**{Slightly Abbreviated}**

**OES OHIO STATE DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

**AUGUST 10, 2022**

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the O.E.S. State District Officers Association was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Marsha Rosser from Wroena Chapter opened the meeting at 10 AM and welcomed all and introduced our State District President – Joell Buchanan.

Joell Buchanan welcomed and thanked all for attending, especially the line Grand Officers will be working with the District Officers in preparing for the upcoming educational opportunities after our meeting.  The invocation was given by a past president of District 12, Sister, Cheri Ulrey.

Joell Buchanan: In 2016 I had the pleasure of serving as Grand Page for the Grand Marshal, Jan Cosby.  I have asked her to give the flag tribute today.  Sister Jan.

Jan Cosby gave the Flag Presentation, and all joined in repeating the pledge of Allegiance.

Joell introduced the head table.  We have on my right Associate Grand Matron, Sister Debby Pitts and her husband, Gary.  Our vice president, Susan Corwin and our treasurer, Sara Short.  On my far left is Cathy and Rick Miller, our Associate Grand Patron; and our secretary, Wendy Busenburg.  I would like to thank each of you for being here today.  None of you at the head table really had a choice, but I still thank you for coming.  At this point, I am going to apologize for any mistakes we make and remember that Grace is given.  If any of you see any deaths that we did not indicate of Past State Presidents or Past State Secretaries from your districts, please let us know. We have been told of a couple today, so if there are any others.  As your district officers are changing next year, please remember to send that email to the State Secretary, her address and phone number are listed in the program for next year . This helps the line grand officers.  I am one of the lucky one who gets to introduce our Brother F. Lon Lowry, The Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter and his lovely wife Barbara.  We have Worthy Grand Esther, Sister Bonnie Youngblood, and we also have The Ambassador to Hawaii, Janice Goerss.

The rest of the groups, I am just going to ask that they stand as a group and their names will appear on the slide, as I am not going to take the time to introduce everybody.

We have General Grand Chapter Committee members and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, if you will rise please if you are able.  (Those present were Jean Beck, Kelly Cholodewitsch, Vivian  Chrisopulos, Marilyn Giey, Carol Gramm-Wise, Evelyn Hardesty, JoAnn Hastings, Sandi Herman, Carol Kauffman, Barbara Pelfrey, Gayle Sutherin, Gail Walsh, Jean Waters, Margie Wheeler, Eloise Wyse, Bruce Ailes, Frank Clifton, Dennis Lawson Chuck Merckle, Bob Palmer, and Bill Taylor.) Thank you for being here, we have had the pleasure of watching your leadership and your continued devotion to our order.  Everyone provides them with a hearty welcome!  I was told by Bill Taylor that I had to give him a special acknowledgement, so Bill welcome.

The Officers of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, we have Associate Grand Matron- Debby Pitts, Associate Grand Patron-Rick Miller, Grand Conductress-Cheryl Maslowski, Associate Grand Conductress-Marla Barber, Grand Treasurer-Gayle Sutherin, Grand Organist-Susie Mayer, Grand Adah- Karen Smith, Grand Esther-Sally Anspach, Grand Martha-Tracie Evans, Grand Warder-Debbie Somerlot and Grand Sentinel-Harless Maynard.  We thank you for coming and hope that you enjoy your travels this year, and we look forward to watching as your progress on your year.  Would you please stand for me so that we can greet you?

