



# Star & Gazer



## Kansas Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

Volume 6

Summer 2019

Edition 1

### Eastern Star Has Gone to the Dogs

"Eastern Star has gone to the dogs - in the best way possible! The Order of the Eastern Star has fully committed to promoting Service Dogs as our permanent, primary identifying charity," according to MWGM Marianne Shenefelt.

With hopes flying high and recognizing the dedication of our members to support charitable organizations, General Grand Chapter (GGC) wants Eastern Star to become synonymous with providing Service dogs, much like the Shriner's are known for their Children's Hospitals. To support the new *permanent and primary identifying charity*, GGC has established a permanent committee with a representative from each state/jurisdiction that will help each Grand Jurisdiction reach that goal. PGP John J. Ryan is our representative in Kansas.

In addition to Service Dogs being the new permanent charity for OES, our WGM Garrie and WGP Ron have designated Service Dogs as their charity for the year. In coordination with PGP John, the newly formed and appointed Service Dog committee will be working to help promote and encourage chapters and members to raise money to help provide a dog to someone who needs one in Kansas! Most encouraging is that all monies raised in Kansas will stay in Kansas.

Each Grand Chapter was directed to designate a non-profit facility within the state to receive their support. Kansas Grand Chapter has designated KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc. located in Washington, KS as the official program for our Grand Chapter.

It is everyone's hope that we can



all work together to raise the money needed to sponsor a Service Dog. Through chapter fund-raising projects and the sale of the official GGC magnets and pins, we can be well on our way to sponsoring a dog. "Together, we can help someone get back their independence, their freedom, and their ability to enjoy life."

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*Be a Star in all of your life, and your light will shine wherever you are!*

#### Service Dogs in Kansas

Kansas Specialty Dogs Services, Inc., is the designated Service Dog program for the Grand Chapter of Kansas. [KSDS](http://www.ksds.org) is a fully-accredited assistance dog facility, providing training for the dogs and their new handlers/owners. It is a non-profit organization which has been operating for over 29 years. KSDS excels in training a variety of dogs for a variety of tasks.

The expenses in identifying and then training a dog are extensive, easily exceeding \$25,000 at times.

Not only does the dog have to be raised and trained, but monies are also needed for medical bills, medications, all training equipment crates, linens, enrichment toys, and supplies needed during team training weeks, to name a few.

To learn more about KSDS, go to their website at : [www.ksds.org](http://www.ksds.org)



**KSDS, Inc**  
Assistance Dogs

# Here's the Buzz

## Worthy Grand Matron



**Garrie Oppitz**

### Our Theme

Blessings and Bee-Attitudes

### Our Emblems

Hands and Cross

### Motto

If you concentrate on counting  
your blessings, you'll have little  
time to count anything else!

### Scripture

"Kind words are like  
honeycombs, sweet to the soul  
and healing to the body."  
Proverbs 16:20

### Our Flowers

White Lily, Red Rose

### Our Colors

Red, Black, Gold, Silver

### Our Charity

Service Dogs

### Fun Symbol

Hugs and Kisses  
(candy)

### Songs

You Raise Me Up, The Prayer,  
My Tribute, One Pair of Hands,  
Count Your Blessings

### Words of Wisdom

Attitudes are like bees,  
some make honey,  
while others leave a sting.

A big "Thank You" to all of the members of this Grand Jurisdiction for allowing Brother Ron and I to represent you in 2019-2020. Another Grand Session year is well underway with Official Visits, Pin Presentations and Receptions. The members of our "Blessings & Bee-Attitudes" Grand Family are looking forward to meeting many of you during our travels across the state.

We are having a "Helping Hands Service Award" this year. Your District Aides will be giving you the details when they make their official visits to your chapters. This year we are asking each Chapter to participate in making cover-ups (bibs) and fleece blankets for KMH (Kansas Masonic Home). The District Aides have the patterns and details.

Our charity this year is [KSDS Service Dogs](#). We will be collecting cash for Cocoa and Copper as a fundraiser for KSDS. Cocoa is my dog and Copper is Brother Ron's dog. We want to see which dog can raise the most cash for our charity. My dog is pretty cute. Just saying. Hint. Hint.

We are selling Kansas Eastern Star t-shirts as part of our fundraising projects. These can be worn anytime and *especially* during community service projects, so we can get our names and faces out in the public. If there is enough interest, we can always order more t-shirts. Please continue to support our charity and other special projects by purchasing pins. Don't forget to continue to save tabby tops for the Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for Education for your local schools.

