2020 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Worthy Grand Matron, Sisters and Brothers.

Good afternoon!

Let’s make a joyful noise unto the Lord! As we begin the “Symphony of the Stars” year, a musical composition will be created. Each of you will be included in our Symphony. Each individual, each event will result in a note being written on the music staff, so the composition will be unique to the year. Because of you, music and harmony will be created, emphasizing the love of our Order by Connecting, Building, and Growing. Without you, there would be no “Symphony of the Stars”. This afternoon, we are excited to share our goals, plans, and our Projects for the 2020 Grand Chapter year and we ask for your support.

Our focus will be on Charity, Pride, Excellence, Appreciation, Participation, Education & Learning, and Service.

It’s about Connecting with each other, with Chapter, 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.

This year we are promoting and asking support for all of our Charities. We want to work for the benefit of the community and extend generous support for charitable purposes. This isn’t our line, but is from our Vision that is printed on our website. We have 28 District Charity Directors, who will be presented tomorrow afternoon. They are ready to begin their jobs on September 30. The State Charities Committee will be chaired by Jennifer and Harless Maynard. They already have plans for the year as a Little Change can Change a lot. There will be district, regional, and geographic talent shows. The 2020 Charity Extravaganza on Saturday, June 27, 2020 will be a Roaring 20’s and Stars of Star party – in other words a 1920’s themed party with a talent contest).

We will continue to support our District Charities with the following distribution of funds:

40% Education Fund

20% Youth

15% Children's Dyslexia Centers

15% ESTARL

4% OES Home Mt. Vernon

3% Cancer

3% Heart

The Sunshine Collection contributions for this year will be designated as follows:

Installations:

2020 Grand Chapter District Charities

Regional Educational Opportunities:

OES Benevolence Fund

Inspections:

2020 Worthy Grand Matron/Worthy Grand Patron Regenerative Medicine Project

Visitations/Receptions by the Worthy Grand Matron/Worthy Grand Patron

2020 Worthy Grand Matron/Worthy Grand Patron

Ohio Eastern Star Home Project

Designated Sunshine Collection:

General Grand Chapter, Ohio Committee Service Dog Project

We will also support PGP Trevor Sproul and his Service Dog committee’s efforts to support a respective service organization within the Ohio jurisdiction. He graciously gave us the “D” dollars this year and will be collecting “Dimes for Dogs”. Watch the website for more information about Service Dogs.

We can support our sisters and brothers in need with the proceeds from the sale of both Margi’s “March of the Stars” composed by Sister Diane Phillips, 2011 Grand Organist and Chuck’s “March of the Crickets” by Sister Diane Kracker, 2016 Grand Organist, going to the Benevolence Fund. With the help of OES, we can help the many individuals in need!

There will be two special projects of the Worthy Grand Matron/Worth Grand Patron – Regenerative Medicine and “D” Dollars for Diabetes. We are excited for Ohio Grand Chapter to support Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFRIM). Ohio Eastern Star members can participate in the transformation of healthcare in a new creative way.

So we will be partnering with WFIRM to determine the best use of the funds raised and the goal for not just our year but for future years. Join us January 13-23, 2020 as we enjoy a ten-day Panama Canal Cruise aboard Princess Cruise Lines. We hope to be joined by staff from WFIRM to have an update on the work of WFIRM which has the goal to cure rather than just treat disease. A portion of the price of the cruise will benefit the OHIO Regenerative Medicine Project.

We are also committed to assisting diabetes research at Ohio University to help make an improvement in someone’s health status. To do this, we will be asking members to save their “D” dollars. The Chapter Secretaries will be collecting the dollars from their members and will work closely with the Charity Directors to track submission & amount of “D” dollars. At the end of the year, one check will be written to Ohio University Osteopathic School of Medicine, Diabetes Research. This is a way for Associate Grand Patron and I to recognize our alma mater and to also promote more research to cure the disease.

This year the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron project at the Ohio Eastern Star Home is a continuation of the Security System that was started by WGM Sister Kelly and WGP Brother Denny. 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.

With money that has been raised in the past year, more of the campus has been secured, but there is still more work to do. Our goal is to raise a minimum of $12, 000 as additional equipment is still needed to complete the project. The more money raised, the more secure the Home will be for our Elders and Staff.

District Charities Directors in each District, along with our State Charities Committee, will work with each Chapter Secretary to keep track of all donations made.

During the 2020 year, we will emphasize, Education & Learning, Participation, and Excellence.

There will be scheduled Educational Opportunities throughout the year to learn and improve our work. The Deputy Grand Matrons will hold instruction at the District level and the Grand Officers will present Educational Opportunities throughout the state on five Saturdays beginning October 12 and ending November 16. Dates are posted on the Website. Please attend the EOP closet to you and enjoy. During the month of March, the Grand Officers will exemplify the initiatory work three times, which is the same number as required by our subordinate Chapters. Dates will be posted on the Website. The Grand Officers would like to initiate any new member(s) that you may have available from your Chapter.

To promote excellence and participation, we are pleased to continue the Kenneth B. Scott Ritual Competition, Chapter Excellence Program, Circle of Knowledge, Star Polisher, and from the General Grand Chapter level, the Rob Morris award and Mother Hen Program.

This will be the last year for the Chapter Excellence Award program. In the final year of the program, Chapters who have earned awards for eight consecutive years, including 2020, will receive a walnut gavel with an engraved band. First time participants will receive a walnut sounding block. Chapters receiving the award for the fourth time will be awarded an acrylic block with a silver or gold plate. Chapter Excellence Award silver and gold winners will be recognized at the 2020 Grand Chapter Session. Guidelines for the 2019-2020 year may be found on the OES website. Chapters may still conduct AREME and/or EMERALD projects during the year. Remember, we can never be too Excellent! This program allows Chapters to compose their own “opus” to be included in the 2020 Symphony of the Stars.

All these wonderful programs afford the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and expertise of Ritual work and participation. We are also encouraging excellence in all officers and members within their own Chapter with the “Shining Star” program. We will be recognizing members who are “Shining Stars” in ritualistic work, are word perfect, demonstrate outstanding floorwork, deliver proper presentations, remarks, or anything else that is outstanding. The member will be nominated for a “Grammy” award and will be recognized at the 2020 Grand Chapter Session for their “performance”.

By practicing Charity and Service, engaging in Social Activities and Fellowship, performing Ritual and Officer Excellence, and promoting Membership and Public Relations, you demonstrate EXCELLENCE and live the Mission and Vision of the Order of the Eastern Star!

We hope that you will all PARTICPATE with us in 2020!

We thank you Sisters and Brothers. Worthy Grand Matron, I move this 2020 Projects Report be accepted.

Thank you Worthy Grand Matron

Margi Wheeler

Associate Grand Matron

Chuck Merckle

Associate Grand Patron