

Wisconsin O&S Newsletter



Worthy Grand Matron
Lori Williams
N2973 Jahnke Rd.
Columbus, WI 53925
815-275-0323-C
WIQueenbee2425@gmail.com

Greetings from the WGM,

Sisters and Brothers,

As I consider what message to share with you this month, I am reflecting upon what I hoped to accomplish this year. I have spent the last three years researching and planning. I have spent this year trying to implement those plans. I was told by a wise mentor that I would learn much about myself as I progressed through the line. It appears I am still a work in progress. As much as I want to trust, I still haven't gotten myself there. I have learned that when I could "let go and let God," the results were much better than I could have hoped for. I found a bee-utiful Grand Family, support in places that I never knew to look, and most importantly peace in my heart and mind. I am grateful for all the unexpected blessings, learnings, and memories that I will take with me. I hope to be of service to the Order as I begin my next chapter. As chapters and Grand Chapter prepare for a new year, I hope each member will thoughtfully consider what service they may be able to offer to keep our chapters engaged in the community, and a top choice of where to spend time. Determine what membership means to you and what you would lose if you no longer had a chapter to attend.



Vol VII, Issue 10 May 2025

Which of the four people below are you? Once there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

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



Newsletter Deadline

DEADLINE for the June 2025 Newsletter is:
June 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



*Please check out the
OES BLAST by EMAIL
for more OES News, updates, and events.
Subscribe at
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 is still visiting Oregon Chapter. Prince Alan is at Ozaukee Chapter (recently he attended Scotland's Grand Chapter.) King Orville is at Alpha Chapter. I know there are several chapters planning a visit to steal a bee. Princess Judy is at Trillium Chapter. They always welcome visitors. Princess Linda is at Wauwatosa Chapter. Moses Bee is currently with Kinnikinnic Chapter. 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.



Upcoming Events

May 7 – Starlight Chapter meeting, 7 pm changed
To May 10
May 13 - West Allis Chapter initiation, 7 pm and
Honoring Mothers
May 13 - Everett Chapter - Pajama Night
May 14 - Wauwatosa Chapter, 7 pm – Flowered
attire and Honoring Mothers
May 15 - Honor Chapter initiation, 7 pm

Installation Dates

June 20th: Vega Chapter 7 pm- Open
June 21st: Trillium Chapter 2 pm- Open
June 24th: West Allis chapter 7 pm- Open
June 24th: Everett Chapter 7 pm-Open
June 25th: Janesville Chapter 7 pm - Open
June 25th- Wauwatosa chapter 7pm - Closed

Congratulations

New Grand Representatives:

Alberta – Tiffany Pronath - Wauwatosa
Delaware – Kevin Klinger - Wautoma
Minnesota – Rebecca Wussow – Eagle
Mississippi – Linda Christ – Trillium (extended)
Missouri – Jack Heady – Melody
Ontario – Kate Schoeder – Loyalty & Fond du Lac
Oregon – Charlene Wussow – Eagle River
Utah – Tara Schwening - Bristol

From General Grand Chapter

Hello Grand Secretaries,

You would not believe the number of new chapters under General Grand Chapter starting up in South America! We have almost exhausted the legacy paraphernalia items that Grand Chapters donated to GGC HQ over time. We could greatly use your help! If you have “gently used, in good repair” star-point paraphernalia and badges.... veils, plastic wheats, crowns, scepters, columns, cups, badges, cords in good shape...the small stuff that would be easy to ship, please consider donating them to GGC HQ. Please do not send Bibles, altar covers, pedestal covers, or real wheat. If you have any questions, please reach out. We greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for your help,

Yours in Service,

Kelly L. O'Malley

Right Worthy Grand Secretary Protem J
General Grand Chapter, OES
1618 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009
rwgsecretary@easternstar.org
(202) 667-4737



From the Grand Secretary

My May hours will be posted in the Blast. I have been busy getting the Secretary Packets ready for Grand Chapter as well as the Session Program. I thank all of those that got their reports into me on time. I would also like to thank my volunteers this past year, Janine Coley, Marcia Earl, and Maureen Wise. Thank you for helping with the newsletters and the mailings.