The Star Gazer and Email Blast have been great communications tools. Send your articles for the Star Gazer to either [Jan Brooks](#) or Cindy Smith. Send your pictures in too! Also send your information for the e-mail blast to Leslie Goodyear. And don't forget to sign up to receive both of these great communications.

During the summer there are many activities going on and we hope that you can join us for some or all of them. Alpha Omega will be making some fun sewing projects on July 20. Bring your machine and come on down to Emporia Masonic Center.

The Five-State fun weekend will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from July 26-28. This event is for *everyone*, not just Grand Officers. It is a great way to make new friendships in other Grand Jurisdictions. On August 23, your Kansas Grand Officers will be doing the degree work in Hastings, Nebraska and on August 24, Nebraska Grand Officers will be doing the degree work in Clay Center, Kansas. Please come and support both sets of Grand Officers. It is always interesting to see the differences in the degree work done by each Grand Jurisdiction.

Once again we want to "Thank You" for the honor to serve as your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. We ask for your continued support and encouragement.

Star Blessings and Hugs,  
*Garrie Oppitz*  
*Worthy Grand Matron*





# Blessed By the Best

Hello Sisters and Brothers!

Well, we are off and running since the Grand Session was completed. Sister Garrie and I have had official visits and the calendar has more to come. I have already presented service pins to recipients that have put in years of devoted service to our Order. Thank you to Meriden and Newton chapters for hosting the first two receptions with more to come in June. I hope you can attend a Grand Officer reception in your corner of the state.



PGM Wanda Ryan was pleased to be one of the sisters to help create and then to present Ron's quilt at the reception.

*Photo courtesy of Liz Granberg-Jerome*

I can't say "Thank You" enough to the "Believe in Gods Miracle" Grand Family for my quilt. It is beautiful and I will cherish it the rest of my life. Thank you for the skit at my reception and your participation at my installation. Little Brother loves you all.

As was approved at the General Grand Chapter meeting, Service Dogs are our primary charity. In Kansas, we have chosen KSDS in Washington, KS as our service dog charity. I would like to thank all of the members who have purchased our pins and T-shirts this year. The profits from these sales will be used as part of our contributions to all of our special projects. It may be short notice, but consider putting June 15 at 11:00 a.m. on your calendar.

KSDS will be holding their summer graduation ceremony that day. It would be great a way for us to show our support for their organization this year. Be looking for more opportunities in the months to come from our new Service Dog Committee!"

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Worthy Grand Patron this year. Thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement over the years. As our former H&R Block president Bill Cobb said, "Everybody has a role to play, but not everybody has the same role." I truly have been Blessed by the Best. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

Just remember to say Yes to OES. Follow your dreams and enjoy the trip.

*Ron Kammerer*  
*Worthy Grand Patron*



WGP Ron and WGM Garrie enjoy a baseball themed program at their first Official Visit of the new Grand Year in Gardner.

*Photo courtesy of James Lyle*

## Worthy Grand Patron



## Ron Kammerer

### Our Aim

*K* - Keep Christ in your heart

*I* - Invite others to become members

*S* - Share your love of our order

*S* - Service to our communities

### Our Watch Words

Kindness, Respect, Joy

### Our Symbols

Bees, Teddy Bears

### Motto

Just say "YES" to OES!  
Follow your dreams and  
enjoy the trip!

### Scripture

"Let not your hearts be troubled,  
believe in God, believe also  
in me..." - John 14: 1-4

### Our Honored Station

Every station is important!

### Fun Symbol

Peanut M&M candy

### Songs

I Walked Today Where Jesus  
Walked, Holy City, There is  
Sunshine in My Soul Today, I  
Believe All People Are Good,  
You'll Never Walk Alone

### Words of Wisdom

Life isn't about waiting for the  
storm to pass, it's about learning  
to dance in the rain.



# Worthy Grand Matron's Reception

A warm event all the way around, it was a full room of those who gathered to celebrate our new Worthy Grand Matron - Garrie Oppitz on April 27 in Meriden.

Though the weather was warm, the feelings in the room were much warmer. Following a scrumptious pasta luncheon, everyone enjoyed some time to talk and catch up while pictures were being taken. Then it was on to the fun and creative programs for both WGM Garrie and Grand Electa Kathleen Fox.

Mayetta and Meriden Chapters came together to serve as officers for the day, known as the "Mayden Bees," which is a combination of the two names. It is always a joy when we can come together to help other chapters and enjoy our work.

A large number of people turned out for the event, including a significant number of Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, all gathering to offer their support to the new Grand family. Also present was Worthy Grand Ruth Kimberly Dellinger, wearing her smile and offering her best

wishes as well.

