

The 132nd Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of Ohio was held in Sharonville September 24 – 26, 2021. The “Forward in Faith” session followed a year of COVID pandemic restrictions, and we were pleased to be able to assemble in person. G Org, *Scott Barrett*, Findlay #23, opened our session with a delightful musical prelude. The gathering audience also enjoyed the music of the Ohio Eastern Star Chorus, under the direction of *William Westover*, Palmy #114, and accompaniment of *Elaine Hammond*, Crescent #7. The drill was narrated by *Chuck Wise*, Trinity #16, and *Dorothy Murphy*, Falls #245, spouses of our WGM and WGP, *Carol Gramm Wise* and *William Murphy*, and written and directed by *Lynn Miller-Penegor*, West Park #427. The youth presented a candle ceremony in which the candles of peace, faith and love were extinguished, but the candle of hope was able to relight them with the reminder to never let the flame of hope go out in your life. The DGMs represented Faith. A tribute to first responders was given with the flag presentation, and tributes were also payed to the support of charity, the Service Dogs and Shrine Hospitals. The cavalcade of flags was led by *Nancy Williams*, Miami #107, 2017 G Mar. The flags from OH and the Youth organizations were presented by the Youth leaders. The GRs formed a rectangle around the display as their flags were taken to the west. The WMs and WPs entered to form a rainbow, with the reminder that Faith doesn’t make things easy, it just makes them possible. The drill was closed by the formation of a Star outlined by colored tubes by the 2017 G SPs.

The room was quickly reset and the Emblem Ceremony was performed by the 2017 G Os, with the narration by *Michelle Howell*, Miami #107, PGM 2017. *Marilyn Giey*, Legacy #596 (William H. Hoover #580), PGM 1981, introduced the G Os and their escorts. The G Os then entered from the 4 corners of the floor, singing “Top of the World” and circled the altar, then formed their lines. The GC was called to order by *Michelle Howell*, Miami #107, PGM 2017, and *William Cox*, Brecksville #537, PGP 2017, and the “Forward in Faith” session officially began. We soon learned that the OES Home project to Fence the Courtyard had raised \$11,920 and that the total donations this year were \$143,349, with the top 4 recipients being Regenerative Medicine, District Charities, Service Dogs and the Benevolence Fund. Our WGM mentioned that much lemonade was made from the lemons that had come during COVID! The EOPs were performed virtually with a story from the heroines and introductions of distinguished guests, the DGMs and G Ps and G As for each district. Inspections of ritualistic work were not held, but the WGM and WGP made many surprise visits throughout the state. Exemplifications were finally held the end of July and in August. The lost membership program had helped get several members reconnected, often through the zoom meetings that were being held. We were delighted to have *Glenda Winchester*, RWAGM and OH’s own *F. Lon Lowry*, G. L. Behrens #504, PGP 2012, RWAGP with us. They shared the list of their OH appointments for the 2022-2024 Triennial Session, including *Bonnie Youngblood*, Day #479, PGM 2006, as WG Est. As they complete their 3 years of service to the GGC we are delighted to once again thank *Carol Jones*, Legacy #596 (Delta #539), PGM 2001, Membership; *Trevor Sproul*, Legacy #596 (Delta #539), PGP 2011, Service Dogs and *Melora Waltman*, Dayton Victory #594 (Englewood #563), Campfire Friend. *Richard Dickersheid*, MWGM gave greetings from the G Lodge and our WGP responded by saying we need to “Use the Tools.”

During the business session, we learned that 681 members had registered, although over 900 had pre-registered. We also had 45 Out of State registrations. G Sec, *Michelle Howell, Miami #107*, PGM 2017, reported that all chapters had paid their dues, totaling \$200,270. \$100,135 had been sent to the OES Home and GGC also received their assessment of \$39,178. OH membership stands at 19,294, a loss of 3130 members. We have 380 dual members. We had 9 mergers, 2 chapters surrendered their charters and 1 charter was revoked, giving us 161 active chapters. It was also interesting to note that 257 50-year pins were presented to our members. In addition, the following pins were purchased by our chapters: 60-year: 127, 65-year: 71, 70-year: 51, 75-year: 21 and 80-year: 2. All of those recipients which were reported to the GC Historian by the chapter secs 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. 8 G Jurisdictions requested extensions of the terms for their GRs to OH. 17 new commissions were given for GRs of OH. 9 chapters are not using Star Tracker, often due to the rural areas where they are located so the connection is weak.

The G Treas, *Gayle Sutherin, G.L. Behrens #504 (Lydia #83)*, PGM 1995, gave us the encouraging news that our investment portfolio had done well. She reported on the donations to the many charities that we have supported. 14 ESTARL awards were granted.

Our Fraternal Correspondent, *Cheryl Mazlowski, Wroena #597*, enjoyed her trip, although she never left the farm! She visited 26 GCs via their proceedings: 3 books, 2 thumb drives, 15 CDs and 6 pdfs. Major topics were membership, lack of participation, and our aging membership. Most GCs have seen a loss in the number of their chapters as well as their membership. Generosity was a common theme, with ESTARL, Service Dogs, youth and medical research being frequent recipients. Many GCs now have websites. Humor and kindness, patriotism, the future, and devotion to our tenets were also shared. We played a Jurisdictional Trivia Game to help us realize some of our differences and common ideals.