We have next, and I know that this is out of order our Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions in Ohio, Alberta Denise Vanderhorst, Arizona Jenny Lawson, Arkansas Wilda Wolfe, Bolivia Vicki Jo Smith, California Cathie Littleton, Colorado LeAnn Gibbons, Florida Jean Rainsberger, Idaho Pat Kiefel, Illinois Claire Morse, Kansas Sue Sewell, Kentucky Nancy Williams, Maine Cathy Maurer, Massachusetts Judy Derickson, Minnesota Jayne Shaffer, Mississippi Iesa McVay, New Mexico Mille Beth New, New York Shelby Smith, Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Islands Thelma Richle, Quebec Gayle Adamek, San Paulo Charlotte Ballard, Scotland Marie Paver, Vermont Marion Johnson, West Virginia Ginger Evans

The next group is  Deputy Grand Matrons, representing districts #1,2 Janet Doolittle,# 3 Barbara Metzler,# 4 Juli Scruggs,# 5,10 Darcie Miller,# 6,7 Becky Walter, #9 Julie Morrison, #11,17 Debbie Mower, #12 Suzanne Griffin,# 13 Loretta Davidson,# 14 Sally Porter,# 19 Wanda Petrenio,# 20 Melinda Callahan,#21 Sandy McCollum, # 23,28 Denise Gregory, #25 Debra Chevalier, #27 Soni Morris. Please stand.  We have Past State Presidents, Brooke Anderson, Patti Askins, Carol Campbell, Diana Evans, Clara Haley, Peggy Heider, Carol Kaufman, Susie Mayer, Kathy Meyer, Nancy McCollum, Jeanette Roberts, and Joan Wedge. They were assisted  by Past State Secretaries Karen Body, Joan Decker, Rita Follas, Bonita Shane.

Now the District Presidents you are the ladies of the day:   District 1, Karen Anspach, 2 Karen Stenger, 3 Dorothy Berman, 4 Joan Sito, 5 Vickie Echelbarger, 6 Becky Walter, 7 Donna Evans, 9 Deb Wooddell, 10 Rita Dropsey, 11 Sue Griffiths, 12 Becky Neibarger, 13 Ginger Evans, 15 Marie Paver, 16 Michelle Rognon, 17 Rachel Burch, 18 Misha Ackenhausen, 19 Marty Smith, 20 Judy Hornsby, 21 Wayne Seibert, 22 Delores Warden, 24 Janet Christian, 25 Jennifer Hesson, 27 Jane Beattie and 28 Kim Evans.  Thank you all.

We will now proceed with our business meeting.  The minutes were posted on the OES website and sent to each District President and for distribution to their members.   There is a copy in each District President’s envelope today.  We have not been made aware of any corrections or additions.  Does anyone know of any here now?   Hearing none, minutes will stand approved as posted.

The audit committee is next.

Suzanne Griffin:  The audit runs from September 2019 to September 2021.  Beginning balance is $11,853.22, receipts $13,050.95, Disbursements $15,171.19 funds at the end of the audit were $9,732.26.  The committee consisting of myself, Todd Evans and Amy Wood inspected the books together.  They balanced with each other and with the bank.  A signed copy of this report was provided for audit.  I move that this report be accepted, no second is required.  Motion carried.

Joell- Sister Sarah-may we have the financial report, Sara Short: Good morning and there should be a copy of this in your packet. This reflects the bank statements as of July 31, 2022, business checking account  beginning balance $6, 882.80, total receipts $12,015.00, total disbursement $27.00 for a balance of $18,870.80.  Entertainment Fund Checking account beginning balance $450.00, total receipts $1,400.00, total disbursements $20.00 balance $1,830.00.   Savings account beginning balance $2,893.17, total receipts 0.65 cents, no disbursements, the balance in that account $2,893.82.  Our total worth as of July 31, 2022 is $23,594.62.  The 990-N has been filed for this fiscal year 2021. So, I submit this report, so keep in mind that there are no disbursements, so we have not paid for your meals today.    A copy will be filed for audit.

Sister Secretary, do you have any correspondence? Wendy Busenburg:   I did receive some thank you notes from Joan Wedge and different people regarding the dyslexia donations that were received.

I want to thank everyone who brought party supplies today or made monetary donations for the Life Enrichment department at the OES Home.  The biggest part of their budget is the paper supplies for the activities.   Again, thank you one and all.

At this point, we are going to take a roll call, for voting and non-voting members. Sister Nancy gets ready.  Would each district president stand up and say how many voting and nonvoting members you have here today. A total of  245 Voting, and 103 non-voting.  That being said it requires 123 votes for anyone to be elected.   Our by-laws indicate that those eligible to vote are current district officers, past President’s, charter members, past state presidents, and past state secretaries.    The ballots are in each District President’s packet.   Will you make sure that all voting members of your districts have a ballot?    At this point, I am going to invite Sister Barbara Lowry to the microphone.   Those making nominations and those seconding nominations, please come to the podium. Remember those nominating or seconding must be voting members of the district.   The ballot for State President is now open.   This will be a courtesy nomination.  The State Vice President will automatically advance to President.

Barbara Lowry:  Thank you Madam President, good morning, everybody.   It is great to see OH-IO out there.

It is my extreme pleasure this morning, to be able to present Susan Corwin.   She served district 11 as District President in 2004 and did an outstanding job as she does in everything she takes on.  It is my pleasure and honor to represent District 11 in placing her name in nomination as State District President.

Joell:  Sister Secretary you will cast the nominative ballot to become the elective ballot for the office of State District President.  Wendy:  I cast that ballot.

Joell:  Sister Susan, do you accept? Susan:  With the help of my district and everyone, yes, I do.

Joell: We will now have the nominations for the State District Vice President.  We will do this alphabetically, so the three who submitted nominations are included in the ballot, please come to the front.  The first three will come up please.

Debbie Chevalier:  I am Debbie Chevalier, Worthy Matron of Harrisonville Chapter #255 in District 25.   I am also Deputy Grand Matron of District #25 and Past President of District 25 Association. I would like to nominate Diane Irvin Reeves of Athens Chapter #175 in District 25 for Vice President of the State District Association.   Diane is an excellent worker for her chapter and the order of the Eastern Star.  She has served as Grand Representative of “that state up north” Michigan and Deputy Grand Matron.  She has served her chapter 3 times as Worthy Matron and Secretary for 16 years.  Diane has helped all District Offices and has raised money for them.   Diane Reeves is a person that loves Eastern Star and will do a tremendous job for this organization.   Thank you.

Dianne Martin: My name is Dianne Martin and I am a Past Matron and a Past President of District 25 Association.  I second this nomination.

Joell:  Sister Diane do you accept the nomination? Diane Reeves:   I do

Julie Morrison:  Good morning, Sister and Brothers.  My name is Julie Morrison, Treasurer of District 9 Association of Chapters, and I am also currently serving as Deputy Grand Matron of District 9.

It is my pleasure to nominate for the position of State District Vice President Association of Chapters the name of Jerry Salyers, a member of District 9.

Jerry was initiated in 2001 into Wayne Chapter serving as Worthy Patron 5 times.  When Wayne Chapter merged with Celina Chapter, Jerry served as Worthy Patron 6 times as well as other stations.  To continue his service to Eastern Star, in 2021 he became a dual member of Ft Black Chapter and immediately became an officer.   He served as Grand Aide to Jenny Jameison Drill Director in 2008 and is current working with me as my Grand Aide.

He became District President in 2021.  One of his accomplishments that year included hosting our District’s first Quarter Auction which was a complete success.  During his year, Jerry also took the leadership in updating our by-laws.

If elected, there is no doubt in my mind that Jerry will continue his leadership ability by serving the chapters of the State Association.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deb Wooddell:  Hello my name is Deb Wooddell, President of District 9 Association, and I second the nomination.

Joell:  Brother Jerry, do you accept the nomination?

Jerry Salyers: I will accept this nomination for State Vice President.  Thank you.

Lynda Duhl:   My name is Lynda Duhl and I am a past president of District #17 and a member of Level Chapter #109.  I would like to nominate Amy Wood for the office of State Vice President.  She is a member of Level Chapter and a 4 time Past Worthy Matron.  She served as district president in 2020 and 2021.  She has been a Grand Page many times and a Grand Representative.  She works as a librarian for Southwest City Schools and has been with them for 27 years.   She is a people person and is organized when having responsibilities in our chapter.   She is hard working and really enjoys the Order of the Eastern Star.  Thank you.

Linda Whitesel:  My name is Linda Whitesel and I am a past president of District #17 and a member of Grove City #502.  I would like to second nomination.

Joell:  Sister Amy, do you accept this nomination?

Amy Wood:  Yes, thank you very much.

Joell: is there a motion to close the nominations:  Motion made by Becky Neibarger, District #12, and is there a second?  Joan Wedge, District 27, past State President seconded the nomination.

The ballots are in the District President’s envelope.  Please take your ballot and mark your choice. Do not fold your ballots, please leave them open and someone from each table will hold them up and one of our tellers will pick them up.  Tellers, if you will get ready to pick up the ballots please.

I now declare the ballot closed.  Tellers you may be excused to count the ballots and when you have a report available please bring it to me.  At this time I would like to thank Nancy Williams with all of her AV tech help today.  I would like to thank her for everything that she does for us.

At this point I am going to proceed with the Bylaw changes.

I don’t know if you noticed or not but when the treasurers report was read no balance was given.  That is because the entertainment fund was never set up. We went to the bank to establish new signers.  In the process we found out that the EIN number did not match our Bylaws. So to facilitate the ability to open an entertainment account and to add a new treasurer, we had to change the Constitution and Bylaws so that the name on the Constitution and Bylaws matches the EIN number.  That is what necessitated the change in the bylaws.  The executive committee met in January 2022, and we did recommend that change.  And at the same time, it was decided that the executive committee should consist of the past three state presidents for the ease in making decisions, since the current officers do not have past history of the group and do not have knowledge of past practices. These are the changes recommended by the executive committee.  Is there any discussion?

Everyone did receive this 60 days prior to this meeting in the District Presidents packets, as required.  May I have a recommendation?  Dianna Evans, Past State President moved that the changes be allowed, seconded by Susie Mayer, Past State President that these changed be voted on.  Is there any discussion.  All those in favor vote by the usual sign of the order, all opposed same sign.  Motion carried.  Thank you.

We will update the bylaws with these changes, and distribute these to the District Presidents for their files, and additionally post them on the OES website.

Now we have many special guests here today, that we want to hear from, so that this point in time, we are going to hear from Brother Harless Maynard.

Harless H. Maynard, Grand Sentinel: Good afternoon sisters and brothers.  It is a pleasure to be with you today as we show our love and support to Sister Debby and Brother Rick. Joell:  When I saw Harless walking up here, I realized that I had skipped over the Memorial Service.  Sister Janie and Rick to come to the podium at this time.

Memorial Service: Jane Bope and Rick Hoskinson

Jane Bope: We pause to remember: Those sisters and brothers who have dropped from our Golden Chain, the members of our order who have died since our last gathering.  At the fourth point of our emblematic star, we recall the words of Martha: “I know that they shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day”.  Jesus saith unto her “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.  Believest thou this?”

Sisters and brothers: may the trustful faith of Martha be with us all, as we remember those, whom, having laid down the burdens of active duty, have made the triumphant entrance into the joys of celestial life.

Let us pray: Gracious Lord, we thank you for the lives of our members beloved by us and dear to the hearts of many.   Amen.

Rick Hoskinson recited a poem entitled “Broken Links.”

One by one, the links are falling, from our golden chain of love,

One by one, our order’s forming, in the Father’s house above.

One by one, our lives are ending, and all earth’s relations sever;

But on the resurrection morn, we’ll all be back together,

Once more we’ll form a circle, and join hands again,

This time around God’s altar, according to God’s plan.

Joell:  Thank you               very much.  Sister Debbie, may we hear from you now.

Deb Somerlot:  First, let me thank the State District Association for all the courtesies extended to me today!  It is hard to believe that this year is almost over and we will be meeting at Grand Chapter in little over 6 weeks!  It has been a joy traveling this great State again and renewing acquaintances as well as making new friends.

Debbie thanked her chapter and her district for all their help and support.  And my District 11 Association, whose members have jumped into the fray, along with the rest of our District, with the creation of “Little Debbie’s Treasurers”.  I know it is a big job and I am so grateful for any assistance they may be able to contribute!  My heart is so full of love for all of you.

To Harless Maynard—what a treat you have been—and I couldn’t have asked for a better fellow Door Knocker.  Fred and I wish you, Jennifer, Cheryl and Jim the most amazing year!  I thank you for your friendships!  Your beautiful creation of my Dogwood Door knocker is stunning!  I hope that you all get a chance to see it in action at Grand Chapter!

Finally, to our upcoming leaders of this wonderful Order, Debby and Rick.  I look forward to learning from you, working with you and having a great time in 2023 while we all do our best to prosper and grow the Order of the Eastern Star in Ohio.  May you have safe travels, have a successful term as WGM and WGP to be.  God bless you all.  Thank you.

Joell:  Thank you sister Debbie.   Sister Marla you are next.

Marla Barber, Associate Grand Conductress:  Good morning Sisters and Brothers!  Today is the day!  Sister Debby, my fellow DGM of 2016, Mr. Pitts, Brother Rick, my fellow door-knocker and Sister Cathy, I know you have planned well and are ready for this last leg of your amazing journey.  I wish for you safe travels and many happy, fun-filled memories and pledge to you my full and complete support.  Thank you.

Joell:  Sister Cheryl

Cheryl Maslowski, Grand Conductress:  Madam President, Honored guests, Sisters and brothers all, I bring you a cheery greeting as we gather to fellowship, eat, learn, and gain secrets at this very special meeting.

For the upcoming leaders of our Order, again, I’ve a poem to offer my support.  You have no worries with Debby and Rick, I’m quite happy to report.

Debby is thoughtful and organized, and most of all she is kind,

Rick, too, has all these qualities, plus, a better ritualist you won’t find.

Our Eastern Star Order is in great hands, with these two taking the lead,

I look forward to working with them, and know you’ll be proud indeed.

Joell:   I am going to ask Brother Lon to come up and give his remarks.   And then on deck will be fraternal parents of Sister Debbie and Brother Rick.

Most Worthy Grand Patron, Lon Lowry thanked the President and greeted the assembled sisters and brothers. He told of some of his and Barbara’s travels. An exciting announcement was that in conjunction with the visit to Maryland Grand Chapter, he and Glenda will place a wreath at Arlington on September 11!

Joell:  at this point, we do not have an election.  If each District President will come up to see Sister Wendy, she will give you ballots or new paper to vote again.   Remember to have the number of ballots that you need.

Carol Gramm Wise:  How wonderful that we are together again in what feels the most “normal” I can remember in about two years. I am happy to be here with all of you to hear about some of the ideas which Debby Pitts and Rick Miller have planned for the 2023 Eastern Star year.  I wish that my Counterpart, Bill Murphy, could be here with me today as well, to wish Debby and Rick the very best during their year as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron.  I am sure both Debby and Rick are in his thoughts today!

Kelly Cholodwitsch:I would like to take a moment to thank the State District Officers Association for the invitation to be here for this important meeting, and for the courtesies extended to me today. It has been said, “To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.”  And, “The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.” I know that our AGM Sister Debby, has these qualities and many more that will make her a great leader and make the decisions needed for our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star.  Brother Rick will be by her side making these decisions with her.  We look forward to seeing some of the plans for 2023 that they are going to share with us later today

Denny Lawson:  Sister Debby, have you thought about the rainy day in Lima over 4 years ago when you were asked to be Grand Warder?  And, your instant reply was, “I can’t do that!”  I thought you were going to ask me about being on some committee.  Take it one day at a time and remember to have fun as you take this unforgettable journey.

Joell:  We still don’t have an election. I declare a 15-minute recess.   When we come back we will hopefully have an election and proceed with lunch.  \*\*\* We have an election.  I would like to congratulate Jerry. Will all the elected officers please come to the podium, we will now have the installation.

Joell:  Gayle Sutherin will be our installing officer.

Gayle Sutherin:

Once upon a time there was a little girl, name Susan who loved to read, and when she grew up, she became a reading teacher.   She was faithful to her books, and she wanted a book that told her duties so she looked and she looked, and finally she decided:   Dick and Jane.  She dug out her Dick and Jane books and those books told her she gets to plan the annual state district luncheon meeting 2nd Wednesday of August, make table decorations, work with the WGM and COA to select entertainment for the next grand chapter session, and other duties as assigned.   Susan Corwin you are now installed as president.

For the Vice President Jerry Salyers, she found the book that said help, help, help, run spot run.  In this book, it says to select the location for the next state district luncheon.

For the secretary, Becky Meyer she found the book that said go, go. Because if you look at the duties of the secretary, you have to get going very quick.  Write minutes of previous meeting.  Take bills.   Keep separate cash journal and blue slips, and list all donations given for the grand chapter entertainment.  Put together a mailing of notifying all district president of the annual meeting.   Take reservations for the annual meeting. Other duties as assigned.

For Treasurer Sara Short, she came up with fun with Dick and Jane. But she can have fun and her duties are long.  Three years not to exceed 6 years.  Write checks.  Keep a separate cash book and do pink slips.  File 990 N. Balance with Secretary and bank.  And other duties as assigned.

Susan Corwin:  Thank you all for the confidence that you have placed in me.  I will do my utmost to merit the honor you confer. A big thank you to Barbara Lowry for the courtesy nomination and to PGM Gayle Sutherin for doing my installation ceremony.  I knew that I could count on the two of you!  Also to my own District 11 members for the love and support that I always cherish.  Next year this meeting will return to the Villa Milano on August 9.  The Villa Milano is located at 1630 Schrock Road, here in Columbus.  43229 is the zip code.

The Audit Committee for next year consists of Judy Vassar, Chair, and Sherrie Bretland and Debbie Pool.  Many thanks to each of you for saying yes.

For the coming year I have selected the “CDC” for my charity.  No, not THAT CDC!  I am speaking about the Children’s Dyslexia Centers.  In conferring with PGP Steve Moore as to the needs of the various Centers throughout the state, he mentioned; office supplies and gift cards for same, or even monetary donations with which the Centers can purchase specific instructional supplies or pay tutor fees and the Centers’ expenses. If you wish to make any contributions toward this project you may bring items or donations to the meeting next year.  Any contributions brought next year will be divided evenly among the Dyslexia Centers in the state. Finally, she  challenged each of us to do some random acts of kindness.  There is so much anger in our world that EVERYONE can benefit from acts of kindness.  You might be the lighthouse in someone’s storm.

Joell: We will now have the table grace

Suzanne Griffin:  Friends bow your heads for the lunch blessing:   We thank you for the friends that you have gather here today.   Father we ask your blessing on the meals we are about to enjoy.  Use it to give us strength as these officers in this assembly, strive to do your work.   We ask also that you bless those hands who have prepared it.   All of this we in Jesus name, Amen.  Lunch was enjoyed by all.

Joell:  I would like to take a moment to let everyone know that we raised $780.00 for the Life Enrichment She then turned the program over to Sister Debby and Brother Rick. Debby and Rick thanked the Association for the meals provided for them and their spouses.  They are very much appreciated. Both thanked their districts for their support and attendance today. The newly installed officers of the State District Officers Association were congratulated and reminded, may those who come behind us find us faithful.

Debby and Rick’s Plans Revealed:

Our theme this year is “Light His World with Service.”  We are a worldwide organization with emphasis placed on service. Service is the seventh station of Rainbow. The stained glass window hangs above the Altar in  Debby’s church. The candle in the middle depicts Rick’s first appointment as a District Education Officer as I served in helping Lodge Education Officers within my District. Our logo was brought to life by our Sister Cheryl Metzger who also serves as GGC Artist for Brother Lon and Sister Glenda.

There will be five (5) Fall EOP’s held in Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest and Central Regions.  All EOP’s will be held on Saturday with Registration beginning at 9:00 am with workshops during the morning.  General Session will begin at 1:00 pm.

Fall EOP’s are: October 15, 2022, the WGP’s area & will be held at the Canton Masonic Temple; October 22, 2022, will be held at the Washington State Community College; November 5, 2022, will be held at the Northwest Masonic Temple; November 12, 2022, will be held at the Tiffin Masonic Temple; and November 19, 2022, the WGM’s area & will be held at the Dayton Masonic Temple.

This year we will be exemplifying the initiatory work in the same five regions the fall EOP’s were held.  Once those locations have been determined they will be posted on the Ohio Grand Chapter, Eastern Star website.

Exemplification dates are: February 17, 2023, will be held at the Lucasville Masonic Temple in Lucasville; March 3, 2023, will be held in the Central Region at a location to be determined; March 10, 2023, will be held at the Findlay Masonic Temple in Findlay; and March 24, 2023, will be held at the Xenia Masonic Temple in Xenia.

SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  The Worthy Grand Matron’s and Worthy Grand Patron’s Joint Reception will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 17, 2023 at the Villa Milano in Columbus. The theme for this year’s reception will be “Home of the Brave, Land of the Free.” The dress for the day will be casual with a buffet lunch at 1:00 pm with entertainment to follow.

  The Celebration of the Stars has been a fun event for the last couple of years.  Rick and I plan to continue with the Celebration of the Stars.  This year we will celebrate the elected Line Officers along with the Fraternal parents of the WGM and WGP. The Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023.  Yes, it’s TAX DAY at the Crowne Plaza in Columbus.  Our Grand Conductress, Marla Barber will announce her plans for this event at the EOP’s this year.

 What do you say we talk about the Charities Extravaganza to be held June 24, 2023 at the Ohio Eastern Star Home.

Rita and Bonnie:  Hi everyone I’m Frenchie and I’m Rizzo.  Just kidding.  I’m Rita and I’m Bonnie. We are your 2023 State Charities Directors.  We want you to save the date of June 24, 2023, for a Rockabilities Theme called Greased Lightening.  We are going to have great food, pictures, auctions, entertainment, oh and make sure you dress in proper attire, poodle skirts, rolled up jeans, t-shirts, and guys, don’t forget your combs!  So come join us for a fun-filled day and bring your friends along too.  Come on Frenchie, we need to get to the pep rally at Rydell High. See you all in 2023!

 The distribution of monies raised for our charitable giving for 2023 are as follows: Benevolence 15%; Cancer  5%; Children’s Dyslexia Centers 15%; Educational Fund 5%; ESTARL 15% (scholarships); Heart  5%; Masonic Home 5%; Eastern Star home 10%; Shriners Ohio 15%; Youth (Rainbow, Job’s & DeMolay) 10%; Total 100%

 Sunshine collections are an important part of our charitable giving.  This year those sunshine collections will be distributed as follows: At Installations -  District Charities; At Educational Opportunities - Regenerative Medicine; At Inspections - Service Dogs; At visitations by the WGM/WGP WGM/WGP OES Home Project.

Debby announced that she has chosen as a special charity this year, the Smiles dental program sponsored by the Ohio Grotto. Rick has chosen his special charity this year, After the Storm – Disaster Response Team out of Orrville, Ohio.  They are a Christ-centered organization assisting others whose lives have been devastated by the storms of nature by providing clean-up of storm debris as well as rebuilding of storm damaged buildings.

 Our OES Home Project this year is very exciting!  As Ohio Eastern Star, we have made it our mission to work with the Ohio Eastern Star Home for many, many years to provide the necessary funds needed to ensure our residents are given the best care and provided the best security, not only for their safety but as well as for their health.  Enjoying the great outdoors in a safe manner can greatly enhance the health of our elders. Can you see this blue pond right here?  Well, right now we call it Pine Hill Pond.  The project this year will be to  fundraise toward developing the pond, because right now it is a bunch of rocks.  We want to create a visionary place to go in the outdoors.  If we raise enough money, we can have a beautiful decks, benches, gazebos, pergolas and butterfly garden.  The best part about this is that it is not just for the Pine Hill residents.  It will serve all of the residents, including the neighborhoods and those living in assisted living. Pine Hill Pond will be for everyone to enjoy. The total project price is large but we can do it in smaller intervals and we hope to fundraise in the community as well.

Thank you very much!

WHO WANTS TO KNOW WHERE THE TRIP WILL BE THIS YEAR?  WE DO!

Leaving July 23, 2023 on two buses, one from the Richfield area and the other from the Troy area of Ohio.  Our Coastal Crawl tour will take us to North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia where our tour will include, just to name a few things, a carriage ride through historic Charleston, South Carolina, a tour of the USS Yorktown (one of the Essex-class aircraft carriers built during WWII for the US Navy).  And how does a Haunted Ghost Trolley Tour sound?  We have one!  These are just a few stops on our trip.  Flyers are available after the meeting today.  Please see my personal Secretary, Deb Wooddell and she will make sure you have a flyer with all the information needed to start planning your six day get away!

 We have looked at various ways to help the Chapters and at the same time, for them to get credit for what they do or can do.  The Ohio Chapter’s Achievement Program is a concerted effort by the Grand Line Officers to provide recognition for work well done by a Chapter.  It is based on a point system and has four basic areas of achievement: First – attendance at OES events, visitation to other Chapters, Masonic Youth Groups and caring for our Shut-in members; Second – planning special evenings and events that encourage member participation; Third – starting or maintaining a Membership Program; and Fourth – the Community and Charitable work done by a Chapter.  The number of points accumulated will determine the achievement level a Chapter attains.  The three levels are: a Certificate of Participation, a Silver Certificate of Achievement and a Gold Certificate of Achievement.  The program will run from June 1st to May 31st.  So Chapters can start right away by looking back to June 1st this year to see where they may be able to start collecting points for what they have already done.  Program details have already been given to the 2023 Deputy Grand Matrons and will be made available on the Ohio Grand Chapter, OES website.

We hope everyone is registered for Grand Chapter this year and plans to attend the Installation of the 2023 Grand Officers and the appointment of the 2023 Deputy Grand Matrons as well as our Charity Directors and Committee members.

This Grand Chapter will be a major one for Ohio as Brother Lon and Sister Glenda will be here along with many other out-of-state guests to enjoy Ohio Hospitality.  And we would like you to be there too to help us start off this next year with a successful completion of this year.  Plus you’ll get to see some of our “secrets” first hand!

 On October 28, 2022, the Ohio Eastern Star Membership Committee will be attending the annual session of Ohio Grand Lodge in Columbus, Ohio.  We have been given permission to setup a membership table for their one day session.  I have developed a PowerPoint Presentation that will play at the table and hopefully will provide some education on what OES is and will spark some interest in joining.  We have to start somewhere and this is just one small step.  We feel if we can get one Mason from Grand Lodge to petition we have started on the right track.

Well, that is all we have for you at this time.  Safe travels and see you in September.

Joell:  Our Grand Conductress and Past President of District 12 Association, Cheryl Maslowski, will give our benediction.

Cheryl:  Dear Heavenly Father, as we prepare to deliberate further or leave this place, may Your Grace fall upon us in our parting.  May we have safe travels, good health, and strength to complete the tasks You have laid before us.  Thank You for these leaders who are looking out for our interests and taking us into the future.  Be with us all as we continue to deepen our friendships and bring joy and kindness to our hurting world.  In Your Name we pray, Amen.

Joell:  Thank you one and all for attending!

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Busenburg