

# 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



## January 2026

### **Sisters and Brothers:**

*“May your New Year be filled with hope, joy, and fresh beginnings.”*

### **Sisters and Brothers:**

*Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. Dale and I took a few days and traveled to Ely, Minnesota to spend Christmas with our daughters and their family. It's not the gifts, it's being together!*

*It's hard to believe another year has gone and it's now 2026. Many of our Chapters are dark during January and February. Let's take the opportunity for fellowship with our Star Sisters and Brothers, other Chapters, our Masonic lodges, Jobie's and DeMolay. Plan a potluck, a game afternoon or evening, or even a movie night with popcorn. The important thing is to continue building bonds, one of the goals of Alan and I. Congratulations to our new sisters and brothers. Be sure to include them in any activities if your chapter is dark. Also help them to access the weekly Blast and this mailing. Keep in touch with them, and all your Chapter*

*members, by means of emails and phone calls while your Chapter is dark. Encourage your members to visit and to attend events hosted by our Chapters and the area Clubs. They are times of fellowship and fun.*

*Our Charity for January is the WGM and WGP project – Reach-a-Child. Our Committee of Sisters Cindy Ryan, Mary Bouchardt, Sue Shefchik and Cretia Heinz have been working hard. At the All-State Christmas Party in December, \$180 was raised on the 50/50 Raffle, over \$650 at the Tin Can Auction and almost 100 books were collected. That makes a total of 750 books so far! Thanks to all the members and chapters for supporting this Project. WGP Alan and I are so appreciative and amazed at your support for Reach-a-Child. Let's keep up the good work in January!*

*Our Grand Organist-Marcia Earl, Grand Esther-Dawn Bergren, and Grand Electa, Inge Adams will be honored at their party on February 14. Be sure to get your reservation in.*

Also, a reminder March 14, 2026 is Grand Sentinel Paul Twardy's party. Get your RSVP in for that also in February.

Another fun event will be happening March 28th as Wisconsin will be hosting the Tri-State Exchange (Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan) in Green Bay. The theme is: Lions, Packers, and Bears, Oh My! **And all who come are encouraged to wear their Football Team jersey/shirt.** The invitation is included in this mailing. It should be a fun time of fellowship with our sisters and brothers.

Alan and I are working on planning for "Our Guiding Light" Session in May. More details will be in the February and March mailings.

Please travel safely in the winter weather. And 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 have gone to individuals requesting a copy as well as all chapter secretaries. Thank you PGP Brother Ian and Sister Ruthann for taking to the Christmas party and distributing for me. The Grand Chapter office has 4 spiral bound and 4 hardbound extras if anyone is interested. They are \$44 each. Just send an email to [secretary.wioes@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.wioes@gmail.com) and I'll get whichever you want to you.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**DEADLINE for the February 2026 Newsletter will be: January 23, 2026.**

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)

**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.**



**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 March 13, 2026. **Deadline for receipt of Applications is March 2, 2026**

**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.

## 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.

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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**The All-State Christmas Party was a huge success and children will be helped by your generosity. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

OES Sisters and Brothers you have made the snowflakes dance and the fireflies fly high!!!! We raised \$180.00 on the 50/50 Raffle. The Auction was a lot of fun and made over \$650.00, We also collected 79 books, making a total of 750 so far!

Please remember to let Cindy Ryan cindyryan\_2000@yahoo.com or Mary Borckardt maryborckardt@gmail.com know the number of books you collect at your chapters. Watch for details to follow on our Fish picture which will be at Grand Chapter.

The WGM and WGP Project Committee

### **CHAPTER HAPPENINGS!!**



At Shullsburg Chapter's December meeting we honored Mary and Owen Demo. They generously donated \$500,000 to renovate the building the Grant County Humane Society bought in Platteville. They are currently located at the Lancaster Vet Clinic and the new building will allow them to have 62 cats and over 40 dogs and be able to take needy animals from throughout the area, not just Grant County. They will also be able to start a program for animals and students at UW Platteville. We are so proud of Sister Mary and Brother Owen's loving commitment to serving others.

