OHIO STATE DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2018

Good morning Sisters and Brothers and welcome to the “Stay Tuned” session of the 69th Annual meeting of the Ohio State District Officers Association. I am Roberta Evans, Past President of District 23 and youngest and best looking sister of our State President.

Sister Susie is a 32 yr. member of Jefferson Chapter #300. She has went through our Officer Line 7 different times as well as serving as Secretary, several Star Points, and pounding our music at the piano which she currently occupies. She is a Past Deputy Grand Matron, Past Grand Representative as well as past member of Grand Chapter Committees. Let’s put our hands together for our State President, Susie Mayer.

Thank You Roberta for being willing to open this 69th Annual Meeting of the State Association. You are my sister and well as my "Sister". Thank you again.

It is with a humble heart and much pleasure that I stand here and look out at such

a great group of Sisters and Brothers this morning. I am amazed that we come from all corners of this great state just be a part of this day and hear a few of the secrets for the coming year. My theme this year has been "Stay Tuned" and I hope the "ensemble" has managed stayed tuned this year with all the changes we have seen. I have asked Sister Pat Featheringham - Past District President of District 23 -to give our invocation.

Will you please bow your head?

Dear Heavenly Father, We ask Thy blessings upon this meeting that we may sense anew our responsibility as sisters and brother of our great Eastern Star Order. Give us inspiration to meet the needs of the future. Give us wisdom to make the right decisions, persistence to support them, and radiance that will win others to work with us. We are grateful for this opportunity to honor and thank those who will be leaving office; first for their dedication to the ideals of the Eastern Star, and second for the personal sacrifice made to bring these ideals to many others. Finally give wisdom, vision, and courage to those who will be our new leaders. We continue to pray for those members of our Armed Forces that are serving both home and abroad and ask for peace in our troubled world. Continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of you. We thank you for Your presence with us and for the bonds of friendship which will be strengthened. This we ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

The flag of our great country is a symbol of our freedom which allows us to meet here today. The tribute to our flag will be given by Sister Milly Beth New, also a Past President of District 23.

FLAG TRIBUTE

I was born and raised on a farm 20 miles east of Chillicothe, Ohio, and about five miles from the small community of Londonderry. Our home was full of love, laughter and music. I started playing the trumpet when I was in the fifth grade and continued throughout through high school.

Of all the events we played for, the most meaningful one to me was the Annual Memorial Day Program at the local community church. It was your typical white church setting in a grove of trees with an adjacent cemetery. We would all meet at the flag pole at the entrance to the cemetery. The band on one side and the community on the other side. The service started with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the band playing the National Anthem. As the band played all the appropriate military marches, the group went into the cemetery carrying flowers brought from their gardens, yards or wild flowers from the fields. Most were in glass Mason jars. By the time the band had finished, all the graves marked with the American Flag had fresh flowers on them. The group returned to the flag pole. The band on one side and the community on the other side. A silence fell across those gathered.

The only sound was that of the trumpet players crushing the gravel under their feet as they walked to the base of the flag pole forming three rows. With a nod from the band director, we started playing Rolling Taps. It was a sound that made the hair on the back of your neck stand straight, goosebumps run up your arms and cause grown men's eyes to fill with tears. I am certain that half of this group has experienced the playing of Taps at a military funeral service. But, how many know the story behind the song? Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field.

Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as Taps used in military funerals, was born.

*Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky. All is well. Safety rest. God is nigh.*

Please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Please be seated. Thank you Sister Milly Beth for wonderful tribute. When you mentioned to Larry that one of his emails was worthy of my flag tribute I asked you if you would be willing to adapt it and you very graciously said yes. I could not have imagined how perfect it would be for this day and these times.

I will have the pleasure of introducing most those seated at the head table in a moment but I can't do this job "A cappella" so my fellow officers need to be introduced. Diana Evans, Vice President, Susan Speck, Secretary and Lori Quinones, Treasurer. Thank you ladies for all your hard work and to Diana we can't wait to hear more from you later.

This organization of the Ohio State District Officer Association is not a "solo" act, it is more of a "round" and I would be remiss if I didn't introduce those who make up the Ensemble of the Grand Chapter of Ohio. Representing the General Grand Chapter is:

Ambassador to the Philippines, Vivian Chrisopolus and OES Journal, Jean Watters.

Past Grand Matrons: Marilyn Rowley, Jean Beck, Grand Secretary Emeritus, Marie Williams, Maxine Jeffers, Eloise Wyse, Carol Jones, Carolyn McCahan, Betty Dawn Hardman, Sandy Edminsten, JoAnn Hastings, Bonnie Youngblood, Jan Goer.

Barb Pelfrey, Grand Trustee, Gail Walsh, Grand Trustee, Susan Simpson, Evelyn Hardesty and Jr. Past Michelle Howell. Past Grand Patrons - Bruce Hansford, Ron Seigla, James Dale, Robert Palmer, Barry Metzger, Frank Clifton, Bruce Ailes, Ron Keller, Grand Trustee, Steve Moore, Grand Trustee, Bill Taylor and Jr. Past Bill Cox.

The 2018 Grand Officers have moved "Grazioso" thru their year and we would like to recognize those in attendance:

Assoc. Grand Matron. Kelly Cholodewitch. Assoc. Grand Patron, Dennis Lawson , Grand Conductress, Margi Wheeler, Assoc. Grand Conductress, Carol Gramm Wise, Grand Marshal, Brooke Anderson, Grand Adah, Jeni Casbar, Grand Ruth.

Brenda Sperber, Grand Martha, Marty Bardell, Grand Electa. Virginia Winget,

Grand Warder, Cindy Chadwell and Grand Sentinel. Chuck Merckle.