The line for introductions was long for each group, but no more so than for the long line that nearly circled the floor for Grand Representatives, District Aides, and Grand

Committee Members; many in the group carry more than one title. These dedicated members traveled many miles to be present for the auspicious day.

The programs for both Grand Officers were fun and creative, and even a bit telling. The gifts presented as each Sister traveled to the Star points, were a welcome token of the well wishes and hopes filling the room. Arriving just in time for WGM Garrie's program was an active bee to buzz her around the room.

WGM Garrie was then presented with the unique quilt made by PGM Pam Abel and Grand Ruth Liz Granberg-Jerome. The bee and honeycomb design are truly one



What a grand turnout with all these PGMs and PGPs in attendance. Can you name all 19 of them? And their year?

*Photo taken by Liz Granberg-Jerome*

of a kind.

Following the program and responses, a delicious variety of cookies were served before everyone departed for the day! In all, many friendships were renewed, new friends made, and good wishes displayed. An entertaining day made it well worth the trip to congratulate WGM Garrie and all the "Blessings and Bee-Attitudes" Grand family.



It's all smiles (and kisses?) for Grand Escort Evelyn VanVleet, courtesy of PGP John Ryan.

*Photo taken by Donna Fagg*



Talented quilting skills are showcased here, as one is able to see just how much WGM Garrie loves her new, handmade quilt.

*Photo courtesy of Liz Granberg-Jerome*



This cheerful bee made her way past the delicious sweets to help escort the WGM on her journey around the Star points.



# Worthy Grand Patron's Reception



Bees and Worthy Matron Kathy Ditty welcomed all with her creative greetings. Introductions of the many distinguished guests included Oklahoma Past Grand Matron Marquita Pogue and Newton to Oklahoma Associate Grand Patron James Parker, who were excited to be in attendance.

the Worthy Grand Patron and Grand Warder. The gathering was held in Newton on the evening of May 4.

The large group gathered for a dinner of ham loaf, fried chicken (cut up the old fashioned way), and delicious sides and desert.

The dining room was filled to overflowing. After dinner, photos were taken, in the chapter room, while everyone enjoyed a chance to chat and catch up with one another. Then, the nearly 125 people in attendance settled in to honor the new Grand Officers.

Then, the "Believe in God's Miracles" Grand family, led by

PGM Wanda Ryan, presented a fun and informative skit. It was clear that they were all having fun. We learned many things about the new WGP during the skit, during which he was presented with some additional fun items. PGM Wanda then presented Ron with his quilt.

Everyone was then treated to a beautiful rendition of one of his songs, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked," sung by Grand Organist Virginia Wilkinson-Johnson, accompanied by Lois Jordan on the piano. PGM Marquita Pogue presented both Ron and John "Hooter" Meyers with a tie that once belonged to her dad. He, John, and Ron had been very close friends.

Following responses, everyone adjourned to the dinning room for cookies and refreshments before heading home.



It was quite the production as the "Believe in God's Miracles" Grand family staged a fun skit for WGP Ron. Each member has a copy of the script and a part to share.

*Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers*



WGP Ron buzzes around the room for his program.

*Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers*



Ron's family from L to R: Kathy Ditty - WM, Doris Kammerer - Grand Escort, Ron Kammerer - WGP, Loretta Coleman - Grand Warder, Robert Coleman - Grand Escort, Kenneth Coleman.

*Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers*



Some of the important people in Ron's life also came to the reception. L to R: Nan Myers, John Myers, Escort of Oklahoma PGM Kay Pogue O'Dell, Oklahoma PGM Marquita Pogue, WGP Ron.

*Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers*

# Honoring Appointive Grand Officers

## Grand Esther - Janine Baehler

May 31, 2019

Goodland Chapter #122  
519 Center St.  
Goodland

7:00 p.m. - Pictures  
7:30 p.m. - Reception  
*Mountain Daylight Time!*

## Grand Sentinel - Dennis Reed

June 21, 2019

Loyal Chapter #176  
100 Beaubein  
Silver Lake

5:30 p.m. - Baked Potato Bar/Salad  
6:30 p.m. - Pictures  
7:00 p.m. - Reception

