

## Lovelinks minutes of May 6, 2023

Our Forty-First Annual Meeting of Lovelinks was held in Canton, Ohio on May 6, 2023. President Suzanne Dick (2004) called the meeting to order, honoring the Worthy Grand Patron Rick Miller. Suzanne explained the table decorations, "Treasure Chests with Jewels to represent my theme from Matthew 6:21." The candle lanterns represent the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's theme of "Light His World with Service". Suzanne then gave her opening thought "Life is like a Treasure Chest, to be filled with love and joy and zest, crammed full of kindness, cuddles, smiles, hard to close for all those diamonds. Make your treasure chest as big as you can, don't miss the chance to do something good, for every jewel you give or receive adds light to HIS world in which we live."

**Welcome:** Sister Betty Setsor-Prescott (1981) gave a very informative and interesting welcome to all in attendance.

**Tribute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance:** Sister Rita Follas (2004) was asked to give the flag tribute. Sister Rita delivered an impressive reading of "I am the Flag" by Howard Schnauber.

**Invocation and Blessing:** Sister Fonda Mason (1986) gave a lovely blessing asking for God's guidance over the officers and members as we meet today and make decisions.

**Introduction of the Head Table:** President Suzanne proceeded to the introductions of those sitting at the head table. Worthy Grand Matron Sister Debby Pitts (2015-2016) and Worthy Grand Patron Rick Miller, Recipient of the Meritorious Service Award of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Canton. Also seated at the head table were the officers of the Lovelinks; Vice President, Linda Zerkle (2010); Secretary, Soni Dennis (2001, 2021-2022); Treasurer, Patti Gibson (2010-2011). Suzanne stated "The key that unlocks the treasure chest of God's peace is faith in the promises of God."

**Introductions of Other Guests, Ambassadors of the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Chapter Committee Members and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons:** Worthy Grand Esther, Bonnie Youngblood (1983); Ambassador to Hawaii and Finance Chairman, Jan Goerss (1996); Service Dogs, Gail Walsh (1995); Marilyn Giey(1981); Ambassador to Brazil Espirito Santo, Steve Farus; Name Badges Chairman and Grand Trustee, William Taylor; Scottish Rite Charities Chairmen, Steve Moore; Chuck Merckle; Robert Palmer. **Ohio's General Grand Chapter Committee Members:** Member of Sales, Becky Meyer (2013-2014); Project of Triennial Medal, Susan Corwin (1980); Co-Chair of Property, Ray Dennis. **Triennial Other Assembly Committee, Colorful Notes;** Personal Aide to the Most Worthy Grand Patron, Chuck Merckle. **Triennial Special Assembly Committee, Faithful Notes;** Marilyn Giey. **Grand Officers;** Worthy Grand Matron, Debby Pitts; Worthy Grand Patron, Rick Miller; Associate Grand Matron, Cheryl Maslowski (2009); Grand Secretary, DuAnne Farus (2004); Grand Conductress, Marla Barber (2016-2017); Associate Grand Conductress, Debbie Somerlot (2008); Grand Adah, Cindi Robinson (2007); Grand Ruth, Sherri Bretland (2010-2011), Grand Esther, Sandy Vaughn (2009-2010), Grand Electa, Kim Evans; Grand Sentinel, Ray Dennis. **Deputy Grand Matrons, 16; Grand Representatives, 14; Past Presidents, 7; Liaisons, 9;** and the Parliamentarian. President Suzanne thanked all for their service.

**Deputy Grand Matron Honored Years:** 5 years, 2018, The Greatest of These is Charity, 2; 10 years, 2013, Just Believe, 2; 15 years, 2008, Faith, Family, Friends-Guidelines for Life,1; 20 years, 2003, Cherish Our Memories-0; 25 years, Life's Country Garden, 2; 30 years, Tapestry of Life-0; 35 years, The Beauty of Life-0; 40 years, Natures Harmony Session,1; 45 years and beyond, 8. There were seven (7) Charter Members with us. President Suzanne thanked all for coming and quoted "Memories are timeless treasures of the heart."

**Secretaries Report:** Sister Soni Dennis stated that the Secretaries report had been mailed. There was a correction of the date Marion Johnson was Deputy Grand Matron, it was changed to 1981. The report was then approved. Membership report was 601. There are 32 paying yearly dues and 569 life members. Soni asked all to make sure the addresses, phone numbers and emails are up to date.

**Treasurers Report:** Patti Gibson gave the treasurer's report that as of March 22, 2023, \$3950.23 was in the checking account and \$4867.02 in the savings account. Bills were presented for the mailing of the minutes along with the luncheon invitation. Charlotte Ballard (2004) moved that the bills be paid, and Gail Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Registration Report:** Sister Cathy Maurer(2019-2020) gave the registration report of 140 registered with 122 present.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President Suzanne recognized several new Lovelinks members with a small gift stating "we are pleased you chose to join us."

**Audit Report:** Sister Sherri Bretland reported that the books balanced and are in balance with the bank.

**By-Law Committee Report:** Sister Patti Askins (2011-2012) stated the copies of the proposed amendments were on the dining tables. A 2/3 majority vote is needed to pass. Approximately 80 are eligible to vote, needing 54 to pass. All Bylaws and Standing Rules were passed with the help of Jan Goerss, Parliamentarian, answering any questions.

**OES Home Project Presentation:** President Suzanne asked the WGM and WGP to join her at the podium where she presented them with a monetary gift for their OES Home Project (The Pond Project) on behalf of the Lovelinks.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Sister Pam Moore (2005) reported the following to be nominated as officers for the coming year. President, Linda Zerkle (2010); Vice President, Sherry Kita (2009-2010); Secretary, Suzanne Dick (2004); Treasurer, Sherry Taylor (2006). Sister Pam moved the nominative ballot become the elective ballot. It was seconded and the motion carried.

**Installation of Officers:** Sister Jan Goerss was the Installing Officer who installed the President and Vice President. Gail Walsh installed the Secretary and Bill Taylor installed the Treasurer. Sister Bonnie Youngblood presided as the Installing Chaplain. Sister Suzanne then presented Linda with the Presidents pin.

**New President's Remarks:** Newly elected and installed President Linda thanked Suzanne and Jan Goerss, who she served for as Deputy Grand Matron in 2010. She continued to thank others in her District 9 and the incoming officers. Her theme will be "In the Garden" with the Bible verse Mark 9:23. The Grand Chapter Breakfast meeting will be September 24, 2023 and Sherri Bretland is the Chairperson.

**Outgoing Presidents Remarks:** President Suzanne thanked her committee members who helped organize the activities for the meeting. She also thanked the Lovelinks Officers and presented them with a small gift. Members of District 18, 2004 Deputy Grand Matrons and the 2014 Grand Officers were also thanked for their support and help. To her husband Eric, she stated "I love you and thank you for your support and help to prepare for this morning."

**Closing Remarks:** Worthy Grand Patron Rick thanked everyone for attending and for his lunch, ending with "enjoy the day and the fellowship." Worthy Grand Matron Debby thanked the Lovelinks and stated ditto to what Rick said. "Remember to be a Rainbow in someone's cloud."

**Benediction:** Given by Fonda Mason. President Suzanne announced the meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,  
Soni Dennis, Secretary