

# Wisconsin OES Newsletter



**Worthy Grand Matron  
Judy Paust  
N9007 Caldron Falls Rd.  
Crivitz, WI 54114  
715-757-3722-H  
715-929-8008-C  
jkpaust@gmail.com**



## December 2025

### **Sisters and Brothers:**

*“During this Christmas season, may you be blessed*

*With the spirit of the season, which is peace,*

*The gladness of the season, which is hope,*

*And the heart of the season, which is love.”*

Can you believe November is gone and its now December! I hope all our Star brothers and sisters who are hunters were successful and were able to harvest a deer during Wisconsin’s hunting season. I also hope that none of you harvested a deer with your vehicle!

We hope you were able to spend time with your family and friends while you enjoyed your Thanksgiving Turkey dinner. We have so much to be thankful for and appreciate all the chapters are doing to support their local food pantries. Many chapters even did a dinner for those who would be alone. Keep up the good work!

December 7th will be the All-State Christmas Party in Wisconsin Rapid. Put on your favorite holiday sweater, top, vest, or tie, add your festive snowflake earrings or lighted holiday necklace and join us for a fun time. Our Grand Marshal Jim will be our auctioneer for our Tin Can Auction to raise money for Reach-a-Child. And don’t forget to bring a children’s book. Thank you, Sisters Cindy Ryan and Mary Borchardt. And thank you, sisters and brothers. WGP Alan and I are so appreciative and amazed at your support for Reach-a-Child.

Our Appointed Grand Officer parties are almost all completed. We look forward to celebrating with our Grand Organist Marcia, Grand Esther Dawn and Grand Electa Inga on February 14. Our final party will be March 14th for Brother Paul, our Grand Sentinel. It has been so enjoyable to honor our Appointed Grand Officers. And to watch them grow as a Grand Officer.

Congratulations to the Chapters who have initiated new members. And welcome to our new sisters and brothers. Several more initiations will be held in the coming months. Encourage our new sisters and brothers to visit and to attend events hosted by our Chapters and the area Clubs. They are times of fellowship and fun.

Mark March 28, 2026 on your calendars. This will be the date of the Tri State Exchange (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois) in which Wisconsin will be the host. It will be held in Green Bay at Comfort Suites Hotel and Conference Center/Rock Gardens at 1951 Bond Street. It will have a football theme – Lions! Packers! And Bears! O, My! It should be a fun time of fellowship with our sisters and brothers.

December has been designated as Cheer month. The Grand Officers and their escorts, and Santa, will be joining the Cheer Committee December 6 at Dousman. Sisters and Brothers, do something in your community to bring cheer this month. From ringing bells for the Salvation Army, donating to food pantries, and angel trees, and visiting shut-ins. Be a light!

“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an Educator.  
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a Scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an Economist.  
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an Entertainer.  
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.” Roy Lessin

Always remember you are unique like a snowflake and together we can make a difference and be a light to others.

Judy and Alan



#### **FROM THE Grand Secretary**

Sisters and Brothers, the 2024-2025 *Trust in the Lord* proceedings are ready for the **CHAPTER SECRETARIES**. I will **NOT** be at the All State Christmas party, however Sister Ruthann and Brother Ian will have them at the party. You or your representative can pick up your chapter's book at that time. There will be a signature sheet for you to sign so we know who took it for your chapter. If no one from your chapter is attending, once all are back in the office, I will mail to you. Thank you very much.

Also – the Grand Chapter office is **OUT** of **RED BOOKS AND RITUALS**. We do not plan to order another supply until after the start of the new year. If you can tentatively plan your need of one or both, can you send me a guesstimate so we can place a large order and save on printing. Thank you.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**DEADLINE for the January 2026 Newsletter will be: December 19, 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)

### 990N IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

There is a bit of confusion on trying to file your Chapter's 990N form. You need to be on the IRS website to file for free. Log onto [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and you want Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for small exempt organizations (990-N postcard) Thank you PGM Sister Rosie for this information.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

***Please remember to inform the membership committee when your chapter is hosting an initiation or has voted to reinstate a member. Thank you, Bridget Briski, [bbriski17@gmail](mailto:bbriski17@gmail.com) and make sure the Grand Secretary and Blast editor get your new member's email.***

***There are NEW membership brochures!! Contact the committee for your supply and then PLEASE, PLEASE TOSS OUT THE OLD BROCHURES.***