The Ritual Competition awards saw some repeat winners from previous years and 4 different winners from a single chapter: 3 firsts and a second to a mother, daughter and her husband, and a fourth member of *Home City #258*. Congratulations to all! Adah: *Carol Grubel, Warpole #366, Iesa McVay, Marietta #59*, and 1st, *Mandy Ennis, Aero #536*, Ruth: *Misty Wooddell, Stokes #543, Linda Fiatoa, Ruth #17* and 1st, *Julie Morrison, Troy #256*, Esther: *Mary Anne Chadbourne, Jacob Eby #571, Susan Keller, Home City #258* and 1st, *Ruth Ann Fox, Racine #134*, Martha: *Denise Gregory, Lucasville #495, Jill Riddle, Sterling #74*, and 1st, *Tracie Evans, Bryan #248*, Electa: *Stephanie Ott, Reber #161, Kim Evans, Lucasville #495* and 1st, *Vicki Perks, Home City #258*, A P: *Roger Wooddell, Stokes #543* and 1st, *Larry Perks, Home City #258* and Ch: *Lydalyn Pritchard, Windemere #388, Amanda Schoen, Windemere #388* and 1st, *W Andrew Shuirr, Home City #258*. (Imagine everyone's surprise and delight when *Andy* was introduced as the 2022 G Ch!).

The legislative portion of the meeting added language concerning pandemics to appropriate responsibilities of the WGM, WGP and G Trustees. It allowed a WM and AM to serve a third consecutive year if prior approval was granted from the WGM and AGM. It permitted a COA to be chosen from any district within the state. The process of dual members and the status

of a chapter on probation when a chapter merges was clarified. The ability of a chapter to participate in public functions was not changed.

The session was delighted to honor *Vivian Chrisopulos*, Brecksville #537, and to remember *C. Ray Burkhart*, Worthington #287, who served as WGM and WGP in 1996, 25 years ago.

The Sunday vesper service featured *Scott Barrett*, Findlay #23, G Org. We enjoyed the sharing of the worship leader and the speaker, both ESTARL recipients, *Matt Overman*, Celina #91 and *Nancy Fields*, Prosser #367. The memorial service was led by *Alfred Lawrence*, Deshler #68, G Ch.

The excitement mounted in anticipation of the “We’ve a Story to Tell” drill and the installation of the 2022 GOs. The OES Chorus performed as people gathered and final preparations were made. The Drill, written by *Marilyn Braatz*, Worthington #287 and directed by *D. Marie Pierce* and *Jeni Casbar*, Amelia #338, was filled with much music and movement. *Roberta Erwin*, Aldora #262, served as Org and narrators were *John Chadwell*, Grove City #502 and *Jill Riddle*, Sterling #74, spouses of our WGM-elect, *Cindy Chadwell* and WGP-elect *Scott Riddle*. Since the theme focused on stories, the drill began with the spotlight on 3 readers, one in a rocker, one in a bed, reading under the covers with a flashlight and the WGP-elect, *Scott Riddle*, reading the G Proceedings! The GRs (Dancing Bees) and their escorts formed the cross. The escorts stayed in position and the GRs exited to return later to encircle the entire arrangement, representing the family, which ties us together. The Bible was presented by *Lynda Chambers*, Grove City #502. The flags were presented by the Youth representatives. The sisters and brothers of Districts 17 and 18 formed a dogwood blossom. WMs-elect and WPs-elect took shape as a beehive, with the DGMs (Honeybees) coming in as bees enjoying the dogwood and heading to the hive. A special treat was the singing of “Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone” by a group of 8 sisters.

The impressive emblem ceremony was performed by the 2018 G SPs and Marshal and several men who, through the narration of *Charles Merckle*, Matamoras #261, PGP 2020, combined the meaning of several of the masonic emblems with the OES emblems.

The Installation was called to order by *Marilyn Rowley*, Grove City #502, PGM 1983 and *Raymond Belfrage*, Worthington #287 (Eugenie #507), PGP 1975. These two special friends from District 17 first served together as WM and WP in 1963 and their families have long remained friends. *Marilyn* served as G A in 1975 when *Ray* served as WGP and the ties that bind grew stronger. *Marilyn* is the mother of *Cindy Chadwell*, the WGM-elect, and they are the first mother-daughter combination in that position in OH’s history. With this auspicious beginning, the installation proceeded smoothly and another story in OH’s GC history began.

We learned quickly that our focus this year would be the encouragement of our membership and the gathering of new members, as well as “Forget Not to BEE Charitable.” We are excited to be a part of the triennial session with our own *F. Lon Lowry* serving as the MWGP, and are pleased with all of the OH appointments. Our WGM asked for support for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the WGP chose Regenerative Medicine. Their project at the OES Home will upgrade the chapel and also the AV equipment so that services can be enjoyed

in the resident's room. New this year is a Bee Geek in each district to help with technology and a number of different activity and award opportunities. The state is divided into "SWARMS" (Sisters and brothers Working And Reaching Many in Service) for the EOPs (Educational Opportunities). Meetings in these SWARMS were held for training, for ritualistic exemplification and for the assembling of Agape Bags to be distributed to women's shelters and homeless veterans in the local areas. Chapters were encouraged to have 5 projects during 5 months honoring the heroines of our order. Shining Star awards were presented in each chapter, and Worker Bee Awards were available for all members in 5 categories as well as a Busy Bee award for attendance. Nearly 300 members enjoyed the Celebration of the Stars event honoring the elected GOs, with the theme of "One Enchanted Evening." GC Cheryl Maslowski, Wroena #597, chaired the event, allowing different GOs to do introductions throughout the evening, and providing table questions for guests to ponder.

Memorials: When we finish reading a book, sometimes we rejoice in the story and go on our way. Sometimes we contemplate the ideas we have read for a long time. As we share the names of those we have lost from our Grand Chapter, we remember our connections with these special friends, and will not soon forget the impact they have had on our lives. In addition to many chapter members, we remember **Corrine Witham**, New Hope #590 (Parma #552), who died on June 16, just days shy of her 99th birthday. She served as WGM in 1982 with Clifford Fenner, Hillsboro #441. Our 1983 WGM, and mother of our current WGM, **Marilyn Rowley**, Grove City #502, died on July 3. She served with Charles Prince, Ann Eckley #392, which has since merged with East Palestine #381. **Raymond Belfrage**, Worthington #287 (Eugenie #507), died on March 15. Ray was our senior PGP, having served as WGP in 1975. His WGM was Elizabeth Whitehouse, Ann Rutledge #453 (Lincoln #309).

