

The 131th Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, like many other events during this year of the pandemic, was much different than a typical year. The session was just one day, instead of three, and was held at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Only 300 members were permitted to assemble, so the Symphony of Stars Grand Chapter Session was for invited members only, with pictures posted throughout the day on the ohioes.org website for those who wished to keep up a bit with what was happening. When three days' worth of activities are pushed into one, the day starts early, with group photos at 7:15 a.m. The business meeting for the Ohio Eastern Star Home was held at 8:15 and the Memorial service began at 8:45 under the direction of the G Chap, Rick Miller, Legacy #596. The Formal Opening was at 9:00, with the introduction of the GOs by Ron Seigla, Jacob Eby #571 (Far Hills #577) (PGP 1980). The ladies were in deep pink taffeta dresses with a light pink lace overlay. The men had vests and ties in the same deep pink and all had masks made of the same material. The GOs entered to "Puttin' on your Top Hat," swaying and tipping their hats to the members. They formed a Symphony, led by our WGP, Chuck Merckle, Matamoras #261, playing his melodious trumpet. They strutted to the labyrinth to the music "Puttin' on the Ritz" and paid tribute to OH's GC session, wishing our WGM and WGP a successful day. The appointed GOs formed our star using their canes and the elected GOs formed a pentagon around the star with black ribbons. They exited to the "Ritz" music and took their stations. After a welcome by Evelyn Hardesty, Grove City #502 (Beacon #593) (PGM 2016) and Bill Taylor, Brownsville #486 (PGP 2016), the fraternal parents of our WGM, Margi Wheeler, Gallipolis #283, she opened this GC session. Among the OH distinguished guests, Melora Waltman, represented the GGC as a Campfire Friend of the MWGM, Marianne Shenefelt. Gayle Sutherin, GL Behrens #504 (Lydia #83) (PGM 1995) who also serves as our G T, was honored for her faithful 25 years of service. Jake Frederick, Ruth #17 (Bellville #291), was honored in memoriam as the 1995 WGP.

G Sec, Michelle Howell, Miami #107 (PGM 2017), reported that \$162,075 had been sent to the OES Home during fiscal year 2020, a combination of per capita and donations from Chapters and the WGM/WGP's project. GGC also received their assessment of \$43,215. OH membership stands at 21,180, a loss of 1674 members, about an 8% decrease. We have 428 dual members. (Yes, that is the same amount as last year!) We had 8 mergers completed (also the same as last year) leaving us with 173 active chapters. It was also interesting to note that 379 50-year pins were presented to our members. In addition, the following pins were purchased by our chapters: 60-year: 109, 65-year: 50, 70-year: 42 and 75-year: 11. Many of those were reported to the GC Historian by the chapter secretaries and the names of the recipients are included in the Pin History. Because of the COVID crisis many G Jurisdictions asked their officers, both GC and subordinate, to remain in place for an additional year. Thus, some G Jurisdictions requested extensions of the terms for their GRs to OH. 24 requests were honored, plus 19 new GRs to OH.

The afternoon session was opened by Sandi Herman, Guernsey #211 (PGM 2018) and David Sexton, Amelia #338 (PGP 2018), fraternal parents of the WGP, Chuck Merckle, Matamoras #261. In addition to the election of officers, and reading of legislation to add "pandemic" to the appropriate Bylaws of the GC, the Fraternal Correspondent, our AGC, Debby Pitts,

Pleiades #298, shared the report of her visitation via proceedings to 20 jurisdictions. She noted that declining membership is a common thread within our jurisdictions, with details about mergers and consolidations, and even chapters surrendering their charters. Likewise, charity projects were a common thread, but not any particular one. There was a wide variety in the projects that were sponsored. It was fun to hear/read the themes, the charity projects, the listings of OH members being recognized as they visited, and even some unusual reasons for irregularities. NB gave an irregularity if the officers failed to bring their Book of Instruction and Secret work to the School. Ontario gave an irregularity for not observing square corners. Quebec gave an irregularity for C and AC not lowering their batons during the singing of "God Save the Queen." Alberta presents an award to the chapter initiating the most members during that GC year. District of Columbia lights a candle and reads the names of each member lost by death in a ceremony called the "Altar of Memory." WY's G Chap is responsible for reporting the names, Chapter and number of members lost by death. Operation Christmas Card in GA saw 17,658 cards personally delivered to Dobbins AFB. They have one chapter with just 16 members. IL holds a Table Chapter in which each G SP gives her lecture and then gives further interpretations for her story. The G Sec explains the labyrinth. They held a courtesy initiation during the GC session, initiating 5 new members. Oregon allows for paid Life Memberships. It was interesting to note the number of chapters and members in each of the G jurisdictions she listed.