## Grand Martha - Jamie Ann Burdette

June 1, 2019

Ulysses Chapter #471  
909 Joyce Drive  
Ulysses

1:30 p.m. - Pictures  
2:00 p.m. - Reception  
Dessert following reception

## Grand Adah - Twyla Bayless

June 22, 2019

Gladiola Chapter #459  
1201 N. 67th St.  
Kansas City, KS

12:00 noon - Luncheon  
1:00 p.m. - Pictures  
1:30 p.m. - Reception

## Grand Ruth - Liz Granberg-Jerome

June 7, 2019

Evangeline Chapter #162  
807 High Street  
Baldwin City

6:00 p.m. - Salad Supper  
7:00 p.m. - Pictures  
7:30 p.m. - Reception

## Grand Chaplain - Virgil Vesterberg

June 28, 2019

Clay Center #180  
2317 7th St.  
Clay Center

6:00 p.m. - Dinner  
7:00 p.m. - Pictures  
7:30 p.m. - Reception

## Grand Marshal - Jo Dean Courtway

June 8, 2019

Olive Chapter #13  
Ft. Scott CC, Ellis Fine Arts Center  
2108 S. Horton, Ft. Scott

12:30 p.m. - Luncheon  
1:30 p.m. - Pictures  
2:00 p.m. - Reception/Program

## Virginia Wilkinson-Johnson

June 29, 2019

Beulah Chapter #34  
1830 Gage Boulevard  
Topeka

11:30 a.m. - Lunch  
1:00 p.m. - Pictures  
2:00 p.m. - Reception



# Blessings and Bee-Attitudes Grand Officers



## Front row left to right:

Grand Secretary - Christy Hard  
Grand Conductress - Carol Salmon  
Associate Grand Matron - Karen Monteith  
Worthy Grand Matron - Garrie Oppitz  
Worthy Grand Patron - Ron Kammerer  
Associate Grand Patron - David Blocher  
Grand Treasurer - James Billings, PGP  
Associate Grand Conductress - Gale Masten

***CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!***

## Back row, left to right:

Grand Electa - Kathleen Fox  
Grand Martha - Jamie Ann Burdette  
Grand Esther - Janine Baehler  
Grand Ruth - Liz Granberg-Jerome  
Grand Adah - Twyla Bayless  
Grand Organist - Virginia Wilkinson-Johnson  
Grand Marshal - JoDean Courtway  
Grand Chaplain - Virgil Vesterberg  
Grand Warder - Loretta Coleman  
Grand Sentinel - Dennis Reed

**Have you purchased your Session Pins Yet?**



Proceeds from the purchase of these pins goes to the WGM & WGP Special Projects



# Grand Chapter Session in Review

The “Spirit of Love and Aloha” Grand Chapter Session was held April 11-13, 2019 in Topeka, KS.

Before all the official parts of the session begin, many people arrive early in order to help get things ready. This year, a challenging activity was added - a Star Point competition.

Members who had signed up in advance could compete against each other by presenting one of the Star Point initiation lectures. Participants were judged on both accuracy and presentation of the lecture.

Since Wednesdays are busy in a variety of ways, a game night was planned that evening following dinner. Those wishing to play a game could go and join a game of cards, dominoes, or other game. Many attended and had a lot of fun testing their skill.

Thursday proved to be a busy day as well. Beginning with early Vespers that morning, those involved in the marches were required to be up early for practice. This was a change from past years.

The Secretaries and Treasures luncheon and the Page and Guards Luncheon were attended by a large group. Those who came enjoyed visiting people they hadn't seen for awhile and making new friends. The Pages and Guards passed the time waiting for WGM Mary to arrive



WGM Mary, WGP Steve and their special pages work on the march for the Grand Session, under the direction of Grand Marshall Cindy Moore.

*Photo taken by Vicky Boyer*



The Grand Chapter room was set up to reflect the theme of the “Spirit of Love and Aloha” Grand year. From torches, to surfboards, flowers and the traditional emblems, all was blended together to set the atmosphere.

*Photo taken by Jan Brooks*

by watching a few members do the [hula](#)! Grand Esther Nancy Hayselden did a great job teaching WGP Steve and Sheila Lee Alstatt a few hula moves.

For those not busy with other activities, vendors were set up in the basement. Featured were a variety of items: woodwork, vintage jewelry, suit/dress bags, and so much more. The highlight of the vendors were the candied apples, which came in a wide variety of flavors.

The All-Membership Banquet started early that evening, so that everyone would be ready for the evening's open meeting. Besides enjoying time with other members, the winners of the afternoon's Star Point Competition were announced. The winners were:

Adah - *Donna Low*

Ruth - *Marlene Flickinger*

Esther - *Patricia Murray*

Martha - *Sharon Blair*

Electa - *Rebecca Jordan.*

Following the banquet, the evening events began. The meeting started out with the traditional marches and the new marches for this grand year. An enjoyable time was had by everyone who participated in the marches and the audience enjoyed seeing what would happen next. One of the tunes used for one of the marches was a Beach Boys song - *Fun, Fun, Fun*. The march was made complete with the creative props made to fit the song!

During introductions, Grand Chapter welcomed a variety of distinguished members and other



Group meals are a good time to relax a little, eat a little and learn a little.

