025. **The next Foundation Meeting:** March 14, 2025. Applications are available online on our website which is [www.wioes.org](http://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 Committee

This year's ornament is here. The Grand Officers will have ornaments available at statewide events or contact the Grand Secretary to purchase. We hope you will love the ornament and add it to your home this holiday season. They sell for \$15.00 each.



# Individual Travel Award



Members you can earn the coveted individual travel award pin. In addition, look out for bees when you travel. We have several bees we would love to see buzzing around the state. If you capture a bee, take it on an adventure. Document travels in the bee's journal. Take photos to share on our Facebook site website and future monthly mailings.

## Uniform Proficiency Committee

Members in need of study materials may contact PGM Laurie Budwick. This year, the committee will be revising the Arrangements committee chapter of the Grand Officer handbook. We want to reflect on current practice recommendations and identify the most appropriate accountabilities for the work that needs to be done to make our Grand Chapter session run efficiently.

This year the WGM has asked for the creation of an Excel spreadsheet to identify members who know the initiatory work and are willing to travel to support chapters. It would be extremely helpful for Worthy Matrons to have protems at the ready. If you are willing, please contact the WGM with the stations you are comfortable with and any other useful information.

The committee has also been tasked to consider methods to mentor members who desire to learn the Worthy Patron and Associate Patron work. Throughout our jurisdiction, the number of men who know the work is dwindling. If you have insight that would be of help, please contact PGM Laurie Budwick.

## Get To Know Your Grand Officers



Our WGP is Orville Olson, a member of Dodgeville Chapter, Dodgeville where he has served as an officer for many years. Orville previously served Grand Chapter as the Grand Representative of Louisiana in Wisconsin and Grand Warder before starting the Grand Line.

Orville's escort is his wife, Anna. Orville is very active with the other chapters in his area as well as his Masonic Lodge. Some may not know that Orville and Anna are members of the Sons of Norway. In the fall both can be found in the kitchen in Dodgeville making pasties. This is a major fundraiser for the lodge.



## Fabric for Sale

Ruthann Watts is downsizing and must sell off her fabric stash. She still has many yards of quality quilt fabric that she will sell for \$5.00 a yard to OES members.

Ruthann also has Two koala sewing cabinets - maple colored and power lifts for standard sewing machines. She also has a ten needle Embroidery machine with koala cabinet.

If you are Interested send her a text message to 1-262-993-0486.

## Handbooks for Sale

Southeast Area Club has a Worthy Matron Handbook for sale.

The pages are 8-1/2 by 5-1/2 so it fits in the same size binder as the Red Book. The complete insert, which includes the Order of Business that can be used for preparing for meetings, is \$10. If you only need the Order of Business pages, for those who have been to the east before, a set of Twenty meetings are available for \$5.

If you are interested contact Jan Winget, [j.winget0432@att.net](mailto:j.winget0432@att.net). We will have the inserts available at Grand Chapter near the silent auction.

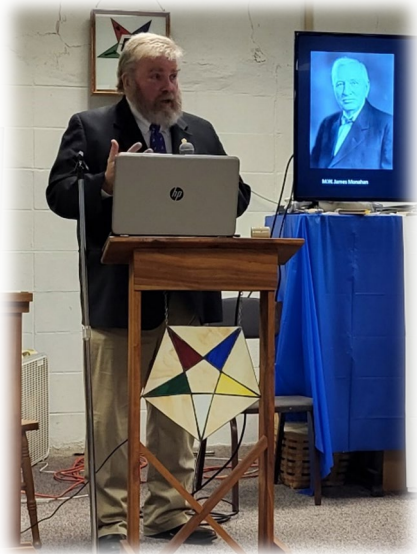
A blue advertisement for the WILEDR Team and the WILEGuardians App. The top section features the text "WI Law Enforcement Death Response (LEDR) Team" and a circular logo with "LEDR" in the center. Below this is the phone number "(866) 410-LEDR (5337)" and the website "www.wiledr.org". The bottom section is titled "WILEGuardians App Free Wellness Tool" and lists several resources: "Statewide Peer Support Resources", "Training", "Get Help Now", "Vetted Mental Health Providers", "Veterans Resources", "Statewide Chaplain Resources", "On-Duty Tools", and "Wellness Topics: Sleep, Nutrition, Physical Health, Resiliency...". At the bottom, there are QR codes for the app, the Google Play Store logo, the WILEDR logo, and the Apple App Store logo.



## From the Chapters



Union Grove Chapter had a successful turkey hunt at our Nov 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Members came in “hunting attire” and responded to the call for turkeys for our turkey dinner. Chapter members “bagged” approximately 280 pounds of turkey for our Turkey Dinner on February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Save the Date). We even had two members show up with turkey sweatshirts so we could visualize our “game.”



Past Grand Master Dave Ritchie gave a wonderful presentation to Alpha Chapter, Argyle at their November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. He summarized all his travels and events during his year with a very interesting slide show of all the beautiful buildings, friendly faces old and new, and the many, varied locales. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. Everyone should learn how busy the Grand Master is and what dedication it takes!



Southeast Area Club held its Christmas meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Union Grove. In addition to our normal meeting and potluck lunch, we had special guests – PGM Kris Schoville, Brother Jim Schoville and Occupaws “chapter member” Tessa. Sister Kris and Brother Jim talked about the Occupaws program and the process of raising and training a dog to become a service dog. The club also collected items for the Veterans Outreach Program in Racine. Sister Kim Gascoigne delivered the items to the headquarters in Racine.