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 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



Wisconsin OES Foundation



Due to the generosity of our members, we have been able to meet our obligation to aid members experiencing misfortune. We have been able to give members a hand when they are facing financial difficulties and provide independence to keep members active and able to provide for their needs. Applications are available on the website (www.wioes.org).

Deadline for applications: June 1, 2025.

The next Foundation Meeting: June 13, 2025.

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.

(As of June 1, Ruthann Watts address will be 375 Sunset Dr. #3000, Dousman, WI. 53118)

ESTARL Committee

This year's ESTARL ornament is still available. The WGM still has some ornaments for sale. They will be available at Grand Chapter. We hope you will love the ornament and add it to your home. They sell for \$15.00 each.



Membership Committee

As winter's chill fades away and nature awakes, spring arrives like a breath of fresh air, bringing warmth, color, and new beginnings. The season of renewal is when flowers bloom, birds sing, and the world seems to come alive with possibilities. It is a season of transformation, reminding us that change can be beautiful, and that growth is always within reach. Let us continue to promote our order and reach out so we can "grow" our order.

Rosie Fiscus & Karen Larsen Co-Chairs

Worthy Matron Handbooks for Sale

Will your chapter have a first time Worthy Matron in the future or new line officers preparing for their turn in the east? 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 20 meetings are available for \$5. If you are interested contact Jan Winget, j.winget0432@att.net. We will have the inserts available at Grand Chapter near the silent auction.

Silent Auction at the Grand Chapter Session

Now that hibernation is over, it is time to get back at it. As soon as you know that you or your Chapter will be donating to the Silent Auction at Grand Chapter, please let me know at dk326@aol.com so that I can get the bid sheets ready. Please remember - if there is an alcoholic beverage involved let me know so that it can be marked properly. Also, no lottery tickets are allowed. I will BEE waiting to see your HONEY of a deal this year. Let us create quite the BUZZ at Grand Chapter.

Star Love,
Daylene Bain

Grand Chapter Used Formal Sale

Bring your formals to the racks close to the registration table. On your honor \$5 each. If you want your unsold formals back, please pick up before installation on Thursday AM. Proceeds will be going to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Bonnie Haugen, of Oregon Chapter will be the contact person this year.

Membership Committee Membership

Congratulations to the Chapters that initiated new members this past year. We did not get a lot of notifications, but I believe we initiated approximately thirty-four new members. Please invite your new members to attend Grand Chapter. If they cannot attend the entire session Tuesday night is a good night to attend (no cost) and Thursday AM Installation (no Charge).

Bring your bee hives to Grand Chapter, the WGM has asked that you deliver them to the arrangements committee. Remember to wear your Eastern Star clothing, buttons etc. while you are out and about. Be ready with an easy explanation of what we are, carry a pocket

petition and be an enthusiastic ambassador for our Order. Continue your membership efforts even if they are disappointing sometimes, you never know when you will reach a potential member.

If you have an Open Installation, invite the Masons and their wives, your friends, your church, and your social group. Thanks for all your efforts, we can provide the materials and ideas, but the members have to do the work.

Rosie & Karen

Thinking Outside the Box

Having troubles jumpstarting a discussion or getting members to think 'outside of the box?' You may find some of the following questions helpful in starting a discussion.

1. What is one thing our Chapter could do better?
2. What could our Chapter do to make every meeting more interesting?
3. How can you build up a member of your Chapter who is struggling?
4. Do you feel that you have freedom to float new ideas?
5. How do you tactfully refocus on a discussion when it to going off-rail?
6. Are you excited about going to Chapter every month? If not, what would have to change to make you feel that way?
7. Do we have a greater potential for growth my increasing new membership or increasing attendance of our current members?
8. Which is more valuable in a member, initiative or loyalty?
9. What produces the best results, spontaneity or preparedness?
10. Why did you join Eastern Star?
11. If you could break all the rules, which one would you start with?
12. How much of the Chapter notice do you read? What do you read/no read and why?
13. What is the most exciting Eastern Star event you have ever witnessed?