*Photo courtesy of Vicky Boyer*



WGM Mary Hayselden, Grand Sentinel David Blocher, and WGP Steve Boyer at the Grand Officer's banquet on Wednesday.

*Photo courtesy of Vicky Boyer*





Initiating new members is always an integral part of Grand Chapter. Welcome to these three new members. Pictured from L to R: WGM Mary, Margaret Freeman, Erin Sullivan, Laura Lea Cross, and WGP Steve.

*Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers*

states, including a Grand Officer all the way from Oregon.

Following introductions, presentations were made to the leaders of the WGM (F.I.S.H) and WGP (Air Capital AMBUCS PT trikes), the designated charities for the year. The leaders gave a very informative presentation about their organization. The Grand Chapter then presented each group with a check for \$7,000.00, donations that were collected from the membership and fundraisers during the year.

Financial gifts were also presented to the leaders of the Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, and the DeMolay, our Masonic youth groups.

Friday morning came early and brought the formal opening of Grand Chapter, beautifully done by all the Grand Officers. Following the morning's business was the Grand Representatives' Luncheon, during which the newly appointive Grand Representatives and visiting Grand Representatives were warmly welcomed.

That afternoon, the 50, 60 and 75 Year members, who had received their Service pins during the year, were recognized

and honored. After the dinner break, the evening meeting welcomed three new members into our order with the Conferring of Degrees.

The Grand Officers did an excellent job and presented the degrees beautifully. We all then had the opportunity to meet new members: Margaret Freeman of Evangeline Chapter #162 - Grand Worthy Advisor of Kansas, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Erin Sullivan of Beatrice Chapter #450, and Laura Lea Cross of Loyal Chapter #176. To help with the degree work, Dawn Sullivan of Beatrice Chapter #450 served as a courtesy walker. A new member reception was held after initiation, in honor of and to welcome all the new members from this past year.

Saturday at Grand Chapter always means business and committee reports. Several items for changes were voted upon. Then it was on to the election of officers. PGP Richard "Dick" Short was elected Grand Trustee, and Gale Masten was elected as Associate Grand Conductress.

Saturday evening began with WGM Mary Hayselden and WGP Stephen Boyer giving their final



Amongst the members receiving recognition at Grand Chapter for 50 years of service to OES are: PGM Mary Ann Wilson, PGM Fran Eckhoff, PGM Patti White, and PGP Don Flickinger.

*Photo courtesy of Pat Patch White*

talks and the 2018 - 2019 Grand Officers retired their jewels.

Following a short break, the new 2019 - 2020 Grand Officers were installed. WGM Garrie Oppitz then addressed the group, followed by a talk from WGP Ron Kammerer. During the evening, a special little "bee" flew in to surprise WGM Garrie with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. Everyone had a chance to meet the new officers and sign a scrapbook page for them at the reception following installation.

A big thank you and congratulations to the 2018-2019 Grand Officers for a successful year and Grand Chapter Session. You gave us a great, fun-filled, and service dedicated year!



Grand Chapter of Kansas

# Quilt of Honor

One of the special presentations this year was one of the Quilts of Honor, which was given to member Gary Ayers. Providing the quilt was PGM Pam Abel and Carol Dornberger.

Nearly overwhelmed by the surprise gift, Gary was honored to receive it. He shares:

"I joined the Army as a medic in 1989. I was in my third week of basic training in 1990, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Many of my friends left AIT (Advanced Individual Training) early to go to Saudi Arabia before Desert Shield became Desert Storm. I can't lie, I was one scared little 19 year old.

I reached the rank of Specialist (E-4) and was eligible to reach the rank of Sergeant (E-5) before I left the service. It was 1995 when I got out and spent two more years in the IRR (Inactive

Ready Reserve). I was part of the 469th Medical Ambulance Co. in Wichita.

One of the coolest thing I saw was a 500 man night jump by the 82nd Airborne that was done at about 1:00 a.m. at Fort Irwin, CA. We were very busy that night because a gust of wind came up and took the guys a little sideways just before they hit the ground. We had multiple medivac flights and transports for ankle, knee, and back injuries that night.

Our mischievous WGM Garrie Oppitz teased me all day that I was going to like what she had done, but I had NO CLUE it would be something as special as this. To receive this quilt along with PGM Mary Hayselden's brother was truly a humbling experience. The quilt will be hung on the wall next to my china cabinet where I store all of our

Easter Star plates, dishes, & pins.

During my service, I traveled to several bases around the U.S., in California, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas, and Kansas. I now serve in the Legion of Honor at the ISIS Shrine in Salina. The Legion is made up of active duty, retired, and ex-military Shriners.