We also lost **Frank Edmisten** who died on April 12. He was the spouse of our 2004 WGM, Sandra Edmiston, Russellville #461. She served with Robert Palmer, Ravenna #46.

Stories from the Celebrations of Special years and Special meetings

Several chapters would have celebrated 125 years in 2021, but Covid restrictions kept that from happening as planned, so they were honored in 2022. Margi Wheeler, Gallipolis #283 PGM 2020, and Charles Merckle, Matamoris #261 PGP 2020, were pleased to present the plaque to Marietta #59. They also were present to celebrate with Palestine #51. At Vera #64, Heather Wood, Bellefontaine #459, was commissioned as GR of MT. Venus #76 celebrated with a Jazz band from the local high school. At Sterling #74, the home chapter of our WGP, Inspection day was also the celebration of Sterling's 125th year. Portraits of their three PGMs, Bessie Boice (1914), Mary Porter (1990) and Peg Reiterman (2009), were on display. Lincoln #309 also had three WGMs, but no WGP. It is an interesting statistic that there are 16 chapters which have had two WGMs from their membership. Facts about the chapter's beginning were shared from the 1897 G Proceedings. WP John Huffman was chosen as the Shining Star. Sterling will move to a new location in June. Their final meeting at the temple was bittersweet. A moving tribute in verse was written and shared by PGM, Peg. Contact me if you want a copy. Other chapters celebrating 125 years were Aurelius #60, Woodbine #61, Heber #62, Western Reserve #71 and Morning Light #80 (who later merged with Opal #181).

Bellefontaine #459 reached the 100-year milestone and was delighted to have 66 present to celebrate, along with our WGM and WGP. They shared stories about the chapter itself and about the area 100 years ago. A musical program by Scott Nelson Barrett was enjoyed. Interesting historical exhibits were arranged in the dining hall. Our WGM and WGP also visited Russellville #461 to help them celebrate 100 years, along with WM *Sandra Edmiston*, PGM 2004. Other chapters which celebrated this milestone were Hillsboro #441 and Sunrise #458. Groveport #440 also celebrated 100 years and following the presentation of their plaque by WGM, *Cindy Chadwell*, the chapter merged with Triangle #592. This chapter is comprised of Burma #471, Columbus #457, Linden Heights #463, Minerva #101, Mizpah #38, and now Groveport #440. They have a meaningful welcome ceremony for each new chapter in which all of the canceled charters are tied together with beautiful ribbons. *Clara Jo Rike* ensures that this tradition continues. Covert #547 was excited to celebrate 75 years.

Other mergers this year include: Neal #522 with Home City #258, Fort Hamilton #568 with Washington #195, (their fun Christmas gift exchange allowed you to steal a gift box from someone), Englewood #563 with Dayton-Victory #594, West Park #427 with New Hope #590, Van Wert #48 with Delphos #26 (which is moving and getting settled in a lovely church), Garfield #324 with Ashland #92 and Lyndon #361 with Day #479.

Medina #266 held a Visitation by the WGP and honored the G Ch, *Andy Shuirr*, Home City #258 and G Es, *Sally Anspach*, Thornville #156. The WM, *Chris Filley*, served as G Es and the WGP as G Ch in 2017. All current and past G and chapter Ests and Chs were also honored with gracious words and kind gifts. *Bonnie Youngblood*, Day #479, PGM 2006, our WG Es, narrated the funny "Choose the Queen" contest. *Dennis Lawson*, Medina #266, PGP 2019, served as the unfortunate King needing to make the choice. Each of the 89 guests received a Precious Moments figurine at the dining table after the meeting., celebrating the theme, "Prayer is the center piece of the story. May your story be filled with Precious Moments." Medina's other special event was the initiation of WM *Chris Filley's* daughter *Cortney* who was home on leave from the US Navy. Rumor has it that she wore her Navy boots under her gown! Gr Es, *Sally*, was also honored at Jacob Eby #571. G Org, *Susie Mayer*, was honored at Prosser #367 and G A, *Karen Smith*, was pleased to share A's history at Grove City #502.

Dayton-Victory #594 had a special Valentine's Day as PGM, *Roberta David*, was honored as the "2022 Sweetheart" in recognition of her 25th Anniversary of service to the GC as WGM in 1997. Getting 25 instead of 24 red roses, especially on Valentine's Day, was no easy feat for WM *Leeann Young*. Many GOs and 1997 GOs and other appointments were present. *Becky Bucher*, 1997 G A is the current DGM of Districts 8 and 26!

Our WGM, *Cindy Chadwell* and her husband *John* served as the Installing Officers for Grove City #502. They installed their son, *Jason Chadwell* as WP and *Liz Compton* as WM. Granddaughter *Kaylee Chadwell* serves as a page and *Marilyn Rowley*, PGM 1983, as prompter. 4 generations serving our beautiful order! *Cindy* was also pleased to install *Peggy Eberhart* as WM at Tiffin #189. *Peggy* was also a WM in 1983, and was installed then by *Cindy's* mother, *Marilyn*, who was the WGM! *Peggy* was surprised and pleased to be commissioned as the GR of MO that afternoon! *Cindy* also installed another 1983 WM, *Soni Morris*, as WM of Thornville #156 along with *Clark Cook* as WP. *Soni* and *Cindy* both served