14. Have you seen better days? What was different?
15. How can the Chapter do a better job of recognizing members' efforts?
16. If you had to find a way to cut costs and improve the experience of being a member, what would you do?
17. What could we do to improve our working relationship with other fraternal groups?
18. How do you think outsiders view Eastern Star? How are we not improving, changing, or capitalizing on that perception?
19. Why do people leave the Order?
20. What activities can we spend less time on and still obtain acceptable results?

Message From the Webmaster

Send all updates to: wioeswebmt@gmail.com
Please designate one (1) person in your Chapter to send updates to the webmaster. Include your meeting nights each month along with the meeting time. Any other information that is pertinent as far as accessibility will be appreciated as well. Information received will be uploaded into our NEW format so that all members and visitors will be able to locate the needed information! The webmaster is also putting a link from our website to the Facebook page putting a link from our website to the Facebook page.

Supporting Our Youth

This is the time of year that Jobs Daughters are doing fundraisers and looking for financial support for their girls to attend several events. These are activities that encourage our youth to stay involved. If you do not have a Bethel in your area-you can still support those in the State. Please consider how important you can be to continuing Jobs Daughters in WI. The events coming up for their travel, hotel, and meal expenses are: Supreme Session in Phoenix Arizona: July 20-26th. Jamboree August 22-24.



Wine and Cheese Pairing

When: June 8TH from 2-4 pm

Where: Three Cellars in Menomonee Falls

PRE-EVENT TICKETS ARE \$35. TICKETS AT THE DOOR ARE \$40

Follow this link to purchase tickets online:

<https://threecellars.square.site/?location=11ea34a46b47d299a1470cc47a2aeaec>

Tickets can also be obtained from Jim Nelson, Jan Winget or Linda Schreier. This event is sponsored by SE Area Club and Triwaukee Club. The funds are used to support Youth Scholarships and Service Dogs.

“Our Guiding Light” Grand Family 2025-2026 Appointed Grand Officers

Marcia Earl (Grand Organist)

Wauwatosa Chapter, Brookfield

Inge Adams LaBelle Chapter, Mukwonago

Dawn Bergren Martha Chapter, Jefferson

SuAnn Gascoigne Bristol Chapter, Bristol

Kathy Lytle Kenosha Chapter, Kenosha

Valerie Nelson Ruth Chapter, La Crosse

James Schoville Dodgeville Chapter, Dodgeville

Paula Schwartz Kinnickinnic Chapter, River Falls

Paul Twardy (Grand Sentinel)

Starlight Chapter, Madison

In the Chapters Grand Representative Card Shower



Fond du Lac, Loyalty and Wautoma Chapters are holding a card shower to honor and celebrate our Grand Representatives!

Steve Labus-VA (just finished), David Elmer- DC
Karen Stauffer-PGM- Nova Scotia and PEI
Cards are to be sent by 5/9/25 in C/O Barb Foster, 56 Hillside Circle, Fond du lac, WI 54937



Shullsburg Chapter decorating Easter Eggs at their April meeting.



Alpha Chapter, Argyle was honored to have WGM Lori Williams with them for their April meeting and elections. She is holding King Bee Orville. They wore sports attire and had a fun game about sports facts.



On April 22, Union Grove Chapter provided and served the Community meal at the Union Grove Congregational Church



April 3 was the 97th birthday for Sister Beverly Laufenberg, member of Sparta Chapter. Bev is pictured with her are her daughters Joan, Amy, and Jane. Joan and Jane, twins, are also members of Sparta chapter



Members of Willow River Chapter New Richmond sponsored a "Meet and Greet" with the Masons from New Richmond and Star Prairie. It was to let the Masons know what Eastern Star is about. They had a short program talking about their chapter's history, the history of Eastern Star and about the Star Points. In addition to the Masons that came, they had two Star members that just moved up here from Texas. We had a theme of Flower Power and members of the chapter wore clothes from the 70's.