PGM Pam Abel helps wrap the new quilt around Gary Ayers, as he receives during the open meeting.  
Photo taken by Cathy Zimmers



**OES  
Heritage  
Reflections**

## Five-State Gathering

July 26 – 28, 2019

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**Ramada Hotel & Suites**

1301 W. Russell

For registration form, hotel rates, and more event information - go to:

<https://sdoes.org/five-state-exchange>

**South Central  
Star Membership Association  
of Districts 7 and 8**

Cordially invites you to attend the all membership



**Fiesta**



**Tuesday, August 27, 2019**

Dinner - 6:00pm Meeting - 7:00pm

Social Hour - 7:30pm

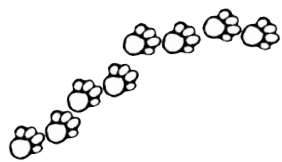
Kansas Masonic Home Auditorium  
402 S. Martinson St, Wichita, KS

Please bring your favorite Mexican side dish or dessert to share.

Tacos, fixings, ice cream, drink, and table service are provided.

Bring your family or a guest!





# Kansas - Nebraska Reunion

## August 23 & 24, 2019



### Nebraska

#### **“Enduring Hope”**

August 23, 2019

#### **Hastings Masonic Center**

411 North Hastings Ave.

Hastings, Nebraska

Hosted by Acacia Chapter #39

2:00 p.m. - Hotel Check-in available

3:00 p.m. - KS Grand Officer Practice

5:00 p.m. - Practice

*Acacia Officers with Kansas Grand Family*

5:30 p.m. - Banquet

7:00 p.m. - Meeting opened by

*Acacia Chapter Officers*

Ceremony of Initiation by  
Kansas Grand Officers

- - - - -

Banquet Cost - \$15.00

*RSVP by August 15, 2019*

#### **Checks payable to Acacia Chapter #39**

Marcia Donley

2905 Lake Park Lane

Hastings, Nebraska 68901

Phone: 402-984-4642

e-mail: bltkemom@gmail.com

*Money must accompany reservations.*



**Reservations** for accommodations in  
Hastings are available at a group rate at:

**Holiday Inn Express** - \$134.95 + tax/fees

402-463-8858

Rooms held until - 7/23/19

**Comfort Inn** - \$119.00 + tax/fees

402-463-5252

Rooms held until - 8/1/19

### Kansas

#### **“Blessings & Bee-Attitudes”**

August 24, 2019

#### **Clay Center Chapter #180**

2317 7th Street

Clay Center, KS

Hosted by Clay Center Chapter #180

10:00 a.m. - NE Grand Officers Practice

12:00 p.m. - Practice

*NE Grand Officers with Clay Center Officers*

12:30 p.m. - Luncheon

*Family Life Center*

*Clay Center United Methodist Church*

*921 5th St, Clay Center*

1:30 p.m. - Pictures

2:00 p.m. - Meeting opened by

*Clay Center Officers*

Ceremony of Initiation by  
Nebraska Grand Officers

- - - - -

Luncheon - Cost \$15.00

*RSVP by August 15, 2019*

#### **Checks payable to Clay Center Chapter #180**

Mary Kay Henry, Secretary

9460 Solomon Rd.

Randolph, KS 66554

Phone: 785-293-4479

*Money must accompany reservations*  
Complimentary meals to General Grand  
Chapter Officers and GGCCM



# Chapters in Service

## OES At Baldwin City Library

In April, Worthy Matron Barbara Pressgrove and Liz Granberg-Jerome filled the display cabinet at the Baldwin City Public Library with loads of information about Evangeline Chapter and Eastern Star!

The variety of items remained on display through the month of April. Working with their local library, the chapter found a great way to help others learn a little about OES, while opening the door for reaching out to members of the community.

Information brochures were

made available on the shelf next to the display cabinet for anyone who was interested in learning more. Members of the chapter checked back at least once a week to be sure there are still a few brochures available. The display was widely appreciated.

## Clay Center Looks Forward To a Busy Year

Nine members of Clay Center Chapter #180 attended the 143rd "Spirit of Love and Aloha" Grand Session in Topeka. Our own Sharon Blair participated in the Ritual Competition Wednesday

afternoon. We were pleased to discover at the All-Membership Banquet Thursday night that she was presented the "Best Martha" award for her presentation.

Before initiation on Friday night, PGM Pam Abel, and Carol Dornberger, members of the Quilts of Valor Committee, presented a Quilt of Valor to Gary Ayres. The second quilt will be presented to an Army Ranger when he returns home.