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### Necrology Reminder

Sister Joan Burr, Necrology Chair is reminding Chapter secretaries to send her information on any deaths of their members. Her email is [jfburr@charter.net](mailto:jfburr@charter.net). Thank you

### Wisconsin OES Foundation

Applications are available on the website ([www.wioes.org](http://www.wioes.org)). The next Foundation Meeting will be December 12, 2025. **Deadline for receipt of Applications is December 1, 2025.**

***PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MAILING APPLICATIONS and/or donations to the foundation: Mail to Grand Chapter Office, WISCONSIN OES FOUNDATION, 275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118. All foundation mail MUST indicate OES foundation.***

*A reminder for any donations to the OES Foundation, checks are to be made out to WI Eastern Star Foundation. The mailing address changed at the last meeting and any questions are to be directed to Alan Weir, Board President.*

### 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 is available for \$5.00. If interested contact Jan Winget, [j.winget0432@att.ent](mailto:j.winget0432@att.ent).

### Message From the Webmaster

Send all updates to: [wioeswebmt@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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### Mr. and Mrs. OES CLUB

The 77th Annual Meeting of Mr. and Mrs. OES was held on October 12, 2025 at Faro's in Fond du Lac. We voted to donate \$175 to the Worthy Grand Matron/Worthy Grand Patron project Reach a Child.

The first meeting was held in 1948. Members are sisters or brothers who have served in the East with their spouse. Our meetings are held the second Sunday in October at a location chosen

by the current year President. A brother serves as President and his wife serves as secretary/treasurer. Dues are \$5 each.

We invite all sisters and brothers who have served in the East with their spouse to our 78th Annual Meeting to be held October 11, 2026 at a place to be determined. We welcome all widows and widowers to join us. We are always looking for suggestions for a good restaurant with a private meeting room to eat lunch followed by the meeting.

If you have any suggestions for restaurants in your area, please contact Elaine Engelke at engelm@tds.net or text to 608-330-0472 (cell). If you have served in the East with your spouse, please consider joining us in 2026. Fraternaly, the Mr. and Mrs. OES Club

#### **Note about other Masonic Bodies**

Many organizations related to or affiliated with Masons are having fun events or open houses – check out their websites for more details. It encourages fun, fellowship, and communication between all of us.

#### **GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER PINS FOR SALE**



These are the pins for Heart and Alzheimer's. Both are selling for the price of \$10.00 each. All money sold in WI stays in Wisconsin ❤️ Please see Terri Hundhausen, PGM, a member of the Heart Committee or Jane Blackwood, PGM, a member of the Alzheimer's Committee for them.

#### **IMPORTANT: Starlight Chapter News!!**

Starlight Chapter has voted to move its first Wednesday meetings to Columbus Masonic Lodge, 318 N. Ludington St, Columbus while repairs are being conducted at the Madison location. A dispensation has been granted by the WGM. Meetings start at 7pm.

December 3, 2025 – Initiation

March 4, 2026 - Welcome back after break

Starlight has cancelled events planned for the second Wednesday meetings and will convene only to conduct Chapter business. Please join them at their temporary for one or all of the dates listed above.

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*Remember to 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).*

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#### **A REMINDER FOR THE ALL STATE CHRISTMAS PARTY AUCTION WHICH WILL FEATURE:**

A 50/50 Raffle; Bring-A-Book (Free Raffle Ticket With Donation) and Tin Can Raffle. (This is a wrapped, donated item of \$10 value or more *disguised* in a tin or decorated package of your choosing. **PLEASE DO NOT TELL THE AUCTIONEER WHAT IS IN THE PACKAGE JUST ESTIMATED DOLLAR VALUE**). Our guest Auctioneer is Jim Schoville!  
ALSO Cash or Check only- WE WILL NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACCEPT DEBIT OR CREDIT CARDS). **Contact Cindy Ryan, 262-617-9922 [Cindyryan\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Cindyryan_2000@yahoo.com), if you are bringing an auction item!**

## UNION GROVE PORK LOIN DINNER



Union Grove members have gotten TUCKERED OUT WITH TURKEY. We are switching to the other “white meat”. We will host our first Pork Loin Dinner on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 4 PM to 6:30 PM. The dinner, at a cost of \$15.00, includes pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, vegetables, salads and dessert. Dine in or carry out!