This was the final year of the Chapter Excellence program, and coordinator, *Marilyn Braatz, Triune #344*, gave a detailed report. 24 chapters have participated all 8 years of the program and 19 of them have received an award all 8 years. In 2020, 55 chapters participated, with 37 receiving "Outstanding" gold awards and 17 receiving "Excellence" silver awards. Golden Rule #442 participated for the very first time.

Following the election of officers, the GC recessed for the G Banquet, held in an adjoining room from the GC session. *Keith Newton, Miami 107*, MWGM of Masons in OH and his wife *Sharon*, were special guests at the G Banquet. The day was completed with the Installation of the 2021 GOs, led by *Carol Gramm Wise, Trinity #16*, WGM, and *Willam Murphy, Falls #245*, WGP. Their theme, "Forward in Faith," was used in their virtual announcements of their DGMs and Charities Directors! We also learned the names of several presentations on the GC website as the day proceeded. Yes, it is unusual to have a one day GC session, and it makes a long day for those attending, but it can be done, and we especially appreciate the efforts of COA *Jennifer Garringer, Lotus #477*, who planned, and then redid all the plans, along with the support of the G Trustees.

We are proud of *F. Lon Lowry*, RWAGP, George L. Behrens #504 (PGP 2012) who faithfully continues towards his installation as the RWGP. Also continuing to serve the GGC are *Carol Jones, Legacy #596 (Delta #539)* (PGM 2001), Membership Committee; *Trevor Sproul, Legacy #596 (Delta #539)* (PGP 2011), Service Dog Committee; and *Melora Waltman, Englewood #563*, a Campfire Friend. A "Singing and Swinging with the Stars" party will be held in Sept. to honor *F. Lon Lowry* and his wife, *Barbara*.

Typically, the GOs would visit each of the Districts, in some combination, but this year those Educational Opportunities, or EOPs, were held virtually. Members were glad to get some training and learn of the Pages and Aides in their districts from the comfort of their home, or perhaps from the sharing of a local “watch party,” but they surely missed the fellowship opportunity that these EOPs normally provide across district lines. Chapters have worked hard to keep their members informed with email, newsletters and phone calls as well as Zoom meetings that even out of state members can attend. A few had their installations with modified procedures, but most held their installations over several meetings with only 10 members present at each meeting. The GOs scheduled, and then rescheduled, two Exemplifications, and by the time they were able to be presented, we were more open to in-person meetings. Late in the year, GOs were also invited to some District activities that allowed them to meet people in more casual settings. Some attended District 9’s Dinner and a Movie fundraiser, and several joined District 18 for their Honor Picnic at Buck Creek State Park. In June, about 200 joined an in-person reception for our WGM, *Carol Gramm Wise* and our WGP, *William Murphy*. The evening also recognized GOs, DGMs, GRs and Charity Directors.

As we move “Forward in Faith,” we pay tribute to those members who have moved into eternal life. Along with many members, we especially recognize ***Coralee Holahan***, Dayton Victory #594 (Dayton #125), who served as WGM in 1978 with *Charles Sebastian*, Cardinal #140 (Fairmount #352) and died on Mar 3. ***Marilyn Bennett***, Palestine #51, died on Feb 25. She served as WGM in 1992 with *Algin Miller*, Neal #522 (Norris #426). We also lost two spouses. ***Marie Frederick*** died on Oct 26, 2020. She was the widow of *Jake Frederick*, Ruth #17 (Bellville #291). He served as WGP in 1995 with *Gayle Sutherin*, George L. Behrens (Lydia #83). ***John Beck*** died on Feb 11. His wife *Jean Beck*, Findlay #23 (Mt. Blanchard #466), served as WGM in 1984, along with *Richard Oldham*, May Elliott #355 (Ivolee #470).

On Oct 23rd, *Keith Newton* was elected G Sec of the G Lodge of OH. He belongs to Miami #107. Our own G Sec of the GC of OH is *Michelle Howell* who is also a member of Miami #107! This is a first for our GC!!.

