



Star Gazer



Kansas Grand Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star

Volume 13

March/April 2023

Edition 4

Kansas/Oklahoma Exchange



The Kansas and Oklahoma Grand Officers

The Kansas/Oklahoma Exchange was held January 27th and 28th in Liberal, Kansas. We had 96 reservations with 93 attending.

The theme of the weekend was picked for what Liberal is best known for.....The Pancake Races...so....Pancake weekend it was!

Kansas Grand Chapter started out the weekend by performing

Initiation on Friday evening. Josh Koerperich received the degrees of our order. Congratulations!

On Saturday was Oklahoma's day. They performed Exemplification for the Degrees in the afternoon.

The meals were catered by the Liberal Chapter members. Most of the meals were home cooked. No one left hungry!

Saturday night there was a Pancake Day trivia....and everyone enjoyed the Pancake flipping contest. A fun time was had by all.

Liberal chapter #104 would like to thank the Oklahoma and Kansas Grand Chapters for asking us to host the 2023 Kansas/Oklahoma Exchange.

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Deadline for next issue is
June 26th

Kansas Specialty Dog Service

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Worthy Grand Matron



Gale Masten

Theme: Be A Light

Watchwords & Aims:

Love
Live our Values Everyday
Hope
Have Only
Positive Expectations
Faith
Forward All Issues To Him

**Motto:
WGM:**

Give it to God and Always
Say A Prayer

WGP:

You're braver than you
believe, and stronger than
you seem, and smarter
than you think.
Christopher Robin

**Scriptures:
WGM:**

John 14:27
Joshua 1:9
James 4:10

WGP:

Genesis 9:16
1 Corinthians 13:11

Emblem:

Four-sided square lantern



From the Desk of the WGM.....

The adventure isn't over yet!

The Be A Light Grand Family was able to recover many items from KMH before they closed. After our Christmas gathering the Grand Family went to KMH and retrieved our Starpoint paintings created by Anna Mae Bradshaw PGM 1942. She painted these for her "Art of Living" session beginning in 1938. They have now been hung at Miriam Chapter in Emporia Kansas, where we hope to continue enjoying these treasures for many more years. Several other items were retrieved and have been slowly returned to their home Chapters to much delight of those receiving them.

The Spring Charity Fundraiser was a huge fiesta! Thank you to all who donated items. We raised over \$9600.00 for our charities. We now look forward to the Grand Chapter Session and although the Be A Light family's journey is drawing to an end our adventures will certainly continue.

Thank you does not show the depth of appreciation we feel toward our members in making our year wonderful.

Remember to HOPE, Have Only Positive Expectations, LOVE, Live Our Values Every day, and FAITH, Forward All Issues To Him. Give it to God and always say a prayer. Be A Light!

Star Love and appreciation,

Gale Maston

Worthy Grand Matron



From the Worthy Grand Patron....

Its Grand Chapter Time

Sister Gale and I hope each of you have made your plans for the 2023 "Be a Light" Grand Session in Wichita. This year we will have visitors from General Grand Chapter as well as many visitors from out of state. It promises to be a good time.

I would like to thank all of you that has made our year a wonderful success and a really good time. The money you have helped us raise for our wonderful charities will change a lot of lives and show that Kansas Order of the Eastern Star members really care.

Sad times as we had to say goodbye to the Kansas Masonic Home in Wichita. A part of Kansas Masons and OES the Robert Lawrence Mansion became what we know as the KMH in 1896. The home has served orphans, widows and elders for many of those years. The chapel built in 1906 was a wonderful addition to KMH. The Chapel was the only building to survive the fatal fire in 1916. Kansas Masons and OES have left many contributions along the years and now we must leave some of our symbols for future owners. The Heroines paintings in the auditorium have now come down off the walls, and were moved to Emporia.

The Kansas Masonic Home memories will live for years to come.

The opportunity to present service pins and awards too many deserving members has been the highlight of my term. My theme of impressions left in the sand will always be a testament to the hard work we strive to do and the values OES teaches. I want to leave you with a thought: "it's not where you've been, but it's what you did that makes a difference".