as G SPs in 2011 for *Sue Kerns*, [Kingston #411](#) and *Trevor Sproul*, [Legacy #596](#) ([Delta #539](#)) and *Soni* is currently DGM of District 27. *Cindy* also installed at [Goshen #382](#), assisted by *Marie Williams*, her Big Sis, her mother's G W, and PGM 1987. They installed *Marie's* granddaughter, *Laura Daniels* and her husband *Derrick* as first time WM and WP. Their theme of "baseball" showed their love of the Cincinnati Reds and was evident in the chapter room as well as the dining room. Even the refreshments of hot dogs, peanuts and Cracker Jacks made you feel like you'd been "taken out to the ballgame." At [Chillicothe #419](#), *Cindy* installed 1st time WM, *Amanda Blakeman* and WP *Ryan Adams*. *Cindy* installed *Carrie* and *Gerry McGlaughlin* as WM and WP at [Level #109](#). They had been co-workers with she and *John* previously, so this was a special honor for our WGM. At [New Vienna #327](#), *Cindy* installed WM *Joni Streber* and WP *Jack Walker*. *Soni Morris* served as I G Mar and *Margi Wheeler*, PGM 2020, was I G Ch. All 4 were G SPs in 2011! Another evening highlight was the presentation of *Bonnie McDonald's* 70-year pin by *Avonelle Williams*, [Miami #107](#). The two were lifelong friends following the fact that both had twins just 5 days apart. WP *Jack* was delighted to present a 50-year pin to a high school classmate, *Joanne Quallen*. *Cindy* and WGP *Scott Riddle* installed together at two chapters: *Gloria* and *George Tilden* at Falls #245 (details in *Scott's* story below) and *Ginny Winget* and *David Milligan* at [Guernsey #211](#).

WGM *Cindy* and WGP *Scott* were pleased and humbled to recognize their fraternal parents. *Sandi Herman*, PGM 2018, was presented at her altar and recognized the night of [Guernsey 211's](#) installation. The visitation at [Gallipolis #283](#) provided the opportunity to recognize *Margi Wheeler*, PGM 2020. *Scott* inspected at [Matamoris #261](#) and honored *Charles Merckle*, PGP 2020. At the Visitation at [Amelia #338](#) to honor Drill Directors *D Marie Pierce* and *Jeni Casbar*, *Scott* shared the thoughts and best wishes of *Cindy* to *David Sexton*, PGP 2018, as *Cindy* was attending to her mother's needs.

Each of the SWARMS held an Exemplification and new members were initiated. At Bolivar the day was windy and roads were flooded, so many had to detour to the chapter. *Dottie Orlo* entered [Crystal #18](#) on a day to remember! *Grace Johnson* was initiated in Xenia into [Sterling #74](#). She is the great niece of WGP *Scott* and his wife *Jill* (and also of the GC Historian!) Her mother, *Katie McAfee*, walked with her. This was an exciting day as *Denise Vanderhorst*, [Aero #536](#), accepted the commission of GR of Alberta. In Cincinnati, *Cecilia Horstman Conn* was initiated into [Hillsboro #441](#) and *Robert Tipton*, [Covert #547](#), was affiliated as a dual member of [Dorcas #277](#). In Perrysburg, *Carol Batesman* became a member of [Morris #265](#). The Marysville Exemplification was held in monsoon season! Gratefully, *George Spurling* sat on a folding chair in the parking lot under an umbrella, directing and escorting members. The GOs illustrated initiating a single candidate as *Nicol North* became a member of [Level #109](#). At Marietta, *Angie Hill* became a member of [Racine #134](#). GS *Harless Maynard*, [Miami #107](#), became "Batman" as he was able to catch the bat which was flying around the chapter room!

Travel Tales

What a treat it was to be a "Spectator Only" at MS GC in April when our own *F. Lon Lowry*, MWGP, made his official visitation. Former OH member, *Jane Boston* ([Washington #195](#), District 19, DGM 1998), serves as MS WGM. Joining in the event were *Bonnie Youngblood*, [Day #479](#), PGM 2006, WG Es; *Jean Watters*, [Dorcas #277](#), PGM 2012; *Eloise Wyse*, [Fulton #67](#), PGM 1998 and *Dennis Lawson*, [Medina #266](#), PGP 2019, all 3 GGCCMs; *Iesa McVey*, [Marietta](#)

#59, GR of MS in OH, as well as *Barbara Lowry*, GL Behrens #504, Personal Sec of MWGP; *Celia Lawson*, Medina #266, Personal Page for WG Es; *Pat Kiefel*, Mt Healthy #365, GR of ID; *Jacqui Umbach*, Mt Healthy #365; *Melora Waltman*, Dayton-Victory #494 and *John Youngblood*, Day #479.

Suzanne Murlin and *Fonda Mason*, Celina #91 and *Debby Pitts*, Pleiades #298, AGM, attended AZ GC in Aug. *Mitzi Loughridge*, Celina #91, a dual member in AZ, was installed as WGM! District 9 has 2 WGMs in the same year! *Fonda*, who knew *Mitzi* in Rainbow, was honored to be a part of the Emblem Ceremony. We look forward to welcoming *Mitzi* to OH GC.

The GC Bourbon Trail Trip was 6 days to explore Nashville and Louisville, with stops at 3 distilleries and a winery. Two buses took 100 travelers to delightful stops to enjoy highlights and surprises. What happens in Nashville stays in Nashville, but you might find several travelers willing to talk! Each person had different favorite places. One highlight was the solemn viewing of the demise of the chin hairs of *Ken Thatcher*, Fulton #67, and *John Chadwell*, Grove City #502 ... who agreed to be shaved if \$1000 each could be raised for Regenerative Medicine. Each bus met that challenge and \$2101.02 was gained. One surprise was the quick visit of *Liz Compton* and *Jason Chadwell*, WM and WP of Grove City #502. (*Liz* also is a member of Level #109.) They were on their way to San Antonio and made sure they could connect during our lunchtime in Louisville! You should ask G Es, *Sally Anspach*, Thornville #156, how it feels to be asked for your autograph by someone who mistakes you for Paula Deen! The buses were considerably fuller coming home than going! There was some great shopping, except at Maker's Mark where the internet was down!! When we arrived at the hotel in Louisville, *Nancy* and *Avonelle Williams*, Miami #107, met us at the door with an OH-KY welcome, including a buckeye and a bourbon ball! A surprise and personal highlight happened at the dinner at Churchill Downs, when I was selected as GR of VA! WOW doesn't begin to explain the feeling!