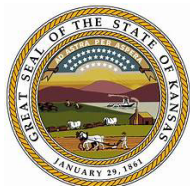


*Happy New Year From the  
“Trust in the Lord”  
Grand Family*



Sparta Chapter welcomed PGM Sister Kristen Schoville Grand Organist, and occupaws dog, Tessa. Program presented by Sparta area "It Doesn't Matter" quilters showing the different quilts they have made along with quilted vests and bags.

Lemonweir Chapter, Tomah will be honoring Jim DeVoe



Grand Representative of Kansas  
at a luncheon on Monday  
Dec 9 at 11:30 AM  
with regular meeting follow at  
1PM.

Rhonda Roalkvam will be receiving her 50-yr pin and card at the meeting.  
If you will be coming for lunch, please RSVP to Rhonda Roalkvam



100th Birthday Open House

For PGM Evelyn Menke

December 7, 2024

1 PM-4 PM

Markesan

Community Center

150 S. Bridge St

(entrance around the back), Markesan WI.

NO Gifts, Cards can be sent to Evelyn at:

Patriot Place

609 Broadway St  
RM#50

Berlin WI 54923





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GRAND  
OFFICER PARTY HONORING:**

**YVONNE HOLTZ, GRAND ESTHER  
BRENDA KONEMANN, GRAND ELECTA  
DANIEL WILLIAMSON, GRAND WARDER**

**SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025**

**SOCIAL HOUR AND CASH BAR - 11 AM**

**LUNCHEON – NOON**

**BAKED CHICKEN AND PRIME TIPS - FAMILY STYLE**

**PROGRAM, FOLLOWED BY MUSIC - 1PM**



**PATRIOTIC THEME**

**COST: \$35/PERSON**

**LOCATION: CLUB 60**

**W2164 STATE HWY 60 COLUMBUS WISCONSIN  
53925**

**RSVP BY MARCH 1, 2025**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.**

**MAIL RSVP, NAME(S), TITLE(S) AND CHECK TO:**

**BETH WROBLEWSKI**

**223 PARADOR PL, COTTAGE GROVE WI 53527**

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO STARLIGHT #283**

**QUESTIONS: [BETH.WROBLEWSKI@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BETH.WROBLEWSKI@YAHOO.COM)**

**608-334-1354**



## Formation of a New Committee:

Per the request of a motion passed at Grand Chapter, I have assembled a committee to evaluate our needs for scheduling future Grand Chapter sessions after our current contract expires.

I have asked PGM Brenda Gaulke to chair. The other members are PGP Craig Wepprecht, PGMs Bobbi Jo Clark, Rosie Fiscus, Terri Hundhausen, and Sister Marianne Totsch. I have asked the group to consider the following:

1. Should we meet at a different time of year?
2. Should we meet on different days of the week?
3. Should the session length be changed?
4. Is our current location still central?
5. If we keep our current venue, are they able to provide the services/amenities we think we need?
6. What can/should be done to encourage attendance by our members?
7. What can/should be done to encourage attendance by guests from other jurisdictions?
8. What can/should be done to encourage attendance by our affiliated Masonic organizations?
9. How can we increase the number and variety of vendors?
10. How will any proposed changes affect our by-laws and fiscal year?

I would also like this group to develop a template to use when considering alternative sites. I would ask that we consider accessibility for members with mobility challenges not only for Grand Chapter, but for any state event. We should also identify the services we need at our events. The use of a sound system is one of many services we ask for at our venues.

If you have information, you feel would help this group in their work, please contact PGM Brenda Gaulke. This group will present a report of their findings at our Grand Chapter session in May of 2025.

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## Program Planning for Worthy Matrons

I have had requests to know what charities will be focused on throughout the year.

If your chapter is dark during a particular month, please consider moving the activity to a time you do meet.

Activities might be more feasible during a social rather than a business meeting. If you bring in a speaker, please advertise this so we can all learn.

December-	Cheer
January-	Re-obligation
February-	Heart Fund, heart health
March-	ESTARL
April-	Leader Training Resources
May-	OES Foundation



Wisconsin Grand Chapter, OES,  
cordially invites you to the  
**All-State Christmas Party**



**Saturday, December 14, 2024**

Beja Shrine Center  
1950 Bond Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

**Social: 11:30 a.m.**  
**Buffet: 12:30 p.m.**

*Menu:*

*Beef and Chicken*  
*Mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy*  
*2 kinds of vegetables*  
*Rolls/butter*  
*Cheesecake and cupcakes*

*Cash Bar available.*

Cost: \$30 per person (sorry no refunds)

RSVP with name, title, and payment  
**no later than December 4, 2024, to:**

OES All State Christmas Party  
c/o Joan Burr  
1132 Tacoma Beach Road  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
920-746-0701

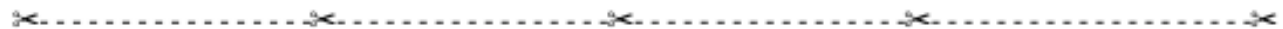
Silent Auctions will be held supporting the  
WGM/WGP Project: WI-LEDR-Team

Contact Daylene Bain with a description of your silent auction  
item. [Dk326@aol.com](mailto:Dk326@aol.com)



**Checks payable to Honor Chapter #1, OES**

**Dress Code: Christmas attire. Scandinavian theme appreciated.**



RSVP

Wisconsin Grand Chapter, OES, All-State Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 14, 2024

Name: .....

Title: .....