On April 9, AGP Alan Weir presented Kate Schroeder of Loyalty Chapter, Plymouth, and Fond du Lac Chapter, Fond du Lac with a Grand Representative appointment to Ontario.

Heart Pin



This is the pin the Heart Committee is selling for the price of \$10. All money sold in WI stays in Wisconsin ❤️ Terri Hundhausen, PGM, a member of the Heart Committee of the General Chapter.

Alzheimer's Pin



This is the pin that the Alzheimer's Committee is selling for the price of \$10. I have a supply! All money collected will stay in Wisconsin. Jane Blackwood, PGM, Grand Secretary, a member of the Alzheimer's Committee of General Grand Chapter.

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In Memoriam
Doris L. Schultz
Worthy Grand Matron 2016-2017



Doris Lynn (Sprecher) Schultz passed away peacefully on April 8, 2025, at the age of 78. She was born in Baraboo, WI on September 19, 1946, the beloved daughter of Roy and Virginia (Rehbein) Sprecher. Doris married Nick Schultz at Blackhawk Methodist Church on June 9, 1973, and together they had two beautiful daughters. Doris was raised in rural Sauk City, WI. She was a registered nurse at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital-Milwaukee campus and retired in 2010 after many years of dedicated service to her profession. Doris belonged to the Community United Methodist Church, Cedarburg.

Doris was very active in the Order of the Eastern Star, which she was initiated into on March 21, 1967, by Starlight Chapter, Madison, WI. After moving to Cedarburg, she became a dual member in Ozaukee Chapter, Port Washington and served as Worthy Matron in both chapters. In 2012 she was appointed Grand Esther for Winona Olson and Ray Radtke, elected to the North in 2013. Doris served as Worthy Grand Matron, along with Marvin Engelke as Worthy Grand Patron in the "Magic of the Stars" 2017 session. Doris was one of two WGM's that have signed their own 50-year membership card. Doris also had the honor of serving as a member of the Youth Committee of the General Grand Chapter 2021-2024. She also served on many Grand Chapter committees, including 5 or 6 arrangements.

Doris ended her session with the following poem:

As I leave the Grand East this afternoon,
And my work with you is done,
It fills my heart with happiness,
To have known you – everyone.
I appreciate sincerely,
Every kindly act and smile,
I'll remember all the good things,
That have made my years worthwhile.
So, Farewell and may God Bless You,
Friends in Eastern Star of Mine,
May his watchful care ever guide you,
And His Star above you shine.

Doris's memory will live on through her devoted daughters, Alyson and Nicole, and grandson Kegan White. She is further survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Nick Schultz and brother Paul Sprecher.

A memorial gathering will be held Friday, May 9, 2025, at Eernisse Funeral Home, 1167 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, with Eastern Star services at 6:45 pm. Doris will be laid to rest at Sunset Memory Garden, in Madison, WI. The Eernisse Funeral Home of Cedarburg is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.eernissefuneralhome.com



Trillium Chapter 208

Order of the Eastern Star

**Cordially invites you and your Escort to a
Luncheon and Party
Honoring**

Sister Judy Paust, Worthy Grand Matron

Sunday, July 13, 2025

**Waubee Lake Lodge
18398 Waubee Park Lane
Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138**

**Social Hour, Cash Bar: Noon
Meal at 1 PM
Cost: \$40.00**

**Special Entertainment: Don Marovich
Formerly with the Kingston Trio**

**Reservations with Remittance payable to Trillium Chapter OES #208
Non-refundable**

to:

**Mrs. Renee Campbell
409 S. Washington Street
Shawano, WI 54166**

check made out to Trillium Chapter OES #208

RSVP due by July 7, 2025

Name: _____ Titles: _____

Name: _____ Titles: _____

HOWDY PARTNERS!