GR of IN, *Carolyn Ohnewehr*, Sterling #74, enjoyed IN GC with her daughter, *Beth Ohnewehr-Smith*. *Dody Myers*, Triangle #592, GR of WY, and her husband *Mike* visited WY and she enjoyed receiving an honorary membership into their GC, and carrying OH's flag in the opening ceremonies. The "Roaring Twenties" banquet was unique. *Heather Wood*, Bellefontaine #459, GR of MT, was between training of service dogs, so she traveled alone, but enjoyed meeting new friends at MT's GC. *Thelma Riehle*, Bryan #248, GR of Nova Scotia and PEI, was pleased to visit their GC, with the theme of "Music, Dance and Laughter. WGM *Beth Lois Brett*, a former Rainbow, was very energetic and enjoyed participating with the choir. *Thelma's* counterpart, *Sharon Haugen*, gave her a hooked rug decorated with the OES emblem. She also attended the GC of New Brunswick for their "Angels Among the Stars" session. They have the only known international choir. Earlier in the year, *Thelma* attended the "Symphony of J-O-Y" session for IN GC, and intends to visit Toronto and MI for their GC sessions yet this fall. Often our GRs report on their trips to their G jurisdictions, but this year I heard the following from the GR of Ontario, *Jill Riddle*, Sterling #74. "I have attended so many meetings and events across the state, so my memory is a "collective" one, about the many appointments for GRs that have been made. At almost every appointment, I have been moved by the reaction and response of the person who receives the appointment. These responses are ones of surprise, humility, appreciation, and honor. Many times, the

appointees are moved to tears; some are smiling from ear to ear because of the excitement; and all have accepted the appointment!"

Bowling Green KY was the site of the Tri-State dinner with visits to the Corvette Museum and some of the Bourbon Trail venues and local caves. G Mar *Jennifer Garringer* and her husband *Dan* even got in some geocaching! It was exciting to have MWGM *Glenda Winchester* and MWGP *Lon Lowry* present, along with KY WGM *Myrna LaFoy* and WGP *Robert "Bobby" Butler*, and WV WGP *Bill Shockey*.

Membership milestone recognitions

Lois Terkhorn, South Point #404, Sec, was surprised to learn that another Lois, ***Lois Swing***, had earned her 80-year pin, two years ago!! She lives in NC, so her pin was mailed, along with wishes for her 101st birthday! Carroll #315 was delighted that their 66-year member, ***Donna Tucker***, was their Shining Star. Home City #258 was thrilled when they were able to present, at a chapter meeting, a 75-year pin to ***Betty Dodds***, G Org in 1981 and WM of both Home City and Neal, prior to their merger. ***Roma Wright***, G M in 1988, received her 70-year pin. (She had never been a s p before being asked to be a G one!) ***Carol Boner***, originally a member of Johnstown #342, received her 60-year pin, and ***Lynda Smith***, current AC, received her 50-year pin. This chapter is also proud of their 100 year old member, *Don Muncie*, who was treated to a flight on a historic B-29 to honor his career as an air traffic controller. He and daughter, *Diane Glasgow*, will visit his family in CA and meet his new great granddaughter! Many of the paintings at the OH Masonic Home are his work. Windemere #388's ***Vicki Swearingen*** was pleased to receive her 50-year pin from *Jan Goerss*, Western Reserve #71, PGM 2010, who noted that they met when they were in competitive Rainbow drill teams and have been friends ever since. *Vicki* then gave her sister, ***Susan Pustai***, her 50-year pin. The chapter is very proud of their member, *David Weimer*, the MIM of R&S Masons in OH. He was pleased to present a 75-year pin to his aunt, ***Phyllis Podmore***. Oxford #225 presented 50-year pins to ***Anna*** and ***Rellon Bennett***. *Roberta David*, Dayton-Victory #594 (Victory #410), PGM 1997, presented *Anna's* pin, and *Rellon's* was presented by *Ron Seigla*, Belmont #555 (Far Hills #577), PGP 1980. The recipients served as WM and WP in 1980 and 1995. *Anna* served as a DGM in 1985 and was sec for 10 years and mostly Es the last 8 years. *Rellon* also served as WP in 1983 and 1993, as well as G Aide in 2005. The couple celebrated their 70th anniversary in Dec. *Marilyn Bridges*, Fort Black #336, was pleased to present 50-year pins to ***Doug*** and ***Mary Smith***. *Doug* received her late husband *Kent's* pin which was very special, as they were good friends. At Yondota #317, *Barb Shaneour* was able to present a 50-year pin to ***Shirley Pollock*** at her assisted living facility, in a private presentation, with good wishes carried with her from the chapter. ***Kay Hough*** who serves as R, received her pin from *Peggy Heider*. The two were WMs together in 1981 and *Kay* was WM again when *Peggy* was DGM in 2000. *Kay* has always been in the same chapter since her initiation, but with mergers has served as WM 3 times in different chapters: Collingwood #156, Fort Industry #391 and Yondota #317. Grove City #502 was thrilled to present ***Louis Ardit*** his 50-year pin at a dinner out on his 102nd birthday! East Palestine #381 held a Golden Treasure open house and *Mary Simmons*, who was WM 50 years ago, was able to present a 50-year pin to ***Ruth Dodge*** with her family in attendance.

Another well-deserved recognition goes to *Chrissy Willeke, Worthington #287*, who was selected as the very first Youth Advisor of the Year for the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. She has served as dedicated advisor for both Ohio DeMolay and Ohio Rainbow.

