

Ideas from 2017 Chapter Excellence Reports:

Charity and Service

Orion Chapter #12 (District 1) and Orion Lodge collaborate to provide a safe **Halloween** experience for children in the surrounding area. Hot dogs, hot chocolate and candy were offered to ghosts and goblins of all sizes, at no charge. A “tip jar” attracted donations of \$88 for Special Olympics.

Palmy Chapter #114 (District 2) provides \$200 “start-up kits” for high school students entering the county’s **vocational school**. This past year, funding was provided for four students and the awards were presented at the high school awards ceremony.

Brecksville Chapter #537 (District 3), made “**twiddle muffs**” for residents of the Ohio Eastern Star Home. The knitted or crocheted muffs are embellished with a variety of tactile objects that help persons with memory issues keep their hands and fingers busy and warm.

Home City Chapter #258 (District 18) makes “**Fidget Quilts**” for persons with dementia or Alzheimer’s. The quilts are donated to the Eastern Star and Masonic Homes.

Guernsey Chapter #211 and District 15 collected nearly 5,000 new or gently used books for local elementary schools and the Scottish Rite Children’s Learning Center.

Freeport Chapter #319 (District 14) raised \$2,000 at a **Cystic Fibrosis benefit dinner** in honor of the daughter of a member.

Several chapters have “**adopted**” residents of the Ohio Eastern Star Home and Masonic Home, and treat them with cards, gifts and visits.

Medina Chapter #266 teamed up with Medina Lodge to sponsor a **Little League baseball team**. They provided funds for uniforms and equipment. The chapter and lodge also hosted an opening day tailgate party and an end-of-the-season celebration banquet for the players and their families.

Shreve Chapter #496 (District 4) sponsored a **t-shirt, socks and underwear drive** for the Christian Children’s Home of Ohio in Wooster.

Several chapters around the state are involved with Project Linus, making no-sew fleece blankets for children in need.

Triune Chapter #344 (District 6) held a **diaper drive** to benefit needy families, in memory of the infant son of a Triune member. The disposable diapers and baby wipes were delivered to the Otsego Food Pantry.

Spencerville Chapter #130 (District 8) collaborates with the Spencerville Masons to provide a spaghetti dinner at the Temple for **high school football players** and cheerleaders before their home games.

Stokes Chapter #543 (District 9) and Stokes Lodge provided a Memorial Day **breakfast for the Boy Scouts and 4-H members** who were decorating the graves at Glen Cemetery with flags. The youth were invited back to the building for cookies and milk.

East Palestine #381 (District 13) has a **Sharing & Caring Fund** for members in need. They gave Walmart and restaurant gift cards to some Sisters and Brothers at Christmas time, and also extended financial assistance to a Sister whose husband was hospitalized.

Active members of Louisville Chapter #400 (District 13) select the name of a member who is homebound and remember them with cards, gifts and visits throughout the year.

Woodsfield Chapter #268 (District 15) held a sub sale to **raise money for clothing and toys for needy children**. They distributed flyers to local businesses and offered free delivery. Funds were used to shop for clothing and toys for 48 children. Members also wrapped the packages for Christmas.

Charity and Service, cont.

Laura Chapter #264 (District 16) sponsors an annual **Holiday Craft Day for children** ages 4-10. Three chapter members were instructors/helpers, along with three high school students who used the time for service hours. A fee of \$10 per child was charged. Since all materials were donated, it ended up being a fund-raiser for the chapter.

Olivet Chapter #538 (District 18) prepared and delivered “**First Responder Survival Kit**” treat bags to firemen and deputies in area fire and sheriff departments, along with a certificate of appreciation.

Dayton-Victory Chapter #594 (District 19) gave its members **Christmas stockings** at the November meeting and asked them to fill them and bring them back in December. The filled stockings were taken to The Eastern Star Home in Mount Vernon for distribution to residents.

Prosser Chapter #367 (District 19) put up an **angel tree** at the November chapter meeting. Suggested gifts for members of a needy family were written on the paper angels that decorated the tree. Members were asked to pick one, shop for the requested items, and bring them back in December. The chapter also collected food items and provided gift cards for the family.

Washington Chapter #195 (District 19) prepared a **dessert reception for the Council inspection** in its lodge building and also **entertained the wives** with homemade card-making while the men were in their meeting.

Marietta Chapter #59 (District 25) provides a “**Third Sunday Luncheon**” every month, to serve a hot meal to low-income individuals and families. The free meals are served with regular plates and silverware and tables feature seasonal decorations so that those attending can dine in pleasant surroundings.

Reber Chapter #161 (District 27) hosted a beef stew fund-raising dinner to **benefit the local food pantry**. They worked with food distributors to arrange for discounts and donations. Members donated desserts as well as cooking and serving the dinner, which was open to the public.

Social Activities and Fellowship

The secretary of Billow Chapter #483 (District 2) prepares **history reports** for chapter members, detailing date of initiation as well as those participating in the initiatory work, offices held and other activities the member was involved in. The report is read during the presentation of membership pins. If members are unable to make it to chapter, due to health or distance, the History Report is sent or delivered to them, along with their pin. A nice personal touch!

Ravenna Chapter #46 (District 2) and Dayton-Victory Chapter (District 19) sponsor **golf outings** as fund-raisers, social events and/or charitable endeavors. Ravenna’s June event, raised more than \$1,000 to benefit those involved in research and support programs for victims of Parkinson’s Disease.

Anne Rutledge Chapter #453 (District 3) has a monthly “**Around The Town**” **dinner group**. Members take turns selecting the restaurant, publicizing the place and menu, and taking reservations.