Mergers, celebrations of years

Stokes #543 reached the 75-year milestone, but was unable to hold a celebration. Two chapters in District 3 celebrated 100 years: Ann Rutledge #453 and Golden Rule #442. The former put together a pamphlet sharing the history of their 100 years. They were sponsored by PMs and PPs of Lincoln #309 in order to form a chapter meeting in the afternoon. Their name was chosen as she was the first sweetheart of President Lincoln. Both Lincoln #309 and Lakewood #509 has merged with Ann Rutledge. They are celebrating with a dinner together and presenting 50 year pins to *Elinor Bayse* and *Gloria Cazan*. Waterloo #447 was another 100 year chapter.

It was with regret that Spencerville #130 chose to surrender their charter after 121 years. They were grateful to several members of Hawthorne #119 who joined them after that charter was surrendered which helped them remain active for several more years.

Neal #522 held a bittersweet, but celebratory last meeting on June 1, prior to their merger with Home City #258. They had been unable to really celebrate their 90th year due to the Covid restrictions, but were grateful to present a number of membership pins. *Patricia Day* received her 70-year pin and *Carole Clippinger* received her 60-year pin from *WM Sherry Setty*. Both were initiated into Norris #426 which merged with Neal in 2009.

Urbana #530 held initiatory work at their last meeting, initiating *Quinn*, the daughter of *WM* and *WP*, *Meghan* and *Tony Santucci*, and granddaughter of *Steve* and *Pennie Brown*. The chapter then merged with Caroline #39, with the official business completed, but the welcome ceremony planned for fall.

Membership milestone recognitions

One of the highlights of any GC year is the presentation of pins recognizing membership milestones. This year was no exception, although many were presented by small group visits rather than at chapter meetings. Bryan #248 presented *Juanita Ruble* her 80-year pin. She is 98. They also reported that *Kathryn Killan* has reached her 100th birthday! Our second 80-year pin went to *Mary Kepler* of Medina #266. Twenty 75-year pins were presented, but I only learned of 4: *Ruth Hunt* and *Anna Lee Stryker* of Ft. Black #336, *Erlyne Schubert* of Amelia #338 and *Angela Sutter* of Legacy #596. It was a special night in Wahneta #235 when *Anna Louise Beaver* received her 65-year pin. Her sister, *Debbie Dean*, shared her OES history. Her son, *Robert Beaver*, presented her a bouquet and *Teresa Tackett*, DGM, presented her pin. At Reber #161 two sisters, *Judy Jensen* and *Mary Thomas*, received their 60-year pins. Yondota #317 had quite a celebration on April 6. Of the 14 officers, representing 10 family groups observing social distancing, were 8 members who have achieved the 50-year milestone! Pins presented went to 5 active officers! *Esther*, *JoAnn Van Buren*, received her 70-year pin. *AC Barbara Shaneour*, *Adah Katherine King*, and *Sen Barbara Sass* all received 60-year pins. *WM Nancy Murphy* earned her 25-year pin. And one more *Barbara*, *Barbara Santchi* also received a 60-year pin!! Toronto #215 is pleased that *Margaret Eakon*, the District's earliest living DGM, serving in 1972, received her 60-year pin this year! Their *AC*, *Jane Fisher*, also received her 60-year pin. Their *Martha*, *Anne Graham*, and *AP*, *Ellsworth Graham*, (who is the father of the *WM*!), received their 65-year pins.

257 of our members reached 50-year status. Spencerville #130 presented a 50-year pin to *Ann Purdy*, DGM of District 8 in 1985, at their very last meeting before closing the chapter after 121 years of service. At Bellefontaine #459, *Ellen Hammond* was presented her 50-year pin by *Doris Lyons*, who was the *WM* when *Ellen* was initiated! At Bryan #248, 50-year honorees included *Ron Keller*, PGP 2009, and his wife *Jan*. At Palmy #114, three sisters will be honored among the 11 50-year recipients: *Anne Hayes Cooper*, *Linda Hayes Lewis* and *Janet Hayes Young*. *Anne* is GR of KY and she and *Janet* are PMs. All three were initiated on June 9, 1971, and received their 25-year pins from their mother, *Elizabeth Hayes*. Her granddaughter, *Elizabeth (Beth) Cooper*, sec, will present her mother *Anne's* 50-year pin! At Brecksville #537, *Dorothy Berman*, sec, presented a 50-year pin to *Diana Kriedman*, using the pin previously worn by her grandmother, *Viola Taylor*, who had been a member of Beallsville #24. *Diana* was an officer 43 of her 50 years, in 4 different chapters, due to mergers. In addition to being *WM* a number of times, she also served in all 5 star points and as sec. She was an officer for *Dorothy* in 1991 as she served as *WM* of Summit #512.

