

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On August 26, 2024, a meeting was held at the Grand Chapter office with an auditor from the State of Wisconsin Office of Charitable Gaming. OES representatives present were Jane Blackwood - Grand Secretary, Mary Olson and Ian Watts – Grand Trustees; and Daylene Bain – Chairman of WGM/WGP project. The auditor requested the meeting.

Grand Chapter holds a Class A and Class B raffle license which was up for renewal. We have not been audited in over 10 years, so the state requested a meeting. This was not a formal audit.

You will be seeing changes coming to our silent auctions and 50/50 raffles so that we can be compliant with the rules and avoid having our licenses revoked.

### **SILENT AUCTIONS**

It must be clearly stated that the bidder must be at least 21 years of age to bid on items containing alcohol.

No lottery tickets or “scratch offs” are allowed.

We will also be trying something new at the Christmas Party. We will be using a “square” allowing you to pay by credit card should you so desire. Use should make the lines go faster, and you won’t have to remember your checkbook or carry a lot of cash. There will be a 3% service fee. This fee ensures that your complete bid goes to the charity. If this works well and the feed back is positive, will we use the “square” at our Grand Chapter session in May.

### **50/50**

Tickets must be a two-part ticket that are identical in form and color.

Tickets do not need to be consecutively numbered.

Drawings must be held in public, and the winner must be present to win.

We cannot have pre-sales. All sales must take place at the event.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1301 & 1302 prohibits the mailing of raffle tickets, stubs, order form and money. This also includes use of private carriers such as UPS and FedEx.

Tickets cannot be bent, crumpled or marked in any way that would make a ticket different from the others.

When we sell 50/50 tickets, a committee person will sell you the ticket. Another committee person will take one-part, place it in the jar, and give you the other part.

Credit cards MAY NOT be used to purchase 50/50 tickets.

For documentation purposes, we must complete a form noting the beginning and ending ticket numbers. The winning person's name, winning ticket number and signature will be on this form. This information must be maintained in case we are audited.

Should you wish to donate winnings to the charity, this is acceptable as long as we document that the winner received the prize.

Our Grand Secretary will be mailing the handout provided by the auditor to chapters. I also plan to disseminate this information via our usual communication methods including a report at Grand Chapter. If you have any questions, please ask prior to proceeding. We do not want to lose our licenses because we did not follow the rules.