### **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.

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**Remember there are a few chapters that do not recess in winter and have events going on – look in your roster book and confirm the meeting is still scheduled, but visit.**

\*Union Grove, Jan. 15 @ 7pm will be initiating



**OCCUPAWS sharing continues into the New Year**



Continue saving your "C" or "D" dollars. Jim and Kris also have Kwik Trip gift cards, \$10 - \$25 and car wash cards, 5 car washes for \$35. 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 making 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

**If you're looking for a fun adventure up north  
in January, look no further!!**



Time for the Annual Holiday Gathering of  
the Fabulous Four Chapters  
Join us on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
11:30 social time  
12:30 dinner

There will be wonderful things to “bid” on,  
fabulous cookies for snacking, lots of Sisters  
& Brothers to mingle and mix with, and of  
course.....good food.

We will be dining on a fantastic Pasta Bar  
with many choices including meats, sauces,  
salad and rolls.

RSVP to: Carl Gaulke  
221 Hamilton Drive, River Falls, 54022  
Or [brendagaulke59@gmail.com](mailto:brendagaulke59@gmail.com)

The cost: \$25.00 /person no refunds.  
Feel free to bring items for our raffle bag  
draw!



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

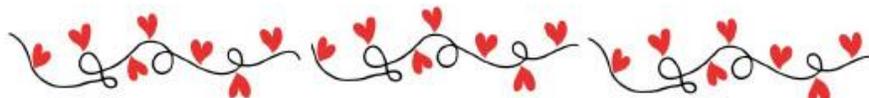
Send to Barbara Dunham 1245 N 123 St. Wauwatosa, WI 53226

*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**

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**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**

THE WISCONSIN ORDER OF EASTERN STAR  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE  
WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS TRI-STATE EXCHANGE:

***LIONS, PACKERS, AND BEARS, OH MY!***

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 28, 2026  
Social: 4:30 p.m. *Cash Bar available.*  
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.



**WHERE:** 1951 West Restaurant - Banquet Hall - Grand South  
1951 Bond Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

**MENU:** *The Lombardi Avenue Buffet*

Grilled Hamburgers, Sheboygan Beer Brats with Sauerkraut,  
Honey Mustard Chicken Breast  
Potato Salad, Chef's Pasta Salad, Coleslaw  
Fresh Fruit, Vegetables Crudites  
House Fried Potato Chips with Bleu Cheese Dip  
Rolls and Condiments  
Assorted Dessert Bars and Cookies  
Coffee/Iced Tea Station



**COST:** \$35 per person, including tax and tip. *Sorry no refunds.*



**Dress Code:** Casual. Football Team jersey/shirt in honor of the Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, or Chicago Bears is appreciated!

✂-----✂----- *Clip and Mail* -----✂-----✂

RSVP with name, title, and payment  
**no later than March 14, 2026, to:**

OES Tri-State Exchange  
c/o Connie Skarvan  
N3894 Orchard Lane  
Kewaunee, WI 54216  
920-388-4472

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

Name: .....

Title: .....



**Wisconsin Order of the Eastern Star Group Cruise  
7-Night Western Caribbean Cruise  
Royal Caribbean – Independence of the Seas  
February 14–21, 2027**

Set sail with fellow members of the Wisconsin Order of the Eastern Star for a week of fun, fellowship, and unforgettable adventure! Enjoy the exceptional entertainment, dining, and activities while exploring beautiful ports and relaxing at sea.

Hosted By:  
Linda & Moses

**Registration & Details**

Deposit: \$250 per person\*\*

Visit the link below for full trip details, pricing, and to reserve your cabin:

<https://www.hbtrips.com/GroupRegistrations/passengers/135596>

Pricing and availability are subject to change.

\*Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include all taxes and port fees.

Balconies: \$1452.01 Oceanview: \$1112.01 Inside: \$992.01

**inerary**

Miami → Nassau → Day at Sea → Georgetown → Falmouth → Labadee → Day at Sea →  
Miami

Don't miss this special journey!

Reconnect with friends, meet new ones, and enjoy a memorable OES travel experience.

Contact Heidi Behlke at 262-269-1522 or [heidi.behlke@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:heidi.behlke@cruiseplanners.com)



From Our Guiding Light Grand Family and Escorts  
To each of you!