Chapter and district events and activities

Ft Black #336 held an honor night and presented membership awards as well as opening the box that was filled in 1970 by Arcanum #429 when they celebrated their 50th Anniversary. When they merged in 2007, they brought along this historic box, which was to be opened in 50 years. The pandemic delayed that one year, but all who were present enjoyed seeing the contents. Current DGM, *Deb Wooddell*, opened the card written by 1970 DGM *Luanna Schnelly*. She mentioned 23 chapters, safe travels through the winter, and the unrest of the country (Vietnam War, women's liberty and ecology.). WM *Marilyn Bridges* opened the letter from the WM *Gayla Metzger Mitchell*. *Marilyn's* in-laws were AM and AP that year! *Linda Riley*, Sec, reported: "We chuckled at the prices and shook our heads at the realization that their concerns at that time were still many that we face today."

Clermont #135 provided a Christmas Gift Bag for all of their local members who were shut in or needed a little TLC and a little company with a short visit. The bags were filled with donated socks, hats, gloves, snacks, chap stick, soaps, and hand sanitizer. Poinsettias were also taken to each of those homes, and the response was heartwarming. Several chapters send "initiation anniversary" cards or birthday cards to their members. Some of those new ways to "keep in touch" may continue to be utilized.

Sterling #84, under the leadership of WM *Jill Riddle*, held 4 of their regular meetings with 10 of their officers, followed immediately by a special meeting for the other officers, so everyone was able to stay involved.

The River #517 continues the tradition of Fairview #528 by providing a shower for first time WMs and WPs. This year they honored *Barb* and *Dale Deeken*. Since their theme was the seasons of the year, the tables were decorated in that fashion. Games, food and gifts were provided. The chapter was also privileged to serve the dessert for the constitution and consecration ceremony of West Shore Lodge, a combination of Rocky River and Mid Century Lodges.

Neal #522 was delighted that their *Don Muncy* was given a flight on a TBM Avenger, a rare WWII aircraft from Culpepper VA that provides flights for veterans. *Don* is now a resident of the Ohio Masonic Home and many of the paintings in the Burkhart Auditorium show off his talent. He served as Neal's organist for several years as well. At 99, he was more spry than several of the younger ones attending the chapter picnic!

Celina #91 held a surprise recognition for *Jenny Jamieson*, GR of LA, and the very next meeting they were all surprised by a visit from the WGM, *Carol Gramm Wise*.

Marietta #59 claims *Jan Emge*, G Martha, as a dual member, and has two GRs: *Kathy Wentz*, MI, also WM, and *Iesa McVay*, MS. *Jan* also belongs to Belpre #541 where she serves as C with her daughter *Holly Emge Highley* as AC. *Holly* is a 4th generation OES member! *Holly's* husband, *Grant*, petitioned prior to Covid and waited until May for a very special initiation. His mother, *Clara*, who had joined a chapter in WV many years earlier, but had been unable to attend meetings due to caring for her husband, so this was like her first initiation. *Clara*

walked with *Jan* and *Grant* walked with *Holly*, a special initiation for the chapter and for the Emge family,

Brecksville #537 also postponed a special initiation, but eventually were pleased that WM *Jill Moliff* was able to initiate her daughter, *Rachel Moliff*, one of Brecksville Rainbow Assembly's members. Both sets of *Rachel's* grandparents are also active members: *Ethel* and *Elmer Lormann*, and *Rich* and *Gaye Adamek*.

Cary #221 discovered massive damage to their temple from water damage, in June, 2020, and temporarily moved their meeting place to Waynesville. Miami #107, under the leadership of *Nancy Williams*, WM, made sure they could get into the temple, set up for the meetings and helped put the paraphernalia away after each meeting. When meetings became ZOOM, *Nancy* continued to assist as webmaster. They have now returned to Blanchester with a different look to their temple: hardwood floors, walls painted white, new windows, and soon, new pews for seating. They are proud of their WM, *Darlene Kassner*, GR of OK, and District Sec and DGM, *Sandy McCollum*, as well as two G Ps: *Connie Penquite* and *Cindy Petrich*.

Jacob Eby #571 had to put off their merger ceremony with Belmont #555, but finally provided a lovely welcome, even though the attendance was small. They were also able to have initiations as the county dropped its color status. They will honor their DGM *Willa Tomlin*, with a dinner and dance.

Unionport #360, under the leadership of *Le'Ann Gibbons*, WM, participated in Wreaths Across America in 5 cemeteries, an amazing community outreach project, as well as a fundraiser, with 4 OES charities and 2 local groups benefitting. District 14 reported successful zoom meetings and recognized the attendance of *Corley Byras*, PGM of ME and GCCCM Credentials who is also a dual member at Freeport #319 and also *Cheryl Maslowski*, our AGC. The DGM, *Diane Phillips*, sent a monthly newsletter including birthdays and anniversaries of elected officers and the LGOs, as well as chapter member updates. She also compiled the District's History of original chapters, mergers, PGMs and PGPs and FGAs. A District 14 and Friends picnic is planned for the summer.

Muskingham #485 participated in a funeral combining the OES traditions with that of a motorcycle club! The memorial for *Patsy Wright* who was DGM in 1996, was held at a state park picnic shelter. Her son is president of a motorcycle club and 25 cycles from OH and IN came to the service. They listened intently to the OES service and then their club chaplain read the 23rd Psalm and led the Lord's Prayer. It was a moving tribute.

Windemere #388 had several special virtual events. A summer picnic was enjoyed. Their Zoom farewell included 25 members with 2 from out of state. Virtual send offs were presented to outgoing WM and WP *Lisa* and *Kris Khoenle*, including shared images of gifts given. They held a Disney-themed scavenger hunt, shared holiday memories, told stuffed animal stories in their pjs, and celebrated Obligation Night online by hearing OES pointers from their line officers and learning about Star Point symbols from those officers, without rituals, of course. They celebrated a virtual Neighbor Night and WM *Lorraine Mumaw* invited

each District chapter to share about themselves. 40 visitors attended including 2 PGMs, a PGP, the AGM, DD, and DGM. Two chapters attended from outside the district as well, and they even managed to sing "Happy Trails" as the closing ode while watching a Dale Evans and Roy Rodgers video on the screen. The chapter received a gift from *Bob and Paula Draye* of 5 ceramic Star Point ladies and a commemorative plate from the OH 1950 Robert Morris GC session.

Medina #266 planted flowers at Wadsworth Temple, where they will be meeting beginning in September. They also sent minutes to their members by email, and showered their members with cards to stay in touch. They spent this "slower" time working on a new directory.

Freeport #319 is proud of their dual member, *Corley Ann Byras!* They will sponsor a reception to honor her as a PGM and G Sec Emeritus of ME!

Charitable activities

Charity still abounds, and our chapters found many ways to provide needs. Members of The River #517 collected paper, markers, crayons and the like for the creative activities of the Children's Psychiatric Ward at a local hospital. They, like many others, supported their local food banks. There was a 30 day challenge with a food item for each day. Members purchased those items and all were then contributed to the local food banks. *Cheryl Maslowski*, AGC, reported that she inspected the books for four chapters, and was pleased that they continued to make their charitable donations. District 19 sent meals to the 11 Hospital ERs within the district to say thank you for their work during COVID 19. 100% of the chapters in the district contributed funds for the project. City Barbeque, Subway and Cassano's Pizza all participated. Celestine #185's WM and WP, *Debbie Doyle* and *Bud Davis*, were pleased to present scholarships to two of their high school's seniors. Woodsfield #268 had 5 members walk to support Regenerative Medicine ... 4 in Woodsfield and 1 in Florida! The 4 enjoyed lunch together afterwards. Mary #9 collected over 200 pair of socks to donate to the homeless. They also donated snacks to the Union Co Health Dept. At least two chapters continue the "C" project from 2018. Celina #91 has given 47 checks of \$100 to those who have cancer since the project began. Caroline #39 has given 31. Findlay #23 has totaled many volunteer hours cutting coupons totaling \$35,853.74 to contribute to our military troops for their use in the commissaries, both in the USA and overseas. Clermont #135 provides a scholarship to a local senior and continues to support the Hospice of Hope of Brown Co, which is a district project. This year they also supported a local food pantry each month and helped provide Saturday meals at one of the local churches. Muskingham #485 also presented 8 scholarships to relatives of their members. Jacob Eby #571 was unable to hold the reception for *Wanda Petrenio*, GR of Sao Paulo. *Wanda* asked that the funds allocated be used instead to purchase hats, gloves and mittens for the local Children's Services and Jeremiah's Letter. The two agencies assist with adoption and providing for families in need. They also annually serve the "Canterbury Court families" which was especially appreciated during this unusual time. They joined with the lodge to serve hot meals to first responders on Christmas Eve and during Christmas Day. Oxford #225 filled three Treat Baskets, including notes of thanks for their services, which were enjoyed by the Oxford City and Township Police, and the Oxford Fire Department and Life Squad. They also

