 September 29, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers of OHIO,

This is the day we begin to compose our Symphony and **Make a joyful noise to the Lord**! This is God’s plan that we are together!

What a pleasure it is for Chuck and me to greet you as your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. We thank you for this honor and the opportunity to work with you and for you! Ours is a unique and beautiful Order. It takes all musicians to play his/her part to have harmony and each of you are a “Note” in our “2020 Symphony of the Stars”.

As we enter the 131st year of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, it is both exciting and challenging. Exciting in the programs that the WGP and I have planned for the year ~ challenging in that membership is decreasing. In 1984, our membership was 137,923; it is now 22,855. In just the 2018-19 Grand Chapter year, there was a loss of 8 Chapters to mergers, making a total of 181 Chapters. We are still facing mergers in the coming year. Sisters and Brothers, WGP Chuck and I don’t have the magic answer, we are not magician’s, but we do have a Conductor’s Baton, which is our “magic wand”, **We have chairs to be filled in our Symphony....we need YOU for the performance!**

The key words for the 2020 year are **CHARITY! PRIDE! EXCELLENCE! APPRECIATION**! **PARTICIPATION! EDUCATION AND LEARNING! SERVICE!** It's about **CBG** – **Connect, Build, Grow**!

It’s about **Connecting** with each other, with Chapters, our Youth, Masonic organizations, and Communities. It’s about **Building** relationships with members, communities, and charities. It’s about **Growing** in numbers and relationships and being more visible in the community, state, and more. It takes each of you “playing your part” to be in harmony and achieve goals!

We are proud to announce the Symphony Participation Award Program. Get your “punch” card from your Deputy Grand Matron and get a “star punch” whenever you attend events. Get a petition for a new member and/or get an inactive member back to five consecutive meetings to grow membership and get “star punches” on your participation card.

Other programs that are important to us this year include: The Chapter Excellence Program; District Charities “A Little Change can Change a Lot” and the State Charity Roaring 20’s and Stars of Star Party; Security for Elders, the WGM/WGP project for the OES Home; The Grand Chapter Education Committee and Fund – to promote educational programs for members; Our Youth Organizations & Children’s Dyslexia Centers; ESTARL; and the Benevolence Fund.

Two other projects for the 2020 year which have special meaning to the WGP and myself are the partnership with Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine to support regenerative medicine; and the collection of “D” dollar ($1.00 bills) for Diabetes research at Ohio University Osteopathic School of Medicine. We are also supporting “Dimes for Dogs” for Ohio Service Dogs Committee.

Sisters and Brothers, may your light shine for all to see; may your cup be full of blessings as they are your notes in God’s Symphony!

Margi Wheeler, Worthy Grand Matron Chuck Merckle Worthy Grand Patron

Michelle Howell, PGM, Grand Secretary