WELCOME TO "OUR GUIDING LIGHT'S" PARTY
HONORING

ALAN WEIR, WGP

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2025

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

CEDARBURG CULTURAL CENTER

W62 N546 WASHINGTON AVE

CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN 53012

CHUCK HOUSE WILL START SERVING AT 12:00 PM

BUFFET INCLUDING BBQ CHICKEN

(COOKED IN THE PARKING LOT)

COWBOY BAKED BEANS, CREAM COLESLAW, MAYONNAISE

POTATO SALAD, FRUIT PLATE

COFFEE (REGULAR ONLY), MILK, TEA, BOTTLED WATER, CAKE.

WEAR YOUR BEST WESTERN WEAR

NAME & TITLE ALONG WITH CHECK FOR \$35.00 PER PERSON,

MADE OUT TO: OZAUKEE CHAPTER AND SENT TO

SHEILA BARBER W59 N432 HILGEN AVE, GRAFTON, WI 53012

*NAME & TITLE*_____

*NAME & TITLE*_____

It is Time to Renew



July 2025-June 2026

Electronic newsletter: Free

Paper (mailed) newsletter - \$25.00.

If you receive the newsletter via US Mail and would like to continue receiving it for the coming year, please renew your subscription by sending your name and \$25.00 (payable to WI Grand Chapter OES). If you have been receiving it by email (which is free) but would like to start getting it in paper copy, please remit your name, \$25.00 subscription fee, and a note that you want to change how you receive the newsletter. The form below is provided for your convenience to renew your subscription or begin subscribing to the printed version. Subscriptions end June 2025 edition.

To renew your subscription or start receiving a paper copy:

Complete the form and send with a check for \$25.00 payable to

Grand Chapter O.E.S. of WI

Mail to: Grand Chapter OES, 275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118-9349

Name: _____

PGM/PGP: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Renewal: _____

Message/Note: _____

Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron
4473 El Paso Road N
Bullhead City, AZ 86429
Email: cbbgo2427@outlook.com



Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron
Post Office Box 75
Glenview, Kentucky 40025
Email: michael.e.berry@outlook.com

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

Sisters, Brothers and Friends:

In recent weeks, there has been much discussion regarding the passage of Resolution 42 during the General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Unfortunately, there has also been misinformation spread about what changes the adoption of this new qualification for Eastern Star membership means for the relationship of our Order to the Masonic fraternity.

The delegates of the 51st Triennial Assembly overwhelmingly voted to expand our membership qualifications; it required a two-thirds majority to change our law, and this threshold was easily met. There was discussion, for and against, during the debate, but no attempt was made to amend or alter the course of the resolution prior to its passage. Our Constitution and Bylaws reserve only a few powers exclusively for the General Grand Chapter, allowing Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters to establish and enforce many of the laws pertaining to their own governance. However, one area where the General Grand Chapter has complete authority is granted in Article VII (d) of the Constitution: “It shall be the exclusive judge of the qualifications of its own members...” As a result, concurrence with any change in membership qualifications is not required or allowed on the jurisdictional or subordinate chapter level.

Prior to the adoption of this legislation in October 2024, those eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star included:

- Affiliated Master Masons in good standing and any female relatives who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption to Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death; as well as
- Members – either active for three (3) years or majority – in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or in the Job’s Daughters International, each of whom having attained the age of eighteen (18) years.

Resolution 42 added the following:

- Women sponsored by a sister and brother who are members of the Order

Please be aware that one important qualification did not change—any man wishing to join the Order of the Eastern Star must be a Master Mason in good standing. If a male petitioner is not a Master Mason, he cannot join Eastern Star. And if a male member of Eastern Star is suspended from his Lodge (whether for non-payment of dues or otherwise), then he is also automatically suspended from Eastern Star. In other words, membership in Freemasonry is a prerequisite for any man wishing to join Eastern Star.