Stories from our 2022 Grand Officers

Cynthia Chadwell, Grove City #502, WGM shared:

“This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

Psalm 118:24

This is the first time in the 133-year history of our Grand Chapter that a mother and daughter have assumed the office of WGM. It was indeed an emotional and meaningful time for me as I journeyed through this Grand Line with my mother, PGM, *Marilyn L. Rowley* by my side. This verse from Psalms was her Bible verse in 1983 and reminds me daily of the blessings that our Lord has given to each of us. It was an honor to receive a Life Membership into Grove City #502 from my mother, who is also a Life Member of the Chapter, as she stood with me at the altar with our only other living Life Member, PGM, *Evelyn Hardesty*. That Mom’s dear friend and mine, PGP, *Raymond Belfrage* could join her in the responsibility of opening the Sunday afternoon session of the 132nd Grand Chapter Session for the Installation of our 2022 Grand Officers was priceless! But by the grace of God, they were both able to start us on this journey and allow us to Tell our Stories this year.

Scott Riddle, Sterling #74, WGP shares two special events. First, the installation of Falls #245 by the WGM and WGP. “I rode up to Cuyahoga Falls with *Cindy* and *John Chadwell*, as we had a stated meeting at Sterling #74 that *Jill* had to attend. We arrived around 4 pm, so that we could check into the motel, get settled and get a bite to eat before we headed over to the Chapter. As we pulled into the parking lot at the motel, we noticed that there were no lights. Upon checking at the front desk, we were told that the electric had been out for several hours with no notice of when it might come back on. We checked with the WM & WP at Falls (Gloria and George Tilden) and were informed that they also had no electric but that they were lining up as many flashlights and electric candles as they could find with the hope that shortly after or perhaps before the starting time, the electric might be restored. Alas, it was not to be, but as the WGM and I had decided before our year started, we would take things as they evolved, make the changes that we needed to change, and go forth to try to jumpstart our GC during our year in office. It was a surreal evening. The glow of flashlights and candle lights made it possible to see the room in shadows, the sisters and brothers in body but not bright enough to make out individual faces! And perhaps because it was dark, there was almost no noise in the room once we started. You could have heard a pin drop! We proceeded to install all of the officers in a manner that most who were in attendance will never forget! A great start to our year of “We’ve A Story To Tell” in 2022.”

“Second, the Installation of the GGCOs at the OES Headquarters in Washington D.C. “Holding the installation of the GGCOs in the beautiful Washington D.C. Headquarters ballroom was a first time event in the GGC history. This is a very small room for an event of this nature, but it really made for an intimate setting. With the labyrinth set in the middle of the room, it left only room for one row of chairs along the sideline in order to allow the marching lines to complete their journey (actually not unlike many of our subordinate Chapter rooms). The

room none the less was filled to overflowing for an impressive ceremony. Many of us traveled from the hotel to the headquarters by bus. What an experience for a bus driver, maneuvering a large bus through those narrow streets of Washington D.C. Ours had to make a circle around the building, backing up several times to keep from hitting the parked cars along the side in order to get us close to the entrance of the building (but he was successful and no damage was done!) The WGM and I had the opportunity to give our greetings from the MWGP's state of OH. What a tremendous opportunity for our GC!" (*F. Lon Lowry* is the first MWGP from OH since *Ernest Teare* in 1925-28. 2012 PGM, *Jean Watters*, [Dorcas #277](#), had the honor of introducing the GGCs!)

Susie Mayer, [Jefferson #300](#), G Org, reveals her story. "My G year began rather uneventfully but it didn't stay that way. *Cindy, John, Scott* and *Jill* called our house and asked if *Larry* and *I* were home and if they could stop. The reason was *John* needed to talk to *Larry* about some tires for a skid loader he didn't own. When they got here they thought we had company as there was a limo parked in our driveway. No, that was just our son's newest ride, and it comes in handy a lot with a family the size of ours! After some small talk, *Cindy* and *Scott* got around to the question of the day: "Would I be the G Org for them?" I didn't need to think long as I was more than thrilled and honored that they had asked and said yes after making sure *Larry* understood that it would require a certain dress code for him on occasion. *Cindy* did make me promise to put my Disney music away for the year. I did agree but I sneak one in on occasion."

"So, the LONG wait began. I did very well keeping it a secret. I told my children so they knew what to expect and my sister so she could be at GC. Other than that no one knew, but I did catch a lot of flack! On the big day, I made my way to the secret room and there is *Pam Moore*, [Caroline #39 \(Urbana #530\)](#). I stick my head in the room and say hello and she shoos me out. I show her the dogwood blossom charm and she has no clue what it is for. So I tell her "I have a story to tell" and still she doesn't want to let me in. Thank heavens *Joan Decker* hears me and tells *Pam* to let me in! At that point she is thrilled for me but I was a little worried for a minute! Besides, *Steve (Moore)* was texting her asking if she knew anyone and she wouldn't tell him who was in the room. I loved it."

"After GC we start into all the EOPs and running around the state. I have enjoyed every minute of meeting all the new faces and putting names and faces together. It has been great. We have had safe travels except for the wreck coming from Middletown where we almost totaled our pickup truck. I think there was an Almighty Hand that day as we were sure the truck was about to roll and were both preparing for it when all of a sudden it just stopped."

"I have been asked to play for a lot of chapters and I love helping where I can. I may not be the most beautiful pianist there is, but I try and make a joyful noise for the Lord always. I will forever kid *Judy Hornsby* that I broke their Clavinova, and leaned over and warned the COA *Nancy Williams* that maybe an electric piano for GC might not be the best idea for me! That night the DGM, *Melinda Callahan*, was very inventive and had the Chapter sing "I'm Henry the 8th" for the closing march, and it worked out great."

“As we have traveled from the top of the state to the bottom and side to side, I have seen lots of beautiful chapters and people. All have been more than welcoming and I think that is what I love most about our order. No matter where you go, there is always a welcome smile, hug or handshake there to greet you. As you can see, I’ve had some great times and memories but we aren’t done yet, our year isn’t over and we still have things to do. The 2022 GOs will make memories right up until we walk out of the GC Room for the very last time as a group, I am sure of it. Then we will start again the very next time we are together!”