The "Chorus" of DGM's who do the work of the "Maestro "and today we have in attendance: Catherine Burnham, NE Team #1, Sharon Jake, NETeam #2, Brenda Momirovic, NE Team #3, Diana Franklin, NE Team #5, Roberta Ekleberry, NW Team #1, Karen Davis, NW Team #2, Darla Revenaugh, SE Team #1, Alice Means, SE Team #2, Jan Emge, SE Team #3, Jane Beattie, SE Team #4, Linda Whitesel, SW Team #1, Kathy Cooper, SW Team #2, Kim Stamper, SW Team #4, Amy Baker, SW Team #6

We have a "Harmony" of Grand Representatives who have chosen to be with us today: Linda Young, Alabama, Bonnie Tomko, Arizona, Theresa Bragg, Arkansas, Lisa Terkhorn, Bolivia, Celia Lawson, Colorado, Wilhelmina Tazalaar, Delaware, Willa Tomlin, Florida, Sandra McCollum, Idaho, Charlene Donner, Iowa, Brenda Boster, Maine, Edna Todd, Manitoba, Kathy Krol, Minnesota, Dianne Merckle, Montana, Karen Andrus, New Hampshire, Cheryl Moore, New Mexico, Suzanne Griffin, New York, Constance White, North Carolina, Joan Wedge, Oklahoma,

Virginia Konst, Pennsylvania, Hillary Cox, Puerto Rico, Tracie Evans, Rhode Island, Wanda Peternio, Sao Paulo, Ola Mosbacker, Saskatchewan, Crystal Dixon, Vermont, Barbara Gannon, Washington, Joan Sexton, West Virginia, Joan Robinson, Wisconsin.

Those who have served as President of this organization have been my “overture” as to what I should try to accomplish. Please help me welcome the Past State Presidents: Jane Smith, Peggy Heider, Sarah Platt, Kathy Meyer, LouAnn Kilgore, Merrie Lynee Haley, Brooke Anderson, Jeannette Roberts, Nancy McMillian, Barb Campbell, Carol Campbell, and Jr. Past Patti Askins. Thank you all who said yes when asked you make the “rhythm” of this position much easier. To Susan, Thank you for saying yes, without you keeping me “sharp” I couldn’t have done it.

May I have the Presidents of the District Association of Chapters please stand. Thank you all so much for being a part of the “Sonata”. You are the ones who keep our districts informed of what is happening with the Grand Chapter of Ohio. Please join me in thanking them for all they do for the districts and chapters.

I want to take the time to thank the members of my district, we are small group but we work in “sequence” with each other. I can’t begin to thank you for your support when I said I wanted to try this. Would District 17 please stand. This is our Region N and you all have become dear friends. You all are the sweet “serenade” in the music of my life. Thank you all for all of your support.

Now can I have the 2005 DGM’S stand please? You Angels always say yes when asked to help in any way. I love you all and I am sure JoAnn and Cliff are proud of us today and know our “Halo’s are straight. Now the rest of 2005 Grand Family please stand. You are the “Virtuoso” in my life. Thank You for the support and encouragement you have given me.

Let’s get the business meeting started!

 The minutes of the 2017 meeting of the State District Officers Association were in the President's packet and on the Grand Chapter Website as will. Are there any additions or corrections? Hearing none they stand approved as read.

Sister Secretary you will read the financial report.

Ohio State District Officers Association OES

Audit Report

11/13/16 – 11/1/17

Beginning Balance $7,954.13

Receipts

 Luncheon Reservations $11,539.50

 Additional Luncheon Reservations that day 196.00

 Coffee Service & Guest Meals from Dist. #8 909.30

 School Supply Donation & Sale of Fenton 440.00

 Entertainment Fund transferred from Savings 1,700.00

Total Receipts $14,784.80

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Disbursements

 Supplies, Printing & Postage $ 225.34

 Gr. Chapter – Labels $ 3.34

 Patti Askins – Printing & Postage $213.66

 Rita Follas - Paper & Supplies $ 8.34

 Villa Milano – Lunch 11,342.10

Luncheon Reservations Refunded 73.50

 Mary Sutherland $25.50

 Cheryl DuPriest $24.50

 Martha Muse $24.50

178 Wing Family – School Supply Donation 220.00

Rebecca Rozman 1192nd FRG – School

 Supply Donation 220.00

Swabb’s Inc. – Grand Chapter Entertainment 1,700.00

Total Disbursements $13,780.94

**Ending Balance $8,957.99**

Having heard the financial report if there is no objection it will be placed on file for audit.

We will now have the report of the audit committee by State Treasurer Lori Quinones.

 Audit Report:

**Balance: $8957.99**

 Entertainment Fund $1500.00

 Luncheon: $10,878.00

Total 12,378.00 **$21335.99**

Disbursements:

 Fee for new Checks: $41.60

 Luncheon Refund $73.50

TOTAL - $115.10

**Ending Balance: $21220.89**

 **Savings $643.27**

Audit Committee: Jane Calderhead; Marcia M. Frank; Judy A. Berry 8/4/18

It has been moved and seconded that we accept the Audit Report, all in favor… All opposed… Motion carried.

According to the By-Laws those entitled to vote are Presidents, current officers of each district, Past District Presidents, Charter members, Past State Presidents and Past State Secretaries. We will now have the roll call by our state Secretary. Page 5 of 25

 **ROLL CALL**

 DISTRICT VOTING NON-VOTING

 1 10 3

 2 12 7

 3 12 20

 4 10 13

 5 10 20

 6 6 2

 7 15 2

 8 7 4

 9 7 6

 10 16 5

 11 15 4

 12 16 8

 13 13 7

 14 6 3

 15 10 1

 16 10 3

 17 11 6

 18 10 6

 19 11 12

 20 9 1

 21 10 4

 22 12 12

 23 14 1

 24 8 1

 25 16 6

 26 4 1

 27 13 1

 28 4 1

TOTAL 297 160

MARJORITY IS 1 MORE THAN HALF. VOTES NEEDED TO ELECT IS 149.

We will now have our Memorial Service by Eileen Hatfield Past District President.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Lord, we your faithful servants, have come together today to honor You, the source of all wisdom, truth and love. We take this time to remember our departed sisters and brothers. Their deaths have caused us great sorrow. However, we take comfort in knowing they have experienced the gift of everlasting life and are now sharing eternity with you. The blue ray of our star represents the fidelity of Adah. Our sisters and brothers were also faithful to the Obligation of our Order. The yellow ray represents constancy. Through Ruth's example, they learned to be faithful to the demands of honor and justice. The white ray represents light, purity and joy. Esther's perilous adventure showed her the reward of a pure and upright life. Our sisters and brothers received the same reward because of their exemplary lives. The green ray is an emblem of nature's life and beauty. Martha's message taught them to only have the faith and they, too, would share life everlasting with our Lord. The red ray represents charity. Electra exemplified her love of God. Jesus showed us the greatest gift of all. He gave His life so we could share eternity with Him. Let us pray Loving God, we thank you for the time you gave us on earth with our sisters and brothers. We mourn their passing, but we take comfort in knowing they are with you, dear Lord. As we leave this place, encourage us to respond to your love with all our hearts with lives of service to You and the Order of the Eastern Star. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen

Thank you Sister Eileen for that beautiful memorial. When I thought of who I would like to do this today, your name was the first that popped into my head.

We will proceed with the Election of Officers. Those making any nominations, seconding any nomination and the Nominee should all be at the podium. That means there should be three people at the podium for each nomination.

The Ballot for the office of State President is now open.

Kristel Evans – I nominate Diana Evans, currently the State Vice President to be elected State President, seconded by Susie Mayer.

There being no other nomination for the office of State President, is there a motion to close the nominations? Having been moved and seconded all in favor say I, Opposed same sign. Motion carried.

There being one candidate for the office of State President, the nominative ballot will become the elective ballot. Sister Susan, you will declare the nominative.

State Secretary – I declare the nominative ballot to be the elective ballot of State President. Sister Diana, you have been elected State President for the ensuing year, do you accept?

Diana Evans – Yes, I accept the nomination.

The Ballot for the Office of State Vice President is now open. Are there any nominations?

Is there a motion to close the nominations? Having been moved and seconded all in favor say I, opposed same sign. Motion carried.

There being one candidate for the office of State Vice President, the nominative ballot will become the elective ballot. Sister Susan will you declare the nominative to be the elective ballot.

State Secretary – I declare the nominative ballot for State Vice President to become the elected ballot.

Sister Joan Wedge you have been elected State Vice President for the ensuing year. Will you accept?

Joan Wedge – I will.

The Ballot for State Secretary is now open. Are there any nominations?

Diana Evans – I place in nomination for State Secretary for the ensuing year Kristel Evans: seconded by .

There being no other nomination for the office of State Secretary, is there a motion to close the nominations? Having been moved and seconded all in favor say I, opposed same sign. Motion carried. There being one candidate for the office of State Secretary, the nominative ballot will become the elective ballot. Sister Susan, you will declare the nominative ballot become the elective ballot for the office of State Secretary.

State Secretary – I declare the nominative ballot to become the elected ballot.

Sister Kristel you have been elected State Vice President for the ensuing year, do you accept?

Kristel Evans - Yes, I accept.

The ballot for the office of State Treasurer is now open. Are there any nominations?

The State Treasurer was elected for three years, last year: therefore she has two more years to serve.

Sister Lori Quinones will you continue to serve as State Treasurer?

Lori Quinones – I will.

We will now here from our guests at the head table starting with the Grand Sentinel, Bro. Chuck Merckle

Madam President, Distinguished East, Honored Guests, sisters and brothers all, good morning. My 2018 Grand Sentinel year has gone by extremely fast. It's hard to believe that it is almost over. It has been a wonderful journey meeting so many loving and supportive Eastern Star members this year across the state of Ohio and even when my family and I attended the Grand Chapter Session in Montana.

I'm looking forward to hearing the plans of our Associate Grand Matron and Associate Grand Patron for the 2019 Grand Chapter year. Sister Kelly and Brother Dennis, I promise my complete support and wish for you a memorable, successful, and fulfilling year as you serve our Grand Chapter as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron.

Chuck Merckle

2018 Grand Sentinel

Brother Chuck, Thank you for your words. We will now hear from the Grand Warder Sister Cindy Chadwell.

I am very pleased to be here this afternoon with all of you, my Sisters and Brothers. It’s hard to believe that this year is almost over and we will all be at Grand Chapter in just a few weeks. It has gone very quickly, but I have certainly enjoyed traveling and meeting so many of you and renewing old acquaintances.

I first want to thank Grove City Chapter for all their love and support over the past ten months, but especially District 17. It is a huge commitment for a Grand Warder to make, no only for herself, but for her Chapter and her District. Once I got past my personal questions, I knew that District 17 would be fine to assist me in any way they could. Your support and presence at Cindy’s Bee T.E.A.M. has been overwhelming. I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

My best wishes to a marvelous “door knocker,” Chuck Merckle and his beautiful wife Dianne who will be joining Margi and Fred on a shorter journey than mine. John and I wish all of you the best and pray that each of you will enjoy good health and safe travels these next two years.

Finally, I am very excited to think about 2019 and the honor and privilege it will be for me to work closely with Kelly and Denny. I know that the great T.E.A.M. they are assembling for 2019 will be amazing and certainly a lot of fun. Both of you know that you can count on my support wherever and whenever it is needed.

In closing I would like to thank the State Association for all the courtesies that have been extended to me today. Thank you.

Cindy Chadwell

2019 Grand Warder

Thank you Cindy. I am looking forward to seeing you in your travels the next few years and in our Nice Region. May we now hear from our Associate Grand Conductress, Carol Gramm Wise.

Madame President, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Distinguished Guests, District Officers, Sisters and Brothers:

Good Morning!

It is a distinct honor for me to address Associate Grand Matron, Kelly and Associate Grand Patron, Denny on this very Special Day. After all this is Ohio's first official glimpse into the 2019 Grand Year!

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Kelly: You were Grand Warder and came to my Home Chapter my first year as Deputy Grand Matron. Susan Simpson was our Inspecting Grand Officer that year. It never once occurred to me that in just a few short years I would have the opportunity to stand before you in this large venue to wish you well on your upcoming year as Worthy Grand Matron!

Denny: Almost two years ago at Installation you walked behind me onto the Grand Floor. You were Grand Sentinel and I was Grand Warder. As I recall, we had far too much fun guarding the door together that year. Though I was frequently advised that time would pass quickly, and I sincerely believed every word, I never imagined that today would arrive so quickly!

Those days seem so recent, yet so far away, when we look back on all that has taken place in such a short span of time.

I count you both as good, *good* friends and wish for each of you a year filled with success, good times,

 safe travels, and matchless memories.

My *Very* Best To You Both! Carol Gramm Wise

Associate Grand Conductress, 2018

Thank you Carol. Let's hear what the Grand Conductress has to tell us today.

To our State District Officers Association President, Susie, Officers, Sisters and Brothers, I thank you for the invitation to be here today, for the courtesies shown me, and for the opportunity to speak.

This is always an exciting day, filled with anticipation and information. As District Officers, you are stars of our Ohio Eastern Star and I thank you for all you do for our Order.

I have so enjoyed this continued journey and the opportunity to spend time with my sisters and brothers throughout OHIO.

I look forward to 2019 and the fulfillment of plans made by our AGM Kelly and AGP Dennis.

Kelly and Dennis, may you be blessed with safe travels and good health. You haven't given any hints to your plans, but knowing the two of you, I feel certain you have been limitless and boundless in your planning to continue moving us forward in 2019. I pledge you my support and know it will be an exciting and wonderful year in 2019.

 Margie Wheeler

 Grand Conductress 2018

Thank you, Margi. I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming years. I have enjoyed talking with you whenever we have had the chance. We will now hear from the proud fraternal parents of our Associate Grand Patron and Associate Grand Matron. We will hear from the Jr. Past Grand Matron, Sister Michelle Howell and Jr. Past Grand Patron, Brother Bill Cox.

Before beginning my remarks this afternoon, l would like to take a moment on behalf of the Howell and Cornett families to sincerely thank our Eastern Star friends for your comforting words, cards, generosity, and prayers during a difficult summer.

Thank you, Madame President, for the invitation to be with you and the past and present District Officers of Ohio. Thank you for organizing today's event and for the dedication you have shown during your "Stay Turned" term.

Good afternoon, Sisters and Brothers. It is wonderful to be with our Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons, Grand Officers, and other Distinguished Guests as we "Stay Tuned" and wait in anxious anticipation to hear the plans AGM Sister Kelly and AGP Brother Denny have for the ensuing year of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

AGM Kelly and AGP Denny, you have been working on plans for your year together serving the members of the Grand Chapter of Ohio. The welfare of this Grand Chapter and the prosperity of our Order will be permanently affected by what you choose to do (and by what you choose not to do). That being said, before investing you with official authority, we would like to know your plans.

As the fraternal mother Dennis Lawson, I began our relationship by calling him "The Little Prince." That all changed after the entertainment at Grand Chapter 2017. From then on, he became "The Tambourine Man"!

And, as the famous ABBA lyrics state: "feel the beat of the tambourine. You *can* dance, you *can* jive, having the time of your life..." And, Denny, you did. I can only hope that ALL of you (Kelly, Mike, Denny, and Celia) WILL dance, jive, and have the time of your lives in 2019.

So without further ado, and (almost) in the words of legendary songwriter Bob Dylan: Heyl Mr. Tambourine man, tell your plans to me

We are sleepy but there's no place we are going to. Hey! Mr. Tambourine man, let your secrets free

In the Kalahari jungle, we'll come following you!

Sister Kelly and Brother Denny,

The most important things in life are the people you love, lead, and serve,

The places you travel together, and

stories you make along the way.

So may God continue to bless you, my friends1 and

May all your stories be unforgettable.

 Michelle Howell, PGM

Madam President, Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons, Sisters and Brothers all, Good Afternoon

For me this journey began 2014 in a little picnic shelter outside of Akron. It was there that I met Kelly for the first time, I'm not sure which one of us was the most nervous but I think it was me. Since then Kelly, Mike, and Hillary and I have become good friends. I have enjoyed her sense of humor and because of that I knew that we had to pick someone to be her partner who was serious to balance out the match. When Michelle asked if I had someone in mind to be our Grand Sentinel I asked if I could think about it for a day or two. I had met Denny and Celia on a trip that PGM Vivian Chrisopulos had put together in 2005. It was the memory of that trip that brought Denny's name to mind. After speaking to Michelle we decided to see if he might be interested and after a day he said yes. Which brings us to today.

William Cox, PGP

Thank you both for your support of your AGM Sister Kelly. It has been a pleasure to get to know you over the past few years Sister Susan and Brother Steve, you and Pam are dear friends and I enjoy our catch up dinners.

Now about that serious person, I guess I should have rethought that. But in my heart I think this is a great match.

I wish for you both safe travels and fair winds and enjoy the year it will be over before you know it and one you will never forget. Michele and I will always be there for you both.

I have a few items for Denny to remember today. First, someone took a picture of Denny at the Charities Extravaganza and had it mounted.

Next, everyone needs a change of clothes, so I have a do it yourself outfit. There is a bale of straw in the car and this coconut for your next outfit. Lastly just in case you need to be the entertainment at grand chapter next year your very own tambourine.

It is nice to see that the two of you could take time from your "retirement" and trapshooting schedules to be with us today. Bill, you and Hillery will always be dear friends as you are part of the Guardian Angels of 05 and Michelle you will always be a "Fayette Countian" no matter where you live!

Now may we hear from the WGM & WGP of 2015, Sister Susan and Brother Steve.

Kelly, we know you have been working very hard to make certain that all things are in place for 2019.

Today we all made the journey to Villa Milano for a couple of reasons:

To come together in friendship

To come together to celebrate future Ohio Grand Chapter plans

The 2015 Our Living Tree Grand Family is proud in the knowledge that the roots that you planted with us have been nurtured and are now grown to begin anew.

So dear fraternal daughter Kelly, I wish for you and Denny a year filled with memorable, safe travels and full of love and friendships.

God Bless.

 Well Kelly: Here we are anxious to hear a few of your plans for 2019.

Wow! It doesn’t seem so long ago that Susan and I asked you to be our Grand Warder and your adventure began.

It has been a pleasure to watch you have progressed through the line and now have reached this special day.

I know you have the support of your husband Mike, as well as your family and I just want you to know that you and Dennis have my complete support for the coming year.

Looking forward to a very special September.

Have safe travels and please don’t ever quit smiling!!!

Steve Moore

Past Grand Patron 2015

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May we have the report of election committee?

Head Teller Pam Moore.

There were 295 ballots cast, William Westover receiving 103; Joan Wedge 189; scattered votes 3.

Joan Wedge do you accept the position of State District Officers Association Vice President?

Joan Wedge: Yes I do.

I would like to have the State Officers join Past Grand Matron Sister Michelle Howell for the Installation of Officers.

Diana, I would like to congratulate you and the other officers on your installation. I wish for you a fantastic year with no dissonance or deceptive cadence. I have had the pleasure of wearing this pin and it is now your time to wear it with pride.

**Installation of State District Officers**

At this time, we will have the installation of State District Association Officers. If those officers would make their way to the head table, please:

2018 President Diana Evans

 Vice-President Joan Wedge

 Secretary Kristel Evans

 Treasurer Lori Quinones

2017 Jr Past President Susie Mayer (“Stay Tuned”)

Many of you may think I first came to know Diana Evans through my friendship with her daughter Janet. However, I remember meeting Diana some time before that, while traveling with PGM Barbara Pelfrey to inspect the books of a northwestern Chapter in 2013. It was an unforgettable afternoon.

**Diana Evans** has quite the OES resume:

* 44-year member and Past Matron of Bryant Chapter (District 7)
* Secretary of Bryan Chapter for 18 years
* District Charities Director
* Grand Representative of North Carolina in Ohio
* Deputy Grand Matron
* Chairman of Grand Chapter committees, including Payroll (when we had that committee)

She and her husband Richard (Dick) have been married more than 50 years and have children, grandchildren, and other family members who are active OES members and leaders. The Evans family is an important part of the Howell Family. As Diana puts it, “We are not related by blood-but by love”

I know the family well enough to tell you they are race car fans. About the closest I can get to that is to say I had a red HHR car that “raced” all over Ohio from 2009-2017. I also know that (perhaps to the delight of PGM Jean Watters) there are several different types of FLAGS used in the sport. These FLAGS relate track conditions and communicate important messages to the drivers. With that in mind, let’s begin the installation of Officers.

**RED/BLACK FLAG** is used in NASCAR. This flag signals the end of a practice or qualifying session, Sister

 Diana, as Vice President your “practice session” has come to an end today. We just reviewed your

 OES experience, and you are definitely qualified to lead our State Association into the future.

 The person who signals the race to begin-the starter-is also called the Grand Marshal. I know there

 is a very special Past Grand Marshal watching over you. In OES, red represents fervency and love

 Therefore, let this red race car remind you that to handle yourself, use your head; to handle others

 Use your heart.

 CONGRATUALTIONS, SISTER **PRESIDENT.**

**GREEN FLAG** indicates the state or re-start of a race and safe track conditions. It is appropriate to our

 Vice President JOAN WEDGE, who starts her journey today as an officer of the State District

 Officers Association. In Eastern Star, green represents a trustful faith. Let this green race car

 be a reminder of the trust and faith your Sister and Brothers have in your abilities.

**YELLOW FLAG** represents caution. As **Secretary** KRISTEL EVANS, you will need to be careful, thoughtful,

 and attentive as you assist the President. In our teachings, yellow represents constancy-a virtue

 required in this position. May this yellow race car be a constant reminder to be cautious in the

 exercise of the trust delegated to you by our members.

**BLUE FLAG** in car racing is shown to indicate a faster car is approaching from behind and trying to overtake

 you. As the term of the treasurer is for 3 years, Sister Lori Quinones must feel many “cars”

 approaching as you remain steady in the race. In our Ritual, blue also represents the sky when

 all clouds have vanished, which sounds like the perfect racing weather to me. Please accept this

 blue car in hope that all skies will be blue during your term.

**CHECKERED FLAG** is used to signal a session is completed and the race is officially finished. **Jr Past State**

 **Association President Susie Mayer,** you have finished the race, and this checkered race car will be

 A reminder of this day and you accomplishments.

My Sisters, may your troubles as small as these Hot Wheels cars, and may you always have gas to get things done.

And now…..

**LADIES! START YOUR ENGINES!**

Sister Susie Mayer:

Enjoy your time, it will accelerando as the year passes. Would you like to bring remarks to the members we have in attendance?

We will now hear from our new State District Officers Association President.

Michelle, I thank you for being our Installing Officer today. The roots of Our Living Tree is entwined with Unforgettable Stories and Memories. The Howell family is a very important part of the Evans family. We might not be related by blood, but by mutual respect and love for each other.

 Congratulations to Joan Wedge on your election as State Vice President and to Lori for your continuing service as State Treasurer.

To our Grand Conductress, Margi and Grand Sentinel, Chuck; the 2019 State Officers are looking forward to working with you to plan our meeting on August 14, 2019.

Kristel, after I was elected as Vice President of this Association, you asked me who was going to be your secretary. I said "well since Janet has passed away, I have given this a lot of thought." I wanted someone I could reach out and touch, bounce ideas off of and have computer knowledge, because you know I'm limited. So I guess I have picked you. You didn't say yes you didn't say no just what do I have to do. I thank you for always being there for this family of ours.

Our theme for the corning year will be "Racing for a Cure". As a charity director in 2017, we were asked to save "C" dollars for cancer. Thank you District 7 for embracing this project, as we are still saving our "C" dollars. I’m challenging each of you to bring on August 14, 2019 five (5) “C” dollars for a donation to the Charitable Foundation Cancer Project at the James. You may bring more if you wish, but if each of us brings just five “C” dollars we could collect a lot for this project.

I'm appointing the following to the Audit Committee: Becky Thatcher, Chairman, Jan Keller, Linda Young and Millie Holzer. You will please work with Lori for a time, place to audit the books, as soon as possible and have your report ready for the 2019 meeting.

2019 District Presidents please give to my Secretary Kristel your email addresses before you leave today. If you wish to contact me please put on the subject line "OES State Meeting". If Idon't know you I don't open my emails. If you don’t have email please give Kristel your mailing address. Will be sending everything by email next year to help save on postage.

To those in charge of their EOP meetings please send to me either by email or snail mail a copy of your invitation. I do plan on attending all EOP meetings.

Remember the date Wednesday, August 14,2019 at the Villa Milano; and your "C" dollars for

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May all the threads of your life be "golden" as they are woven into your Tapestry of Life.

Diana L. Evans, 2019 State President

 District Officers Association

I declare a recess for the Purpose of lunch. Sister Shirley Hall, PM of Circleville Chapter and PDP of District 23 will bring us our table grace.

A nice table grace was given by Sister Shirley Hall, PM of Circleville Chapter and a

PDP of District 23.

 I hope you all enjoyed the lunch. Please join me in thanking the staff of the Villa Milano for their service today. If you are still eating please take you time to finish but I would like to continue with the business meeting.

 I now declare the annual meeting reconvened.

It has been with much pleasure that I have gotten to know Kelly these last couple of years. I am privileged to be serving as State President this year while you are making your plans. Brother Dennis, I have just started to learn about you but I think if you and I were left to our own devises we could get into some trouble. I am excited to hear what you two have planned for the coming year, so it is now time to let you speak so you can tell us all your secrets for the coming year.

 Hello and Good Afternoon Sisters and Brothers,

Denny and I have been very busy planning for a exciting year for the membership of the state of Ohio in 2019. Today, we will begin to share with you some of our secret plans.

Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, you have been in this position and I am sure you remember your excitement of this important day. We are happy you are here and thank you for the guidance, words of encouragement and your continued support for our beautiful Order.

Thank You to the State District Association, our State President, Susie and her committee for hosting today’s luncheon and meeting. The meal was delicious, and we enjoyed the time we had to enjoy some fellowship with members here today that traveled from around the state. Sister Diana, we wish you luck as you start your year as State President. May your plans all fall into place and things go smoothly.

To the District President, thank you for stepping up and working hard to make the plans for our fall schools. With all the planning you have done, we thank you so much! Those Presidents in regions A, B, C, D, E & L, we thank you for the extra plans that needed to be made for the last school on December 1. It’s going to be a big day, but we’re sure it will be a wonderful day!

**DENNY:** I would also like to thank the State Association Officers and their committees for planning today and for the delicious lunch, especially the dessert. To the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons: thank you for your attendance today and for your support. Association Officers: thank you for your attendance too!!! And, to all those present, with all of you help and support, we together can make this a rewarding year of 2019.

**KELLY:** Fraternal Mom, Susan, I still find it hard to believe that you and Steve saw something in me that prompted you to ask me the “Big Question”. It has been almost 4 years since Jim guided me into that room in the Worthington Masonic building. There sat you, Steve, Pam and then Jim. I have come to know and love each of you and I can’t tell you how much your guidance and support these last 4 years has meant to me. I can only hope I fulfill the visions you had in me as I move into 2019.

**DENNY:** Jr. Past Grand Matron, Sister Michelle (Mom) and Jr. Past Patron Bill (Dad). I don’t know if you realized when you asked me in 2016 that what was about to happen was part of “Our Father’s Plan”, even if none of us knew that. But, here we are about to begin to fulfil that plan and your dream for Celia and I. Thank you for this humbling, but fantastic journey.

**KELLY:** Michael, we met 38 years ago and in a couple of weeks, will be married 35 years. We made the decision to take this journey to 2019 together, however, I don’t think you knew what all it entailed. I never can say it often enough, I love you. Thank you all that you do for me and for our family. The rest of my family, Mom & Aunt Janet, you have supported me from the beginning! Without all of you, I would not have made it through the last 4 years or make it through this next year!

**DENNY:** The most important people in my life are my family, led by my wife of 55 years, and for 62 years my partner. In fact, she is the reason I began my Masonic journey, along with our daughter, because of her love of Rainbow Girls, which led us to Eastern Star. Little did I know what lay ahead for me with my joining the Masonic Fraternity, but what a rewarding time it has been. Well, her we are and “away we go”!

**KELLLY;** Denny, at one point, we each had to keep big secrets from our Chapters. How about we now recognize our Chapters?

**DENNY:** Would the members of Cornelia Chapter and Medina Chapter please stand?

**KELLY:** Will the members of Region C that would be Districts 5 & 10, please stand and join our Chapters.

**DENNY:** And the members of Region B, which would be Districts 3 & 4, please stand and join our Chapters.

**KELLY:** Each and every one of you have been so faithful, supportive and loving to me, there are not enough words to express how grateful I am to you,

**DENNY:** Thank you is so very simple as a phrase, but it comes with the utmost sincerity and gratefulness to all of you

**KELLY:** Denny, how about we share some of our secrets for 2019? Our theme for 2019 is “Nature’s Life and Beauty”,

**DENNY:** Our emblem is a combination of our thoughts concerning “Nature’s Life and Beauty” and brought to life in this picture by Sister Cheryl Metzger. The sunset in the background came from a picture taken from our pier on Geneva Lake in Wisconsin. If you wonder why we go there, here is part of that beauty.

**KELLY:** In the transom of the window you will find a feather, dragonfly, a bee and a humming bird. All have a significant meaning to me. The feather’s symbolism is “Sent by God; & provides peace;” many of you know that the feather has repeatedly appeared in my path soon after saying yes to the big question that has led me on this journey. The dragonfly’s symbolism is “Change, & self-realization”; I certainly have had a lot of change in my life and have realized I really am capable of this fabulous opportunity in this awesome organization. The Bee represents my relationship to my fraternal mother, Susan Simpson and her “Our Living Tree” year. Without bees we wouldn’t have our beautiful nature, and we would not survive, as 1/3 of our global food supply is pollinated by bees. Finally, the hummingbird. My fraternal great, great grandmother Susan Dennis’ “Let Nature Sing” year included the Hummingbird. The spiritual meaning of hummingbirds is that angels choose hummingbirds to deliver messages to us. Even our loved one who have passed may choose a hummingbird to communicate with us to let us know that they are well, and they are still with us through thick and thin. I recently was watering flowers one evening and a hummingbird was flying all around the pot I was watering and nearly touched me several times. I truly feel that was my Dad saying hello and telling me he is well and he will always be by my side. I also feel a connection with our beloved Susan Dennis helping me through the next year.

**DENNY:**  The Deputy Grand Matrons will be holding their fall EOP, EOP #1 on the Sunday following Grand Chapter.

**KELLY:** The Educational Opportunities by the Grand Officers, EOP #2, will be held on the following dates:

 ^ Sat. Nov. 10 – EOp SE

 Regions I, J, K - Districts 24, 28, 15, 16, 25, 27

 Ross Pickaway Career Center

 ^ Fri. Nov.16 – EOp, SW

 Regions F, G, H – Districts 9. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

 Springfield Masonic Center

 ^ Sat. Nov. 17 – EOp Central

 Regions M, N - Districts 11, 12, 17, 23

 Northwest Masonic Center

 ^ Sat. Dec. 1 – EOp, NE & NW Combined

 Regions A, B, L, C, D, E – Districts 1,2,3,4,13,14,5,6,7,8,10,26

 Ashland Convocation Center

**DENNY**: The Deputy Grand Matrons will hold EOP #3 in January or February. The Line Grand Officers together with the Appointed Grand Officers and Deputy Grand Matrons will be visiting each District during January and February to educate and inspire our members and officers and to provide individual District Educational Opportunity. We encourage you to attend, as this gives members the chance to meet our Grand Line Officers in an informal setting.

**KELLY:** December 1 is going to be a very big day! Following EOP #6 for the NW & NE Regions of the state, we will be having our joint reception. It will be at the John C Meyer Convocational Center at Ashland University. We hope you will all attend.

**DENNY:** Our project for the OES Home is a new security system which will bring the remaining part of the facility up to date with the new system that was installed into the new neighborhoods.

* Currently, all the older doors must be manually locked and un-locked every day.
* This leaves the home vulnerable to human error.
* This also leave to inconsistencies – like “when” do you lock the door- at 5:00 even though residents may be out for the evening, at 7:00, but what staff member can walk around every night to make sure it happens, and what if they “forget”?

Once the doors are locked, you cannot get in – you must go the the neighborhood front door and ring the doorbell for a staff member to let you in.

**KELLY:**

* The new neighborhoods have a new security system that is controlled on a computer, so they can be programed to lock/unlock automatically.
* This also allows residents and family members to have electronic key fobs that allow them to "deactivate" the door lock to gain entrance 24 hours a day. All electronic key fobs are individually programmed so they know who has access and the computer system can be checked to see when/where/who uses them on what door!
* The Home is at the point where the entire campus needs to be secured with the same system that has been installed in the neighborhoods.
* They have purchased security cameras for some areas but would like to purchase more {as part of this project).

In summary, the home has great security systems on *part* of the campus and they would like to secure the *entire* campus! There are a LOT of doors!!!!

 Mark your calendars for the Charities Extravaganza which will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the Gallagher Center in Mount Vernon. Our State Charities Directors Richard and Barb Metzler are full of great ideas and I promise you, it will be a fun day!

 **DENNY:** We will continue to support the Scottish Rite Charities Learning Centers for Dyslexia, DeMolay, Jobs Daughters and Rainbow for Girls youth organizations with encouragement of participation by adults to serve as board members. Are you aware that many of our youth organizations that don’t survive are because of the lack of adult participation? As seen on the slide, we will hope you continue to support our normal charities as well. We are after all an organization of charity and service.

The 2019 District Charities Breakdown is as follows:

 25% Children’s Dyslexia Center 10% ESTRAL 25% Youth 10% Heart 10% Educational Fund 10% OES Home 10% Cancer

**KELLY:** One of our goals for 2019 is to hope that our charitable purposes will be recognized beyond our Order. When I explained my crazy idea of somehow selling trees for charity, Richard and Barbara Metzler took the idea and ran with it! Our Charities Directors will be selling trees this year and we are going to plant trees all over Ohio!! Stay tuned for more information after our Charities Director meeting in October!

We will continue the same concept as the AREME Projects from last year, however, we will be calling them The Emerald Projects. We are challenging every chapter and every District and/or Region to work together and plant flowers or trees in your local parks, villages, state parks or zoos. Create a way to show that it is from your chapter, district or region of the Order of the Eastern Star. At home, in Tiffin, different groups adopt a large container of flowers on the downtown streets and plant flowers. They are responsible for caring for and watering them throughout the summer. They are clearly marked with the organization's name. It's a great, as well as beautiful way, to get our name out in the public.

**DENNY:** Chapter Excellence. Kelly and I plan to continue the Chapter Excellence Program for 2019. Together with the Membership and Public Relations committee Grand Chapter has been awarding sounding blocks since 2013. We encourage each member of each Chapter to look at how you may be able to better involve membership. We also want to know, each and every submission is read and checked by 3 separate people and then the totals are tallied to determine who will have a gold or a silver certificate. If you are wondering how some get gold and other get silver, this is how it works. If you only submit the minimum required “at least 3’ items for each of the 4 categories, you will be eligible to be considered for a “silver”. Your chapter is excelling. The past two years, the chapters earning the gold plates successfully completed on average of five or more activities in each section. Many did a great deal more.

During the first five years of the program (not including this year), we have awarded115 walnut sound blocks, and 46 acrylic sound blocks. A total of 139 chapters have participated in the program at least once (including the six new applications received this year)

We will continue to support the Ritual Competition that is held annually at Grand Chapter. This give individuals an opportunity to demonstrate their outstanding ritual work and be rewarded. (PGP, Ken Scott will continue to supervise the competition.)

 **KELLY:** The Grand Officers will be doing the complete Ritualistic work. This will be held early on in the Inspection Calendar and we are hopeful the WM/WP and officers of subordinate Chapters will take this opportunity to have their corp of officers attend.

DENNY: Mega Michigan Tour featuring Frankenmuth, Mackinac Island, Soo Locks and Castle Farms with Lunch at the Grand Hotel! Will be our trip this next year.

Package Includes:

* Motorcoach Transportation departing Cincinnati, Columbus and Richfield
* Four night of rooms the Breakers Resort (same property all four nights). – you can see Mackinac Island from this beachfront property. Four breakfasts at the resort
* Mackinac Island – Ferry to and from the hotel, Horse-Drawn Carriage Tour, lunch at the Grand Hotel plus an afternoon to enjoy Mackinac Island – you can rent a bike and ride around the island, watch some fudge being made or explore the “nooks and crannies” of this island.
* Charlevoix – Guided driving tours of Charlevoix and the mushroom houses (a must see in this area), guided tour of castle Farms with dinner in the castle, time in the quaint city of Charlevoix and Friske Orchards…a family-owned fruit orchard growing apples, cherries, peaches, apricots ,nectarines and strawberries
* Soo Locks Luncheon Cruise – This top 5 Michigan attraction has been offering cruises through the Soo Locks since 1934.

* Frankenmuth – Michigan’s Little Bavaria with a stop at Bronner’s Christmas Store and one of their famous chicken dinners.
* Nin total meals – including the Grand Hotel, Frankenmuth luncheon, dinner inside a castle (a royal treat), luncheon in Flint and the luncheon cruise.
* Taxes and tips for all inclusions:

$929 per person (double) $1219 single / $835 per person (triple)/ $789 per person (quad)

Brochures are available today!

**KELLY:** How many here were present in 2017 when PGM Evelyn Hardesty held the Secretary & Treasurer Appreciation Day? Did you enjoy it? Sr. Evelyn has graciously agreed to present another day for secretaries and treasurers. It will be held on March 2 at the Gallagher Center in Mt. Vernon. Now, this is for ALL secretaries and treasurers in the state. Don't think if you came 3 years ago that it isn't necessary to attend again. I personally know an "old" dog can learn new tricks! I'm sure Sister Evelyn will have some tricks up her sleeve! Please plan to attend and learn and enjoy fellowship.

**DENNY:** We are excited to announce that our General Grand Chapter Committee Member for Membership, PGM Carol Jones and GGCM for Service Dogs, PGP Trevor Sproul will be combining their programs at Membership Conference on March 29-31, 2019 at the Learning Center in Canton. We are confident that this will be a very fun, and insightful conference with brilliant new ideas for membership and we hope you will plan to attend.

**KELLY:** Denny, Mike and I were very excited when Michelle and Bill matched us to be together. We have enjoyed sharing, laughing and making plans for our 2019. In doing all the work, we have quickly become friends that will go forever into the future. Thank you for being a true partner! Love you and Celia.

DENNY: So, friends today we all know the historical roots of our Ohio Eastern Star 130 years of growth are based in deep Masonic traditions. It is from this foundation that the past becomes our future. The growth from the fruits of our labors will blossom so we may continue to grow, to serve our God and our members.

**KELLY:** Please join us for Installation on Sunday September 30th at Kalahari, as we begin to celebrate Nature's Life and Beauty.

Never pass up an opportunity to enjoy nature's beauty-it is the handwriting of God. Thank you all! Have safe travels home.

I want to thank you all for coming. Your attendance is a "counterpoint" to the "Finale" of my year. It will now be time for the Fermata in my travels. I thank you all for the donations for the Dyslexia centers. I know it will all be greatly appreciated. The centerpieces can be yours for a donation, please see the ladies at the registration tables and they will gladly accept your donation. I want to also thank you all for your confidence in electing me State President. It was a great privilege and I am humbly grateful.

After the benediction each of the Grand Line Officers will meet with their District Officers. Kelly and Dennis will be up on the 3rd. tier to my left with the Presidents, Margi and Chuck will be on the main floor to my right with the Vice Presidents, Carol will meet with the District Secretaries in the rear of the room to my right and Cindy will be in the rear of the room to my left with the District Treasurers.

We will now have the benediction by Carley Hatfield, a PM of Waverly Chapter #99.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for your presence with us this day. As we come to the end of our time together, our work here complete, bless each person who took the time to assemble here today.

Bless the newly installed officers of the State Association and may their work be pleasing in your sight. We thank you the gifts of fellowship, and mutual respect we have shared with members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

For these and all other graces, we are truly thankful.

Heavenly Father, as you have blessed our coming together, we now ask that you bless our departure and journeys homeward. Amen

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