Several chapters (Brecksville #537, Medina #266, Triune #344, etc.) held **painting parties**.

The River Chapter #517 (District 3) had a **Sunday afternoon spa day** at a hair and nail salon operated by one of its members. Refreshments were served and even men participated!

Stokes Chapter #543 (District 9) invited their **ESTARL recipient to be a speaker for Friendship Night**. He told how he had come to the U.S. from the Phillipines, and his daughter sang songs.

A Friendship Night program featured a comic **Initiation Ceremony of the Order of Eating Sisters**. The five “degrees” were: Appetizers, Beverages, Entrees, Green Vegetables, and Just Desserts.

Greenwood Chapter #159 (District 6) opted to not have **Friendship Night** at a meeting, but instead invited its Sister Chapter to Snooks Car Museum in Bowling Green, followed by a pot luck dinner.

Legacy Chapter #596 (District 13) had a social outing to the Voices of Canton **Christmas Program**, followed by dinner as a group.

Legacy Chapter # 596 (District 13), along with Hoover Lodge and Bethel #31, have “**Tri-Body**” **social activities** during the year -- i.e. a picnic, Christmas party, etc.

Freeport Chapter #319 (District 14) held an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children and grandchildren of members. Eggs were hidden around the lawn of the Masonic Temple.

Guernsey Chapter #211 (District 15) honored **First Responders** by delivering cookies to the police, fire and sheriff's departments on Valentines Day, and holding dinners to raise funds for them.

Masterton Chapter #584 (District 15) purchased **30 blankets for the fire departments and sheriffs' departments** in their three-county area to be used by first responders to protect or comfort victims. Each blanket was packed in a plastic “sweater bag.”

Farmersville Chapter #155 (District 19) invited members to a “**lupper**” **at an area restaurant**. This is a meal between lunch and dinner (which makes it easier to get reservations and quick service!)

Ritual Quality and Officer Excellence

The Worthy Matron-elect of Ellbrook Chapter #408 (District 3) hosted a meeting of the incoming 2017 officers shortly before installation, to **discuss plans for the upcoming year**.

Worthy Matrons of several chapters print out **copies of their agenda for the Secretary**, Associate Matron, and Line Officers.

Members of Windermere Chapter #388 (District 3) hold a **Sunday brunch Grand Chapter Send-off** for the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Officers also provide a monetary donation to help the presiding officers with Grand Chapter expenses.

Windermere Chapter created a “Circler of Stars” program to recognize members who served in a Star Point station. They are presented with bracelets indicating the Star Point station they held.

Shreve Chapter #496 (District 4) developed a **grid of Grand Chapter sessions** so that members could initial the events they attended. This was an easy way to submit documentation for the Chapter Excellence report.

Port Clinton Chapter #267 (District 6) **honored Past Matrons and Past Patrons** with a program reminiscent of the The Christmas Carol. It featured the “ghosts” of Matrons and Patrons Past, Present and Future.

To encourage **better participation and attendance by officers**, at the beginning of her term, the Worthy Matron of Celina Chapter #91 (District 9) sent her officers a tentative schedule of all events for the year so that they could plan their calendars accordingly.

The Worthy Matron of Masterton Chapter #584 (District 15) made a “**mistake**” **in setting up the chapter room** each month, and challenged members to find the error. This was followed by additional pointers on related items in the Ritual and Book of Instruction.

Membership and Public Relations

A Past Matron of Miriam Chapter #278 (District 2) presented a **program on the history and tenets of the Order of the Eastern Star** at a local lodge and again at a High 12 meeting.

Palmy Chapter #114 (District 2) has a **monthly Soup and Salad dinner** that is open to the public, and often uses the events to honor different community members, i.e. first responders, pastors, veterans, etc. The dinners attract several non-members each time.

Brecksville Chapter #537 (District 3) hosted a “Brides of Brecksville” **luncheon and fashion show** for members and their guests. The live fashion show demonstrated how wedding dresses have changed over the years -- and included dresses dating back to the 1920's, as well as wedding albums and accessories.

Brecksville Chapter #537 (District 3) developed an OES **Funeral Service Request Form** that members can keep with their important papers so that family members will know their wishes.

Fostoria Chapter #94 (District 5) sells “**Quick Breakfast Sandwiches**” at the Masonic Center, during the weekly Farmer's Market, located across the street. The chapter gets rave reviews on the food as well as a lot of positive visibility for OES.

Laura Chapter #264 (District 16) collaborates with Malta Lodge to open the Masonic Building for **Trick-or-Treat Night**. (The only public building open on beggars' night; restrooms are appreciated!) Children are given bags of candy, pamphlets are offered to adults, along with coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and donuts. The chapter and lodge also offered hot dogs and sloppy joes for part of the evening, at no cost, but diners could make a donation if they wished.

Hoffner Chapter #286 (District 20) **volunteers to help PBS station WCET-TV in their fund drives** by answering the phones and assisting with the auction. During the program, they show volunteers on TV, so members wear their chapter OES shirts.

Marietta Chapter #59 (District 25) met with representatives of the lodges and York Rite bodies that meet in the building to plan a **joint newsletter** that will be sent to all members on a quarterly basis, with the cost shared among the bodies.

Racine Chapter #134 (District 25) held a “**Meet the Candidate**” **dinner before initiation** so that members could get to know the person joining the chapter and, at the same time, introduce themselves and tell the candidate what office they held, etc.

Russellville Chapter #461 (District 22) and Russellville Lodge held a joint “**Family and Friends Night**” to recognize members of both bodies with membership awards. The event included a buffet dinner and community leaders were invited to attend, as well.