Tracie Evans, Bryan #248, G M, enjoyed an Honor Night at Yondota #317. All the Ms were presented and given gifts, and Tracie spoke about Martha, sharing that she is mentioned 3 times in the Bible and was gifted as a hostess. “We can learn lessons of humility, fellowship, connections, hospitality, relevance and focus. We are able to see M as more than just a faithful servant, but as a friend of Jesus with normal human qualities that help us learn to honor each person’s gifts and contributions to our order.” She also attended an Official V of the WGM and WGP in IN and was delighted to meet her counterpart. Three chapters met with one doing the opening, one the introductions, the GOs performing the initiatory work on a new petitioner and the third doing the closing. At the opening, the GOs were seated in the south and following introductions, the sisters were seated in the north and the brothers reseated in the south! During the opening the C and AC moved around the room to “prove” the chapter, confirming membership, usually by the day’s pin-on, before they reported to the AM. Many OH friends attended Tracie’s reception (and the charity dinner before that raised over \$1000 for the WGM/WGP project) and then stayed for OH-MI night at Sauder Village. “Since so many of the GOs and their traveling companions stayed over at Sauder Village’s Heritage Inn and I am the Curator of Collections at Sauder Village, I invited them to take part in a special behind the scenes tour of our Collections Department as well as the Broken Barrel Speakeasy hidden inside Sauder Village’s new 1920’s Main Street area. Unfortunately, there was no bartender for us to get a sample. That evening we enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner at Sauder Village’s Founder’s Hall. Entertainment was presented by each GC’s Os. OH had a great time doing a parody of opening our “bee” chapters post pandemic with Cindy’s Bees and Scott’s Rockers. We also included a fundraiser where we auctioned off a handmade stole and s p inspired pictures created by *Todd Evans*. The auction raised \$536 which was split between the two GCs for their charitable projects. The next day many of our members visited Sauder Village, OH’s largest “Living History Site.” (Two additions from our WGM are a huge thanks to *Sara Short* and *Marcia Kujawa* for organizing this fine OH-Mi weekend, and an appreciation of the worship service at Wauseon Congregational United Church of Christ on Sunday morning.) *Tracie* also shared this Believe it or Not story. “After the EOP #3 Exemplification at Dorcas #277 several of the GOs went to supper at the Brickhouse Bar and Grill in Sharonville. *Harless Maynard*, Miami #107, GS, illustrated how you can make a duck call from a plastic straw. He demonstrated it, taught *Cheryl Maslowski*, Wroena #597, GC, to make and call with one, and even talked with others in the restaurant. As we were leaving, *Harley* was holding the door for his wife *Jennifer* making another duck call when something flew by their heads. To everyone’s amazement, it was a small rubber cowboy duck. It was almost too *funny* to believe it was true.”

Chapter and district events and activities

Brecksville #537 was pleased to honor their PMs and PPs, and held a memorial service for those members who had died during the previous two years. They also honored veterans and named *Vivian Chrispulos*, PGM 1996, "Queen of Bob Evans Cards" as a tribute to her support of this program. Falls #245 visited and enjoyed a potluck and Service Dog presentation. At one meeting they used the "New Member Quiz" from the ohioes.org website as a discussion starter and learning session. Cary #221 was delighted to be back into their temple for their installation by WGP, *Scott Riddle*, and enjoyed the fresh hardwood floors and white walls in the chapter room. They were delighted to have *Joyce Kelly*, AC, chosen as "Clinton Co Woman of the Year." She was also selected as the Shining Star! Cary, like other chapters, reported on projects for the Heroines of our Star. For A, veterans' cards were made and distributed to the veterans at the Medina Home. For R, members were visited and given a small poinsettia at Christmas. For Es, valentines were made and sent to all the out-of-state members. For M, members were remembered with Easter cards. For El, cookies were delivered to the Fire and Police Departments. The River #517 attended "Wicked" at the local playhouse. They saw "The Sound of Music" at the Olde Time Theater in North Ridgeville and were delighted that *Lynn Miller Penegor*, West Park #427, WM, played one of the Nuns. A Crushers Baseball game, complete with fireworks, was another outing. Because they have a first time WM, they held a shower for her with food, games and gifts that she could use for her year. They also sponsored both a wedding shower and a baby shower!! (The baby arrived early, so she attended her own shower!) They continued their 70-year tradition of combining with their Lodge to feature a Children's Christmas Party, complete with Santa, gifts, and this year, a magician. They were thrilled to initiate 4 new members at Inspection, all from Job's Daughters. Inspecting Officer, WGM, *Cindy Chadwell*, was also a Job's Daughter! Delphos #26 was given an offer on their building and agreed to sell. They are temporarily housed at the Delphos Presbyterian Church. With the theme of Blessings, they note the true blessing of the merger with Grove #527 and Van Wert #48. Many of those members are attending and being supportive. They are pleased to have initiated 1 and affiliated 4. Another highlight was the SWARM meeting when the Agape bags were filled to be distributed to homeless women and veterans in the area. Windemere #388 was pleased to honor secretaries in Feb and *Michelle Howell*, Miami #107, G Sec was in attendance to welcome 14 past and current secs. Warpole #366 continues to participate in "Upper's Winter Fantasy of Lights." The chapter puts up a display entitled "O Come Let Us Adore Him." 7 of the 16 on the planning committee are members of the chapter! During the last 25 years, over \$780,000 has been dispersed to local non-profit projects. For further details, see www.UppersFantasyofLights.org. Home City #258 knew they would have a busy year with the DGM *Vicki Perks*, plans for a merger ceremony with Neal # 522, and then they were delighted to find that the G Ch was one of their own, *Andrew Shuirr*. First time WM *Emly Dye* has shone! During Covid, *Bradley Campbell*, AP, and *Helen Roe*, PM, started sending cards to members. Now they have formed a committee to continue that well received initiative, and have expanded to non-members, especially residents of the OH Masonic Home. Amelia #338 enjoyed their Heroines of the Star projects: remembering their members with cards, veterans in the home in Georgetown with candy bars and cards, crocheted hearts and cards for out-of-state and shut in members, and feminine items for the SE Ecumenical Ministry food pantry. Fostoria #94 hosts the Induction Banquet and Ceremony for the National Honor Society for their local high school. They personally delivered poinsettias to their shut-ins and 50 plus year members, and sent "love cards"