The change that was made to the membership qualifications applies strictly to female petitioners for the

degrees in Eastern Star and adds only a category for sponsored membership. The gist of sponsored membership is that any woman who wants to join the Order of the Eastern Star and who does not meet the standard requirements for membership can nevertheless petition for membership if she presents with her petition two letters of recommendation, one of which is signed by a female member of the Order in good standing, and the other is signed by a male member of the Order in good standing. In other words, if a woman wants to join Eastern Star as a sponsored petitioner, she must first be vouched for by a Master Mason who is in good standing.

We understand the concern over the foregoing change, especially that it has eliminated the prerequisite Masonic connection for female petitioners. We ask those espousing this belief to remember that before sponsored membership was enacted, the connections between some of our petitioners and their Masonic relations were spotty at best. For example, a young woman who never or barely knew her grandfather but could prove that he was a Master Mason in good standing when he died was eligible to join Eastern Star—but the woman who has been a constant companion to her Master Mason boyfriend for decades could not.

In fact, we see sponsored membership as requiring a much stronger Masonic connection than Eastern Star previously required. While the young woman who never or barely knew her Master Mason grandfather, uncle or stepbrother is still eligible to join, a woman who wants to join but who is not related to a Master Mason must present a letter, signed by a living Master Mason in good standing, in which that Brother vouches for the woman's character. In our opinion, this demonstrates that not only does the Order of the Eastern Star remain deeply connected to Freemasonry, but no sponsored member may join without the express approval of a Mason. In other words, unlike a woman who can prove a direct relationship in her past, Master Masons in the present essentially have direct authority over which women are eligible to join.

There have also been well-meaning suggestions offered that permission to ignore this new membership qualification should be offered or even that the leadership of General Grand Chapter should declare the adopted resolution void due to potential actions that could be taken at the Grand Lodge level affecting Eastern Star within a Grand Jurisdiction. Our Most Worthy Grand Matron is the widow of a Past Grand Master, and as such we are aware of some of the differences between the authority enjoyed by a Grand Master of a Masonic jurisdiction and the authority that she has as the Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter. For example, her husband Bob, as the Grand Master of Arizona, had the authority to make a man a Freemason on sight. As the Most Worthy Grand Matron she does not have the authority to make someone a member of Eastern Star. As another example, Bob, as Grand Master of Arizona, had the authority to suspend an Arizona Masonic rule or statute that he felt undermined the purposes of Freemasonry. As the Most Worthy Grand Matron, she does not have the authority to suspend any of the Constitution, By-Laws, rules, and regulations of the General Grand Chapter of Eastern Star. So even though the Constitution states that "the Most Worthy Grand Matron is the highest Officer in the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star," she does not enjoy the same authorities as a Grand Master.

The directives and edicts issued or being contemplated in the various Masonic jurisdictions have had a major impact, as we have been inundated with calls, emails, and letters of concern from Eastern Star members both in North America and all around the world. Our hearts break for these Sisters and Brothers whose membership may be impacted because for many of our members, particularly those who are in the golden years of their lives, Eastern Star is one of their few opportunities for social interaction and camaraderie.

In closing, we want you to know that Eastern Star always has and always will honor its tradition of giving practical effect to one of the beneficent purposes of Freemasonry, which is to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Master Masons. We will also continue to share with our Masonic Brothers in promulgating the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As leaders of the General Grand Chapter, we respect the authority of those who govern the Masonic order in the various jurisdictions and stand willing to work with them to address the concerns being currently debated. What we do ask is that our communication as Eastern Star members be civil and held in appropriate places, not solely on social media and in public forums. As Most Worthy Grand Matron (whose husband was a Past Grand Master of Arizona) and Most Worthy Grand Patron (a proud Kentucky Master Mason for over 42 years), we believe that the principles of Freemasonry are integral to the continued success of Eastern Star. We will do everything in our power to honor that tradition through the remainder of our term of office while we serve our worldwide membership.

Sincerely.



Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron
Past Grand Matron of Arizona

Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron
Past Grand Patron of Kentucky

This letter is endorsed by:

M : W : Michael Dale
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Arizona, F. & A.M

M : W : Mitchell A. May
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A.M



GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE, CELEBRATIONS in DC

March 24, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It seems impossible that it is already 2025! The members of the Celebrations in DC Committee have been working diligently to provide you with events to commemorate the United States' 250th birthday in July 2026, and the General Grand Chapter's 150th anniversary in November 2026, two historical and extremely important times in our history. We are excited as we get closer to our celebrations in 2026. The goal of this Committee is to provide our members and their families and friends ways to enjoy, celebrate, and remember such milestones.

To recognize our nation's 250th birthday, a black tie event is scheduled for July 3, 2026 at the International Headquarters in Washington, DC. The night will be filled with delicious food, drinks, an auction, and amazing music. It will be a very special night. The cost is \$500.00 per person. This is open to all, but it is limited to a maximum of 200 people. All proceeds will benefit the Perry Belmont House Foundation, a portion of which is tax deductible to the purchaser.

For your convenience, we have reserved 40 hotel rooms at the Dupont Circle Hotel—very near the Headquarters. A flyer accompanies this letter to assist you in making your hotel reservations. Please be cognizant of the number of rooms available and appropriate deadlines for said hotel. Reservation information to attend the actual event will be coming to you no later than late summer, early fall.

More information on the November 13-15, 2026 event will be forthcoming closer to that date. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to me or any committee member. Contact information is below. Hope to see many of you in attendance.

Fraternally,
Kathy

Kathryn Newman (Kathy)— Chairman, 401-219-2839; katnew58@gmail.com
Beverly Gurner, bgurner@verizon.net
Wilma Thompson, 443-804-4142; wiljon12@comcast.net
Marcia L. Perry, 757-377-3434; Marcia.perry1979@gmail.com
Judy Chandler, 304-920-8099; Jbchan204@yahoo.com
Larry VonWeigel, 240-618-2243; lvonweigel@easternstar.org

Approved by:

Billie Bradfield, Most Worthy Grand Matron
Mike Berry, Most Worthy Grand Patron

United States 250th Birthday Celebration

July 3, 2026

Hotel Reservation Information

The Dupont Circle Hotel
1500 New Hampshire Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Rooms have been blocked for this special event.
Reservations can be made beginning
July 1, 2025.

DEADLINE to make a reservation is June 11,
2026. Please call 202-483-6000 and reference
"Order of the Eastern Star July 2026 Room
Block."

Don't delay as only 40 rooms are reserved!

Room rates are \$229 (plus any applicable fees
and taxes) for single & double occupancy. These
rates are only good for July 2 – 5, 2026.

Valet parking is \$55 per night.





We are writing to advise you of the creation of an exciting new committee in General Grand Chapter, **Historical Landmarks Committee**. It came into existence when legislation was enacted at the General Grand Chapter Assembly in Myrtle Beach. Our new committee replaces four previous committees and has different responsibilities.

The four historical landmarks of our Order are:

- **International Headquarters** in Washington, DC,
- **International Peace Garden Chapel** on the border between Manitoba and North Dakota,
- **Little Red School House** in Mississippi
- **Rob Morris Home** in Kentucky.

The Mission Statement we have created for our committee is "**To promote and raise awareness of our Historical Physical Landmarks while raising funds to ensure their successful sustainability**". To that end, throughout our term we will be providing our membership with information about our Landmarks, and we will be asking for your support in raising funds to assist in their maintenance.

We look forward to working together as a committee and to working with each of you our valued members. It is our hope that you will enjoy learning more about our Historical Landmarks, as well as ensure their continued viability

Fraternally,
your Historical Landmarks Committee

Chair: Scott Smissen

Co-Chair for International Headquarters: Anne Kellner

Co-Chair for International Peace Garden Chapel: Brenda Gaulke

Co-Chair for Little Red School House: Jane Boston

Co-Chair for Rob Morris Home: Susan Miller

Approved and endorsed by:

Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron

Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron

