

Ideas from 2016 Chapter Excellence Reports:

Charity and Service

Morning Light Chapter #809 (District 2) had a 12-can challenge to benefit the Warren Family Mission. All members encouraged to bring in 12 cans or boxes of food.

Several chapters, including Billow #483 (District 2), have a benevolence Fund to benefit members in need. To avoid embarrassment, a committee is authorized to handle the donation so that the name of the recipient is not publicized in chapter.

Palmy Chapter #114 (District 2) supports Miss Liberty House, a home for Homeless Women Veterans in Ravenna, with monetary gifts and toiletry items. The chapter also made a five-year pledge to the Alzheimer Unit at Western Reserve Masonic Home.

Members of Falls Chapter #245 (District 2), Triune Chapter #344 (District 6), and Legacy Chapter #551 (District 13) all volunteered to be Salvation Army bell ringers in their respective communities during the holiday season. Triune reported that donations increased when they serenaded shoppers with Christmas carols!

The River Chapter #517 (District 3) sponsored a project to purchase various types of trees through the Arbor Day Foundation. Members purchased 80 trees, including 55 that were donated and delivered to the Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina and the Ohio Eastern Star Home in Mount Vernon.

Western Reserve Chapter #71 (District 3) served dinner to 100 residents and family members at the Ronald MacDonald House in Cleveland.

Garfield Chapter #324 (District 4) hosted an afternoon tea party, featuring halloween crafts, cider and donuts, for residents of the Western Reserve Masonic Community.

Medina Chapter #266 (District 4) joined with Medina Lodge to sponsor a Little League ball team, and hosted an opening day tailgate party and end-of-the year celebration picnic for the players and their parents.

Greenwood Chapter #159 (District 6) held several craft sessions in the homes of members to assemble and tie 15 fleece blankets for Project Linus.

Carroll Chapter #315 (District 13) sponsored a Rock-a-thon, raising \$897 for Grand Chapter Charities.

Louisville Chapter #400 (District 13) donated 33 pairs of new gym shoes and assorted boys and girls clothing items to East Canton Elementary School.

Guernsey Chapter #211 (District 15) launched a 1000 books campaign to benefit a small school in southern Ohio that didn't have a budget for its library. It soon grew to nearly 5,000 books donated by members, friends, and sisters and brothers around the state.

Social Activities and Fellowship

Three members of Covered Bridge Chapter #591 (District 1) formed a vocal trio called "The Bridgettes" to entertain sisters and brothers at a holiday meeting.

Ann Rutledge Chapter #453 (District 3) sponsored a buss trip to Amish country, including visits to a winery, cheese shop and Christmas Store, and dinner at Der Dutchman.

Members of New Hope Chapter #590 (District 3) have the annual tradition of attending a performance at the Huntington Playhouse. Guests are also invited. The chapter also has a monthly "Lunch Bunch" on the 3rd Thursday of each month at various restaurants.

Shreve Chapter #496 (District 4) used an apron theme for their Friendship Night activity. Shreve members and their guests from Ashland Chapter brought and wore aprons and were asked to relay a memory about their apron. Even the guys wore aprons!

Legacy Chapter #596 (District 13) works with Hoover Lodge and Bethel #31 to plan and attend two annual "Tri-Body" events -- a picnic and a Christmas party -- for members and families of the three organizations that meet at the North Canton Masonic Temple.

Englewood Chapter #563 (District 19) held their Friendship Night on a non-meeting night. They invited Farmersville Chapter to a "Friendship Carnival" of carnival games (i.e. ball toss, duck pond) and food (hot dogs, snow cones, cotton candy).

Dorcas #277 and Hoffner #286 (District 20) attended church services together and then went to the Masonic building for lunch and an afternoon of games.

Amelia Chapter #338 (District 22), along with the two lodges that meet in their building and Amelia Rainbow Assembly held a joint picnic/cookout. The Masons brought meat for the grill; OES members brought side dishes; and Rainbow members brought desserts.

Ritual Quality and Officer Excellence

Cardinal Chapter #140 (District 20) presented a Certificate for Ritualistic Excellence to an officer for Word Perfect Initiatory Work.

The Worthy Matron-elect of Hoffner Chapter #286 created a list of her plans and schedule for her term and shared them with chapter members at the summer picnic so they could review and prepare for the coming year.

The Worthy Matron of Hillsboro Chapter #441 (District 21) presented educational moments during chapter meetings, explaining lesser known information about OES stories and traditions.

The Worthy Matron-elect of Lebanon Chapter #343 hosted a picnic at her home for all chapter members, to introduce them to the new officers for the coming year.

The Worthy Matron of Russellville Chapter #461 (District 22 and a PGM) offered some kind of instruction before each meeting. One time, she set the chapter room up incorrectly, and officers were asked to point out where she had made a mistake.

Membership and Public Relations

Ravenna Chapter #46 (District 2) sponsors an annual Gospel Concert and Dinner at the Masonic Complex, that is open to the public

Fall Chapter #245 (District 2) joins with Stow Lodge and Star Lodge to co-host a pre- New Year's Eve Mocktail Party at the Temple as a Friendship Night for non-members and families.

Orion Chapter #12 (District 2) joins with Orion Lodge #353 to sponsor seven Pancake Breakfast fundraisers during the year. "You Can Be A Star" brochures are available to inform non-members attending the breakfast.

Brecksville Chapter #537 (District 3) had a surprise visitor at one of its meetings, as a result of its chapter page on the Grand Chapter web site. Sister Elizabeth Smith, past Grand Officer of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland and her husband were visiting in the area and checked the Grand Chapter web page to see if any OES chapters in NE Ohio were meeting. They found Brecksville and contacted the chapter web master for information, and showed up for a June pot luck dinner and meeting.

Windermere Chapter #388 (District 3) sponsors an annual Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast that is open to the public. Invitations are also sent to all Masonic bodies in the building.

Fostoria Chapter #94 (District 5) hosted a benefit at the local McDonald's. Members greeted guests, carried trays, and cleaned tables in exchange for a portion of the sales. Flyers advertising the event featured information about the chapter's various charitable projects.

Tiffin Chapter #189 (District 5) developed a Christmas card with photos of various chapter activities and sent it to all members, along with an invite to come out to chapter.

Carroll Chapter #315 (District 13) created Certificates of Appreciation for all members who joined before 1950 (there were 16) and sent them a photo of current officers, a program, and a letter from the Worthy Matron.

East Palestine Chapter #381 (District 13) held a "Golden Treasure" luncheon for all 50+year members, where new members of the "Golden Treasure" group received their pins.

Laura Chapter #264 (District 16) and Malta Lodge open the Masonic temple for Trick or Treat each Halloween. Information about Masonry and Eastern Star is shared, and hot dogs, sloppy joes, cider and donuts are served to "beggars" and their families for donations. Bags of candy are distributed to the children.

Goshen Chapter #382 (District 22) held a pot-luck dinner prior to the initiation of four new members, to give them a chance to get to meet members prior to the degree ceremony.

Russellville Chapter #461 (District 22) had a joint awards dinner with Russellville Masonic Lodge. The village mayor and council members were invited. Membership pins and service awards were presented. the chapter and lodge also publish a by-monthly newsletter with OES news on one side and lodge new on the other. The cost is shared by both organizations.

Jefferson Chapter #30 (District 23) sponsored a Patriotic Bike Decorating Contest in conjunction with the 4th of July parade in Jeffersonville. Kids 14 and under were invited to participate, and a \$20 prize was given to the winner.