Everyone looked forward to the announcement of the new 2019-2020 Grand Officers. Clay Center Chapter now has the new Grand Chaplain, Virgil Vesterberg. His wife, Dawn, is his escort and Debra Buseman is his Special Page.

Others receiving appointments are Sharon Blair - Art and Decoration Committee; Debra Buseman and Carol Dornberger - Co-Chairs of the KS/NE Reunion; Carolyn Harvey - Special Page to Jurisprudence; Mary Kay Henry, Necrology Committee; PGM Kathy Johnson - Jurisprudence; Marilyn Johnson 50, 60 & 75 Year Recognition; and Deanna Phelps, Grand Representative of Wisconsin in Kansas.

*Submitted by Carol Dornberger*



Barbara Pressgrove proudly stands next to the display at the library, which is filled with pictures, a ritual, gavel, memorabilia, and emblems from the chapter.

*Photo provided by Liz Granberg-Jerome*

## Star Gazer Information

The Star Gazer is published quarterly, normally in May, August, December, and March. Actual publishing dates may vary.

Distribution of the newsletter is primarily through electronic means. Paper copies of the newsletter are available upon request.

The Star Gazer is a publication of the Grand Chapter of Kansas. Production of the newsletter is the responsibility of the Communications Committee.

Articles and pictures may be submitted for inclusion may be sent to the editor at:

[ks.oes.stargazer@gmail.com](mailto:ks.oes.stargazer@gmail.com)

All articles and pictures are subject to editing and approval prior to publication.

## Kansas Eastern Star Supports

### KSDS - Kansas Specialty Dog Service



Washington, Kansas

**29 years of training  
service dogs!**



# Fellowship and Fun

## A Mystery in Dodge City

The members of the OES Mystery Dinner Club met recently at El Charro Restaurant for dinner before our meeting at St. Bernard Chapter.



Dodge City members enjoy a delicious meal.  
Photo courtesy of Carol Salmon

The mystery is that no one knows where dinner will be until I email the location about two to three days ahead of our meeting. We mix it up a bit with fast food, then a sit-down restaurant and also with different types of food. We do this before each meeting and we have a great time visiting with each other.

*Submitted by Carol Salmon  
Grand Conductress*

## Happy Birthday Chapter

Beatrice Chapter enjoyed the Official Visit of the WGM and WGP on ... Part of the evening's refreshment was a special cake just for the event! A big congratulations to Beatrice #450 for achieving 95 years of being an active chapter.



Chapter members donned their party hats to enjoy the delicious ice cream cake following their meeting  
Photo courtesy of Liz Granberg-Jerome

Evangeline Chapter enjoyed two birthday celebrations in one on May 22. First, it was the birthday of their WM Barbara Pressgrove! Plus, they wished a Happy Birthday to Evangeline Chapter who celebrated 124 years on May 16! It was a fun party following the meeting with a DQ ice cream cake and wonderful fellowship as always.

## Share Your Books!

Do you have books cluttering up your shelves!

Share them with a library or reading program.

Libraries who may not need that particular book will often put them in a book sale to raise money for new books!

A few of the places that can use your books:

Public Library

School Library

Shelters

Care Facilities

Find a group that is having a book sale and donate your books for their charity!

## Coming Events!

June 12	OV & Pin Presentation Adda #467, Lenexa
June 13	OV & Pin Presentation Felicity #371, Lindsborg
June 19	OV & Pin Presentation Union #15, Ottawa
June 25-29	<a href="#">DeMolay International</a> Supreme Council Kansas City, MO
June 28-30	<a href="#">Rainbow Grand Assembly</a> Wichita
July 18-21	<a href="#">DeMolay State Conclave</a> Hutchinson
July 20	Alpha Omega Sewing Day Grand Officer Practice Emporia Masonic Center
July 26-28	<a href="#">Five State Gathering</a> Sioux Falls, SD
August 23 - 24	KS-NE Exchange Hastings, NE Clay Center, KS
September 4	District 1 - SOI Mayetta #383
September 5	District 11 - SOI Lakin #193
September 10	District 4 - SOI Olive #13, Ft. Scott
September 11	District 7 - SOI La Donia #243, Howard
September 13	District 2 - SOI Byington #177, Leavenworth
September 14	Pin Presentation Grand Officer Degree Work
September 16	District 6 - SOI Golden Rod #163, Yates Center
September 17	District 5 - SOI Falls #25 Emporia Masonic Center
September 18	District 3 - SOI Union #15, Ottawa
September 19	District 8 - SOI Valley Center
September 21	Official Visit St. Bernard #97, Dodge City
Sept 19-21	<a href="#">Colorado Grand Chapter</a> Denver, CO