Tony Anderson

Worthy Grand Patron

2022-2023



Worthy Grand Patron



Tony Anderson

Fun Emblems:
WGM:

Monarch Butterfly

For fun:

All things Harley
Davidson and Peanut
butter cookies

WGP:

Jet Ski

Honor Station:

Romans 2:11
For God shows no partiality.
We are all equally important

Colors:

Black, White, Silver,
Orange and Red

Flowers:

Seasonal Flowers,
Marigolds, Red Roses

Songs:

Session:

Be a Light

WGM:

Humble and Kind
You Raise me up
Girl On Fire

WGP:

Pontoon
Wipeout
Rainbow

(Please refer to the Itinerary
for the Artists)

Kansas Masonic Home Paintings

The Heroines of our order

The Oil Paintings by Anna Mae Bradshaw 1939

As many of you know the Painting of our Heroines that were presented to the Kansas Masonic Home were removed this last year because of the closing of the home. They have been placed on the walls at the Masonic Lodge in Emporia Kansas.

This is a story of the history of these paintings. As told by Sister Virginia Johnson PGM of Kansas (1990 -1991) As found in the book Partnership Kansas Masonic Home.

Sister Anna Mae Bradshaw WGM 1941-1942

In 1939, sister Anna Mae Bradshaw was serving as Grand Conductress of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, OES. She was a member of Bethel #221 Peabody Kansas.

At that time there was a limit of \$600.00 for expenses of the Grand Chapter Session. Her session was held at The Wichita

Forum...the problem is decorating a place that large. She decided on her theme "The Art of the Living". One of the cost for Grand Chapter she needed to avoid was the raising and lowering of the curtains. There was a \$75.00 charge every time that happened. So she decided to just have the curtains raised once with the paintings there. Problem solved.

The Paintings have had a very interesting history while being painted, during and afterwards. A story told by Sister Betty Jo Goodman is while Sister Anna Mae lived in Peabody she would paint for a little bit and then put the paintings on the clothes line to dry....she lived by the railroad tracks and the passenger trains would come by on a daily basis the train (and probably many others) would slow down to see what she was doing and how it was progressing.

When Grand Chapter was over

she returned home with the paintings secured to the top of her car. The paintings were removed from the stretchers and stored in her studio, rolled up to preserve them.

Later Mr. L.B. Blakemore, PGM for the Grand Lodge of Ohio and president of the Masonic history Company. Contacted Sister Anna Mae and inquired about the paintings. He wanted to publish an Eastern Star Bible with the five heroine pictures.

There was much excitement when Mr. Blakemore saw the paintings. They were shipped to Chicago for photos for the Bible. The Paintings have also appeared again at Grand Chapter with the Harmony and Ritual Session in 1975 Sister Beverly Rowe WGM.

The Paintings are Copyrighted by the Library of Congress in December 1942 This is a special copyright protection for artists.



Around the State!

75 Year Pins at Gridley and White Rose

On September 12, 2022, Marjorie Lewis, a member of White Rose Chapter #297, Gridley received her 75 year pin at the Official Visit of Gale Masten, WGM and Tony Anderson, WGP. Marjorie lives in Lebo, Kansas with her daughter, Janet and is currently White Rose's Adah.

She continues to be very active our Chapter and very seldom misses a meeting. Tony Anderson, WGP with the assistance of Richard "Dick" Short, PGP did the honors of presenting Marjorie with her 75-year pin, and Janet Lewis, daughter, pinned the pin on her mother. Several family members were present to witness the special event.



Marjorie with Tony, WGP & Gale, WGM

Liberal Having Fun

Liberal #104 participated in the annual homemade craft fair in December

Look who showed up, the Grinch aka Mary Eastman one of our chapter members. She was busy handing out candy canes and grinch buttons and visiting all of the booths.



Marilou with Tony, WGP

On March 7, Tony Anderson, WGP, Karen Adams, PGM and Karen's husband, Don traveled to the Regents Park Assisted Living in Wichita to present Marilou Hess her 75-year pin. Marilou is also a member of White Rose Chapter #297 transferring from Madison when Madison consolidated with Gridley several years ago. Marilou's nieces and several residents were present to witness the 75-pin presentation by Tony and assisted by Karen.



Photos Provided for this issue by:
Carl Anderson, Cindy Smith,
Karen Adams, PGM and
Becky Willsey
THANKS

Queen Esther Branson Adventure

Reminder for the Branson "Queen Esther" Bus trip
June 27-29. Registration will begin after Installation on
Saturday April 22, with a \$150 deposit due by May 1st.