Reservations, while not required, are suggested. To make reservations call or text George Winget at 414-412-1837. Walk-ins will be served as available.

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVE NEWS!!**  
Congrats also to Mary Mock, Grand Representative to Louisiana



Very nice reception and fun evening at Alpha Chapter, Argyle celebrating Brother Ron Ingwell, Gr. Representative to New Hampshire.



Ruth Chapter celebrated with Sister Ruth Kielley GR to Illinois as her commission is finishing and her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday party!  
Congrats Ruth on both events.



### **OCCUPAWS shares holiday idea!!**

Please remember to continue saving your dollars with a serial number that starts with either “C” or “D.” Jim and Kris also have Kwik Trip gift cards, \$10, \$20 and \$25 and car wash cards, 5 car washes for \$35 - if you need some for Christmas, please let me know. The Service dog committee makes \$15 for each car wash card Thank you for supporting Service dogs.



**EXCITING INFO CONCERNING  
PAGO (Past Appointed Grand Officers)**

PAGO Pearls!

We are excited to announce the plans for a revitalized Past Appointed Grand Officers (PAGO) Association are moving forward. Our Worthy Grand Matron Judy has generously allowed us to invite you to a short meeting to be held at 8 p.m. in the banquet area immediately following the Monday night Our Guiding Light Kickoff banquet at Grand Chapter.

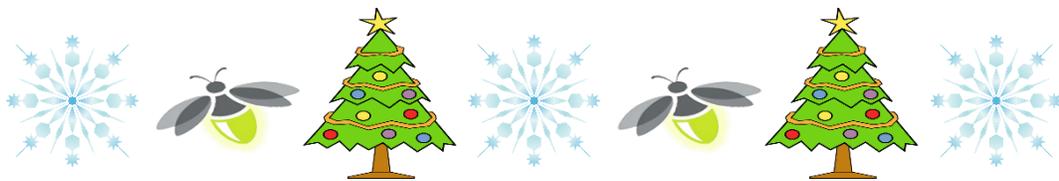
The purpose of this short meeting will be to register members and collect dues, to entertain motions to donate the monies raised, and to discuss PAGO participation requested for 2026-2027 Grand Chapter projects. We will be collecting dues of \$5 prior to and at the PAGO meeting.

Membership in PAGO Association is open to any Sister or Brother who has been an Appointed Grand Officer in Wisconsin or any other jurisdiction of OES.

We have exciting things planned and hope you want to participate. We'll be doing an album of our Grand Family pictures, our Grand Chapter reunion pictures, and our group pictures at Grand Officer parties. We'll be doing a PAGO newsletter to highlight PAGO individuals, activities and achievements. We'll include more PAGO items in the OES newsletter. We will be working with each year's Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron to continue to serve the needs of Grand Chapter. We'll be seeking ideas! We will be again joining the majority of OES Grand Chapters who have an active Past Appointed Grand Officer Association.

First step: If you are interested in membership and being in the loop for information, please send Elaine Engelke your email address at [engelm@tds.net](mailto:engelm@tds.net) or call her at 608-523-4134 or text at 608-330-0472.

Marianne Totsch, President, 262-888-2493  
Elaine Engelke, Sec./Treasurer, 608-330-0472



# ALL STATE CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 7, 2025

50/50 Raffle

Bring-A-Book  
(Free Raffle Ticket With Donation)

Tin Can Raffle – Please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10.00 or more to be auctioned off by our guest auctioneer, Jim Schoville.

Payment for any item must be cash or check only.

Contact Cindy Ryan - 262.617.9922, [cindyryan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cindyryan2000@yahoo.com) with question and if you are bringing a gift.





# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 2025**

**9 AM TO 1 PM**

**MASONIC CENTER  
815 OAK ST  
WISCONSIN DELLS**

**Great homemade cookies...\$7.00 per pound  
You can pick your own or we will have some  
packaged up ready for gift giving.**

Sponsored by  
Kilbourn Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star

All monies go to support our charities  
(heart, cancer, & local charities)  
& scholarship fund for area students!!!  
Have your picture taken with Santa!!





**DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SNOWFLAKE AT CHRISTMAS:**

At Christmas, snowflakes are a symbol of purity, peace, and renewal. They represent the end of the year, a time to reflect, forgive, and start fresh. The snowflake’s gentle fall from the sky mirrors the calm and comfort people feel when gathering with loved ones around the holidays. In many cultures, snow also represents heaven’s blessing, turning the ordinary world into something magical.

