** Margi Wheeler Chuck Merckle**

 Worthy Grand Matron Worthy Grand Patron

 Grand Chapter of Ohio OES Grand Chapter of Ohio OES

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Dear 2020 Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron,

Congratulations on being elected Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of your Chapter and serving along with Chuck and I in the Symphony of the Stars year. Make a joyful noise to the Lord! This is God’s plan that we are together! For some of you, this is the first time in this position and we hope you have a wonderful experience serving your chapter. We also realize for many of you, this is not your first time and for you, we wish you a year filled with rewarding experiences as you plan your meetings. We thank each of you for taking the leadership role in your Chapter.

The Order of the Eastern Star, like many other organizations, is facing the challenge of a changing society. We must be willing to change but must never let go of our principles. We are a ritualistic organization and therefore, we follow that aspect as we perform the ceremonies that all members before us have recited. The stories of our Star Point officers are beautiful and leave permanent impressions on our new members if done with sincerity and pride. We strongly encourage the memorization of the ritualistic work.

We have provided you with a lot of information these last four years, and we have tried to put information located throughout our Grand Law and Book of Instruction on summary sheets and the information for conducting a meeting in three columns on one sheet. The information for conducting a meeting was provided last year and is available from your DGM and will be posted later on the website. Even though this is a quick review, you must study Grand Law and the Books of Instruction and Protocol in order to provide the leadership your Chapter needs. There is a sheet titled “Grand Law” which may be used as a quick reference for different topics.

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: 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; Ken B. Scott Ritual Competition; Circle of Knowledge; and Shining Star Program.

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.

Our State Charities Committee is chaired this year by Jennifer and Harless Maynard and we have 28 District Charities Directors ready to get started with District and Regional events. The Charities Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2020 as a Roaring 20’s and Stars of Star Party. Join us to make a “little Change can Change a lot”!

The Chapter Excellence Program is in its last year. Plan to participate. For Chapters who have participated in all years, a gavel will be awarded to go with the sound blocks. Incorporate fellowship and social time, before or after a chapter meeting as part of your work toward Chapter Excellence. We have a “Speakers Bureau” at the Grand Chapter level with speakers who are willing to come to your Chapters to speak. Please take advantage of this program. Also, many community organizations such as Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Health Care Facilities, social services, etc. have speakers available. Plan now for “Dine Out” events in your Chapters. It gives members, especially widows and widowers, a chance to dine at various restaurants with friends. Also, many communities have day bus trips that can become a Chapter event. Appoint a “social committee to plan these special events, a great job for your sideliners.

There was a workshop this morning explaining the work of the Star Polishers. Reach out to the Star Polishers if your Chapters could use a little “polishing” if you are struggling or want new ideas. The committee members are excited and eager to assist you!

Our Ritual refers to the quality of the ritualistic performance of our officers several times. The Worthy Patron’s installation charge indicates the ritual work is to be properly rendered and in the Worthy Matron’s charge, she is to see the Officers fill their positions with honor and usefulness. In the Grand Chapter of Ohio, we emphasize the memorization of all ritualistic work. The Most Worthy Grand Matron, Marianne Shenefield stated at her School of Instruction on November 2, 2018 that there are to be no Rituals open in the Chapter room, with the exception of the prompters; members are to have their work memorized, word for word. Please let your officers know of this expectation.

Education for our members is also a vital part of our Grand Chapter and we have five EOP’s scheduled this coming year. The EOPs will be held at five locations throughout the state scheduled for October 12. October 26, November 2, November 9, and November 16. A complete list and time schedule are at on the last page of this letter.

In closing, we are humbled to be serving and working with you as you lead your Chapters in this “Symphony of the Stars” year. Remember, Make a joyful noise unto the Lord and May your light shine for all to see; may your cup be full of blessings as they are your notes in God’s Symphony.

In love and service,

Margi & Chuck

 **2020 Important Dates**

**WGM/WGP Joint Reception Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Crown Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus 43229

**CELEBRATION OF STARS Reception Saturday, April 18, 2020**

Crown Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus 43229

**INSPECTION of Matamoras Chapter #261/WGP Chapter Saturday, May 9, 2020**

Frontier High School, 44870 St. Rt. 7, New Matamoras 45767

**INSPECTION of Gallipolis Chapter #283/WGM Chapter Saturday, May 16, 2020**

University of Rio Grande, 218 N College Ave, Rio Grande 45674

**CHARITIES EXTRAVAGANZA Saturday, June 27, 2020**

Gallagher Center, OES Home, 1541 Gambier Road, Mt. Vernon 43050

**Fall EOPs #2**

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| **Date** | **EOP** | **Region** | **Districts** | **Location** |
| October 12, 2019 | Northeast | A, B, L | 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14 | NEOMED4211 S. R. 44Rootstown, OH 44272 |
| October 26, 2019 | Northwest | C, D, E,  | 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 26 | Tiffin Masonic Lodge2492 S St. Rt 231Tiffin, OH 44883 |
| November 2, 2019 | Southwest | F, G, H | 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 | Dayton Masonic Center525 W. Riverside Ave.Dayton, OH 45405 |
| November 9, 2019 | Central | M, N | 11, 12, 17, 23 | Lancaster Masonic Lodge224 S. High StreetLancaster, OH |
| November 16, 2019 | Southeast(WGM & WGP EOP) | I, J, K, | 15, 16, 24, 25, 27, 28 | Alexander High School6125 School RoadAlbany, OH |

**Exemplification of Initiatory Work by Grand Officers EOP #3**

**03/07/2020** – Athens Chapter, 12 West Carpenter Street, Athens, OH 45701

**03/13/2020** – Browning Masonic Home, 8883 Browning Drive, Waterville, OH 43566

**03/20/2020** – Wroena Chapter, 875 Irving Wick Dr W, Heath, OH 43056