to every member at Valentine's Day. This year they opened their temple and provided tours and historical information during the Home Tour event. Their 52-member chapter invites all of you to their 125th celebration in 2023! District #7 had a contest to determine which chapter had the most couples celebrating 50 or more years of marriage. Fulton #67 won the contest with 7. Caroline #39 was pleased to welcome Urbana #530 and are grateful that several of these "new" members remain active. This year's theme of "Count Your Blessings" was incorporated into a program celebrating the visit of our WGM and WGP. They have continued the "C" dollar program and have supported 15 people who have cancer with \$100 contributions during this year. Troy #256 was pleased to be inspected by the WGM, *Cindy Chadwell*, at their first inspection in their new location, a former church in Piqua.

G A, *Karen Smith*, Triangle #592, served as WM in 1983 and was delighted that her WGM, *Marilyn Rowley*, could be present at her Visitation. WM, *Elayne Duncan*, shared several special songs and many took home beautiful African violets. G R, *Donya Wright*, Prosser #367, added a little spice to her special evening with tacos and hot sauce for refreshments! The chapter presented a bouquet of flowers made of \$ and told of her involvement with Job's Daughters, serving as Honored queen of Bethel #75 and then Grand Guardian in 2016. She is a recipient of the Degree of Royal Purple and continues to serve as Bethel Guardian. Her Associate Grand Guardian, *John Young*, was also present. "Fresh Spirit," a local gospel group entertained. G Es *Sally Anspach*, Thornville #156, served as DGM in 1987. *Sally* is a dual member of Worthington #287 and was delighted to have 13 members of her family and many members of her dual chapter present. *Beth Muncy*, WM of Reber #161, was humbled to accept the commission of GR of OR. All enjoyed the local musician, *Gayla Smith*. G El, *Machelle Miller*, Bolivar #368, is actively involved, along with her husband *Jed* and daughter *Meghan*, in the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas Co. The entire cast of "Disaster" brought wonderful entertainment. *Meghan* had put together a wonderful scrapbook showcasing the year's service to the GC. G Mar, *Jennifer Garringer*, Lotus #477, received a hatchet from WGP, *Scott*. She is into competitive hatchet throwing! 6 former G Mars joined her at her visitation, and several joined her for an honor night at Yondota #317. *Jan* has a wonderful collection of pictures taken holding the flags of the chapters that she has visited, along with a picture of the Mars of those chapters.

Charitable activities

The two charitable activities reported most frequently were scholarships and donations to local food pantries. Brecksville #537 gave \$1800 to deserving students. They also contributed 42 pair of socks to the Emergency Assistance Center and support local food banks. Their members serve as hostesses through a local funeral home for the meal service a family receives. Amelia #338 gives 2 \$700 scholarships. They also adopted a Christmas family and provided diapers for 10 Child Focus families. Fostoria #94 sells Breakfast Burritos at 8 Farmers' Market mornings to fund its scholarships. They also donate toys and finances for the "Christmas for Every Child" program. Muskingham #485 awarded 6 \$500 scholarships and nearly \$8000 more to other charities. Oxford #225 provided support to the local school district for "Sponsor a Classroom" for supplies. They also contributed nearly 4000 pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries, and plastic bags to the local food pantry. Cary #221 contributes to many charities, including the Special Olympics, the American Legion and a local food pantry. Like many chapters (Bryan #248, Caroline #39), they also contributed

to the KY Tornado Relief. Bryan #248 also sent books for soldiers to USO, supported Shepard House and their food pantry and held a Heart Walk. West Union #246, 56 members strong, supports their food bank and assists their Masons with their March and April fish fries. District 3 honored their District Appointments with a special concert performed by the University Heights Symphonic Band. This 45-member ensemble includes many masons. They selected music specifically for each group of honorees. Evelyn #146 and their community benefitted greatly from the idea of their secretary, *Debbie Snell*. She and her husband operate the grocery located on the first floor of the lodge building. She put a box in the front area of the store and when asked, explained about the collection for the AGAPE project. One of the delivery delivers took the idea back to his company, who sent a check for \$1000. The local Brownie and Girl Scout troops also collected products as their community project. Evelyn #146 was able to provide over 2,100 items for their SWARM.

Fundraisers

One of the new fundraisers was reported by Bryan #248. Barbara Agahi hosted a Bomb Party. Members purchase hidden pieces of costume jewelry, either in person or online, and then enjoy what is revealed from their purchase, some of which are hidden in bath bombs! Talk to G M for more details! Fort Black #336 sponsors an Easter and Christmas Bazaar. They also have a "Blessing Box" in which donations are received as members share their blessings. The donations are given to a local school to help pay for school fees or field trips.

Information came in slowly this year ... so I chose to include some reports in their entirety. Thank you to all who responded to my requests ... without your information, the history is pretty bland! I continue to appreciate those of you who send me your newsletters, and a special thanks to the busy secretaries who take time to send me their information about members who have received membership pins and other interesting tidbits. I'm grateful, too, to our WGM, *Cindy*, for sharing many interesting details from her travels. We have a story to tell, and we must all be willing to be telling it! I'll close with a riddle, as our WGP, *Scott Riddle*, so often did ... "What do you call it when *Scott* tells you a tale? ... HIStory."