Snowflakes are often used in Christmas cards, ornaments and other festive decorations, creating a feeling of wonder and warmth even in the coldest months. Their shimmering lights capture both the beauty of winter and the deeper symbolism of Christmas.



Our little firefly doesn’t have a “true” connection to Christmas, however fireflies have several spiritual meanings and one is the Spiritual Awakening. This is a sudden appearance of a firefly’s glow that can feel like a wake-up call. In spiritual terms, this might signify an awakening—such as reflecting on the birth of Jesus Christ. Fireflies can be little catalysts for spiritual growth.

**On behalf of the “Our Guiding Light” Grand Family and Escorts**



Martha Chapter # 66 Jefferson  
LaBelle Chapter # 40 Mukwonago  
Wauwatosa Chapter # 219 Brookfield



*You are invited to join us for a luncheon and program  
Celebrating our Grand Officers:*

**Dawn Bergren Grand Esther**

**Inga Adams Grand Electa**

**Marcia Earl Grand Organist**

***February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026***

**The Venue** 2645 Main St. East Troy, WI 53120

Social 11am Buffet Lunch 12 noon

Cost \$30.00 (no refunds) R.S.V.P before January 28th

Make checks payable to Wauwatosa Chapter # 219

Send to Barbara Dunham 1245 N 123 St. Wauwatosa, WI 53226

*Nearby Hotel: Quality Inn & Suites 2921 O'Leary Lane, East Troy, WI Ph: 262-222-2361*

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Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_





***COME LET'S BUILD  
AND PLAY!***

**CELEBRATE PAUL  
TWARDY  
GRAND SENTINEL**

**PLAY TIME**

**Saturday, March 14, 2026  
Bowl-A-Vard  
2121 E. Springs Drive  
Madison WI 53704**

**11 am Social, Noon Light Lunch  
Followed by Program  
RSVP with Titles by February 22, 2026  
\$15/person Non-Refundable**

**Checks Payable to Starlight #283  
Mail to Beth Wroblewski  
223 Parador Place, Cottage Grove WI 53527  
Questions call or text: 608-334-1354**



Evelyn Menke, age 100 of Berlin (formally of Markesan) died on August 25, 2025 at Patriot Place Assisted Living Facility with her family by her side.

She entered the world on a snowy day December 9, 1924 in the township of Green Lake, Green Lake County on the family farm. She was the daughter of Edward and Margaret (Fenske) Luethe. She was baptized in Fairwater Lutheran Church on January 18, 1925.

On December 25, 1941 she was united in marriage to Harvey Frank Menke in the Markesan United Methodist Church. After 53 years of marriage he preceded her in death on June 29, 1995.

She was a loyal and active member of the Markesan United Methodist Church and after she moved to Berlin enjoyed the services at the Berlin United Methodist Church. She especially enjoyed being the liturgist and also was a Sunday School and Bible School teacher and belonged to the Women's group. She represented the church at the Annual Conference for many years.

She was a 65-year member of the Order of Eastern Star. She was appointed Grand Adah by PGM Roberta Limberg and PGP Douglas Nelson in 1967-1968 and was elected Associate Grand Conductress in 1975, serving as Worthy Grand Matron of Wisconsin in 1978-79 with PGP Norman Peters in the "Beyond the Blue Horizon" session. She served on many Grand Chapter Committees including many times on the Jurisprudence Committee and served as Advisor for the Hospitality Committee. Grand Chapter has lost a wealth of knowledge and wisdom, her grace and charm will be missed by all. She was an active member of Wautoma Chapter and Fond du Lac Chapter.

She was a hands-on farm wife, helping with whatever needed doing. She is survived by her five children; Bonnie (Leslie) Ripon/Mesa, AZ; Annette Menke, Oshkosh; Rosie (Dave) Fiscus Oregon WI; David (Patricia) Menke Oshkosh; and Karen (Ron) Davis Kingston; 11 Grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Harvey, daughter Sandra Kay, her sister, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and many other treasured friends and relatives.

Memorials may be sent to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in memory of her daughter, Sandy.

Visitation was held at Berlin United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 with an Eastern Star Service. The church service followed. She was buried next to her husband and daughter at the Markesan Memorial Cemetery.