delivered classroom supplies to the Liberty Elementary school. Secretary, *Barbara Bennett*, was given the "Community Service Award" from the GL of OH. The award and large Monticello Candle Lantern were presented by *Kevin Campbell*, DDGM for the 2nd Masonic District. The chapter is among many that collect pill bottles in support of Matthew 25 Ministries. Medina #266 donated to the Medina Co Kids Closet, had a poinsettia sale for the Western Reserve Masonic Community and adopted a family for Christmas, providing gifts and paying utility bills. Dorcas #277 provided meals for several families at Thanksgiving and adopted 6 needy families for Christmas, providing gifts and food. Legacy #596 continues their 20 plus year project of knitting bonnets and booties for preemies, cancer hats for children, baby blankets and clothes, and lap robes for shut-ins. Over 400 items were distributed to 4 area hospitals and medical centers. They also made over 600 masks for veterans and rang bells for the Salvation Army. From 2020, Madeleine #204, shared masked pictures of several charitable activities. They provided lunch for the Vermilion Post Office employees, who gave them a donation, which was used to support a local food pantry. They planted flowers at the Mayor's office and sent handmade thinking of you cards to their members.

We are very proud of our Ohio Eastern Star Home as they celebrate 70 years of providing quality care for our elders.

Fundraisers

District 18 collected new and gently used shoes (over 2500 pair!) They were delighted to be joined by several other districts (special thanks to *Barb Metzler*, DGM #3, *Amy Young*, 4, *Gail Walsh*, PGM, 6, District 9, *Carol Campbell*, 17, *Ron Seigla*, PGP, 19, *Jean Watters*, PGM, 20, *Lois Terkhorn*, 24) and other chapters who contributed to the cause! Their wine tasting became a drive thru event, which, along with a basket auction done on-line, was very successful. They shared with District 9 in a movie and potato bar event that was enjoyable as well as successful. An unusual fundraiser was held by *Suzanne* and *Eric Dick*, Caroline #39, who asked for a birthday card shower for *Janet Sheehan*, Caroline #39. They donated their pledged \$150 when Janet received over 150 cards! An outing to LaComedia Dinner Theater is a popular fundraiser for those chapters and districts close to Springboro. Findlay #23 and Rawson #550 collect "F" dollars for Freedom, "D" dollars for Service Dogs for disabled adults and dimes for Service Dogs for Disabled Children. Findlay also held a silent pie auction. Clermont #135 does a Community Calendar. They sell advertisements and the opportunity to list birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, school events and community meetings. Jacob Eby #571 was able to resume their monthly breakfasts with masks and gloves, and customers placing their orders, being seated, and then being individually served. The order taking and separate serving has continued. In Nov and Dec, they add a Bazaar and Tykes Shopping to their breakfasts! Dorcas #277 and Medina #266 each had a virtual Valentine Ball as a fundraiser! The latter also had 19 participants in a 5K walk for Regenerative Medicine, a bake-less bake sale, and a silent auction. Windemere #388 raised \$1535 with a bake-less cookie fundraiser, and \$585 went to their local Dyslexia Center.

I'm grateful to all of those who sent me information this year. My report is dependent on that!! A special thanks to the secretaries who sent information on membership pins presented as well as activities within the chapters. As we have moved "Forward in Faith" this year, we have learned some new ways to cope with difficult situations. I'm hoping some

of those new techniques will continue to be used to enhance our connections with our members, especially those who live at a distance or are homebound. There may be some ideas in this compilation that you will be able to try in your own chapter. Some chapters send me their newsletters. One idea I gleaned from Dorcas #277 was to publish an explanation of the various charities to which the chapter contributes. As I was receiving reports, I was thrilled that most of our chapters were able to maintain, or even extend, their charitable activities and their presence in their community. Reports of many chapters with petitioners awaiting the opportunity for their degrees is an indication that we are still a viable organization with services to provide as we continue to go "Forward in Faith."