Up Coming Events!! Mark your Calendar!

NOTE: Due to Covid restrictions
Please know some of the
Chapters may require a mask.

April 20-22
Grand Chapter Wichita

May 6
WGM & WGP
Reception
Emporia

May 9-11
Nebraska Grand Chapter

June 3rd
Appointive Grand
Officers Reception
Topeka

June 9-10
5 State in
South Sioux City, NE

June 27-28
Queen Esther
Bus Trip to Branson

July 8th
Alpha Omega

August 25-26
KS/NE Reunion
Hays

Star Gazer Information

The Star Gazer is published quarterly, normally in June, September, December, and March. Actual publishing dates may vary, depending on circumstances.

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 is the responsibility of the Communications Committee of Kansas Grand Chapter OES.

Articles and pictures may be submitted for inclusion by sending them to the editor at:
cindy@smithlawoffices.net

All articles and pictures are subject to editing and approval prior to publication. Please include names of individuals in photos when submitting for publication.

Getting to Know your Grand Family.....

Grand Sentinel.....David Ahlstrom

I grew up in Junction City, KS and graduated from Junction City High school – the Blue Jays. I am a KU alumnus too. That makes me a Blue-Jay-Hawk.

My wife, Cathy, and I have a blended family of three daughters and one son, one granddaughter and three grandsons. We have two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Parker & Penny. We are members of Evangeline Chapter #162 in Baldwin City. I am also a member of Wyandotte Lodge #3 in Kansas City, Kansas and serve as Associate Guardian of Bethel

#27, Job's Daughters in Shawnee. Whenever we get a chance we head to the Lake of the Ozarks, where we enjoy fishing, boating, and playing hillbilly bingo.

I'm the Manager of the IRA Team for Synchrony Bank, an online bank. I'm a Jayhawk, Chiefs and Royals fan. My year as Grand Sentinel has been fabulous, with visits to Kearney, Hannibal, Springfield and many of our Chapters in Kansas. I am looking forward to the next two years.



Spring Charity Fun!

Over 100 Eastern Star members attended the Spring Charity Fund Raiser on March 11th. Party Fiesta brought sombreros, ponchos and authentic Mexican food to the Emporia Masonic Building. The 50/50 tickets netted \$540, as the winner donated the half share back to the charities.

A representative of Passageways gave a speech (and bought some auction items), The 'wishing well' made \$448. The live auction and silent auction made the balance of the charity funds. After expenses, the total for the three charities was \$9683.20.





PASSAGEWAYS

PROVIDING HOPE FOR OUR MILITARY VETERAN HEROES

Kaleidoscope Quilt Auction

Recently, we received a gift of two beautiful quilts for us to auction. This is the first of the two quilts. The second one will be auctioned later in the year.

Click [here](#) to visit the auction site and make your bid! Thank you to our friends from Ascension Lutheran Church and to Lynne Foster for providing this quilt.

Below you will see some additional pictures of this queen size quilt.



This donated quilt fits a queen size bed. The border is shades of green. The background and backing is off-white.

Donations to the Star Gazer are always welcome!
Please send to: Grand Chapter Office
221 SW 33rd St., Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66611-2379
Write Check to Grand Chapter of Kansas
in the Memo put Star Gazer Donation
This will help with postage and printing cost!
It costs between \$2.00 & \$2.10 per issue

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GREATEST NEEDS

- Pots & Pans
- Dishes
- Bakeware
- Toilet Paper and Paper Towels
- Saran Wrap and Foil
- Coffee and Coffee Filters
- Microwaves

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Surprising History of OES.....

Martha:
The Opening and lecture has stayed the
same since 1895!

From the book Symbolism of the Eastern Star:
Meaning of the name: Martha means "Fortitude,"
"Abiding," and "Instructed by Christ." Martha had
the fortitude to maintain her faith, even when her
brother died, by abiding in the Word of God as she
had been instructed by Christ.

Color: Green, the symbol of renewed life and
growth, is the new life which is eternal for all
men through christ

Flower: The fern is dedicated to Martha because
its endless greenness is symbolic of the
endlessness of eternal life.