# Scholarships Awarded 2018-2019

## ESTARL

Cord Carlin 2nd Year Recipient  
Sponsored by Queen Esther Chapter #32  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Oviedo, Florida

Brenda Hogan 1st Year Recipient  
Sponsored by Silver Leaf Chapter #464  
St. Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS

Kristen Howell 1st Year Recipient  
Sponsored by Adda Chapter #467  
St. Paul School of Theology, Overland Park, KS

Gordan Pettibone 1st Year Recipient  
Sponsored by Goodland Chapter #122  
St. Paul School of Theology, Overland Park, KS

Cyd Stein 5th Year Recipient  
Sponsored by St. Bernard Chapter #97  
Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX

Jeffrey Slater 3rd Year Recipient  
Silver Leaf Chapter #464  
Boston University School of Theology (on-line)

## Scholarship Award

Baylee Call	Emporia State University
Emileigh Dinkel	Kansas State University
Jacob Geisen	Kansas State University
Valerie Binns	KU Medical Student
Kendsey Johnson	Kansas State University
Hunter Secrest	Fort Hays State University
Katherine Beckley	Emporia State University
Brooke Call	Emporia State University
Justice Merriman	Emporia State University
Chandler Inman	Pittsburg State University
Chelsea Williams	Emporia State University
Kelsi DeLong	Emporia State University
Darcy Ellis	Fort Hays State University
Piper Fowler	Kansas State University
Alyssa Frey	Kansas State University
Kady Laporte	Pittsburg State University
Sarah Moyer	Kansas State University
Taylor Dechant	Kansas State University

## Bee seen going out in Eastern Star Style!



**With our new Kansas  
Eastern Star T-shirts**



These comfortable shirts are just the way to help tell others who we are. For a mere \$15, you can get one in your size: from Small to 3X. Contact your District Aide to order yours!

Profits go to the WGM & WGP Special Projects

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY!

### How to Write a Check to Grand Chapter!

1. Make the check out to:  
*Grand Chapter of Kansas*
2. Date check correctly, especially the year.
3. Numeric amount MUST match the written amount *exactly!*
4. If not using a contribution form:  
Designate the special fund on the Memo line *only*. It is located in the lower left corner of the check.
5. Checks older than six (6) months cannot be deposited.

Our bank reviews each check individually. If anything is amiss, the check cannot be deposited. It is important to send checks after writing them. Checks often have to be re-written because it is too old or contains errors in how it is written.

*Thanks for helping!*





# HELPING HANDS SERVICE AWARD

WE ARE GOOD PEOPLE DOING GOOD THINGS FOR GOOD REASONS!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

1. Attend at least 10 meetings of your chapter.
2. Participate in at least 5 of the following for your Chapter.
  - ◆ Serve as a Chapter Officer or Grand Officer
  - ◆ Attend a School of Instruction in your District or another District
  - ◆ Visit another Chapter in your District
  - ◆ Serve on a Committee
  - ◆ Attend a Friendship meeting.
  - ◆ Assist with an OES Memorial Service
  - ◆ Attend an Official Visit or Pin Presentation of the WGM and/or WGP
  - ◆ Participate in the WGM Special Projects -- Tools for Schools, Bibs and Blankets, Blessings Quilts, collect Tabby Tops
  - ◆ Donate to the WGM and WGP Charity
3. Participate in at least 5 of the following in your Community. *(may do the same thing 5 times.)*
  - ◆ Volunteer at your Church as a Sunday School Teacher, Greeter, Usher, Lay Leader, on a Committee, etc.
  - ◆ Volunteer at a Food or Clothing Bank
  - ◆ Volunteer at an Animal Shelter
  - ◆ Volunteer at an area School in the classroom, at recess, in the library, on the Site Council, etc.
  - ◆ Visit a Retirement Home
  - ◆ Volunteer for the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Medical Reserve Corp, Rescue Mission, Ronald McDonald House, etc.
  - ◆ Donate clothing, food, or money to someone in need
  - ◆ Assist with serving of Community Dinners
  - ◆ Volunteer at a local hospital
  - ◆ Donate to a Charity.

This form is due at the Grand Chapter office on February 1, 2020. The Service shall be completed during the calendar year of 2019.



Star Gazer Newsletter  
Kansas Grand Chapter OES  
320 Southwest Eighth Avenue, Floor 2  
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3912

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Grand Chapter of Kansas  
320 S.W. 8th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66603-3912

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Order of the Eastern Star  
advocates for qualified Service  
Dog programs and provides  
financial assistance to such  
organizations, aiding their  
efforts to serve mankind and to  
allow individuals to achieve  
independence.