

# Worthy Grand Matron & Worthy Grand Patron Reception

“You all know how to throw a party!!!” Those were the words of Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert D. McClarty of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons as he sat in the East at Miriam Chapter on May 6, 2023.

That day was a wonderful celebration of our Worthy Grand Matron, Wendy Cunningham, and our Worthy Grand Patron, Dave Hendricks. Sister Wendy and Brother Dave’s “In God We Trust” Grand Family and friends were there to share in the festivities.

One-hundred and sixty-five members and visitors enjoyed a delicious meal of barbecued meats and accompaniments from Bobby D’s restaurant, after which everyone either braved the stairs or had a pleasant ride in the elevator with Miriam Chapter’s very own Brother Roger Brooks manning the controls to the real party on second floor.

The patriotic decorations, provided by Sister Nancy Zook,

in the dining area as well as the decorations in the Chapter room, arranged by Sister Barbara Say, were a beautiful addition to the festivities.

We were all entertained with “cat stories” and a “little golf” as we celebrated 2023-24 leadership with Sister Wendy and Brother Dave. Sunflower Chapter #147 (Chanute) presented a truly meaningful program for our Worthy Grand Matron and Miriam Chapter #14 (Emporia) shared a whimsical test of ability for Brother Dave’s program. The Worthy Grand Matron was presented with two beautiful quilts

and the Worthy Grand Patron received a patriotic quilt as gifts from their first Grand Families.



Thank you to Sunflower Chapter #147 and Miriam Chapter #14 members for sharing the workload. Very special thanks to the Past Grand Matrons who served as the Worthy Grand Matron/Worthy Grand Patron Reception planning committee, sharing their expertise and love for Eastern Star to make this a successful and meaningful day.

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Worthy Grand Matron



Wendy Cunningham

**Theme:**  
**In God We Trust**

**Aims:**  
**Promote Brotherly Love,  
Relief and Truth**

**Watchwords:**  
**God, Country, Charity**

**Motto:**  
**Happiness Comes From  
Good Happenings**

**Scriptures:**  
**WGM:**  
**Matthew 17:20**  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**  
**Job 19:25**

**WGP:**  
**Psalms 133, Isaiah 40:31**  
**Matthew 7:7**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**

**Honor Stations:**  
**Chaplain, Martha, Electa**

**Emblems:**  
**Open Holy Bible**  
**Cup, Flag, Eagle**

**Colors:**  
**Red, White, Blue**

**Flowers:**  
**WGM:**  
**Iris**  
**Lily of the Valley**  
**Yellow Rose**

**WGP:**  
**Pink Carnations**  
**Pink Rose**

## From the Desk of the WGM.....

Sisters and Brothers,

It is my honor to serve as Worthy Grand Matron for Kansas this coming year. Thank you for the vote of confidence and I will do my best to fulfill the duties that have been conferred upon me.

Thanks to everyone that came to the Reception in May for Brother Dave and me in Emporia, it was a wonderful way to start off our "In God We Trust" year. Happiness does come from Good Happenings.

To our "FlaG" Grand Family, each of you are very special and we look forward to a great year working and traveling with you across the State. The reception in Topeka was a great success to honor you. Now we just have to help Carl learn more about traveling Kansas.

In May, we had a wonderful experience meeting our Sisters and Brothers of Prince Hall Eastern Star and attend their Grand Session in Lawrence. We felt very welcomed and it is a start to a lasting friendships. We also renewed our friendships with our Nebraska counterparts at their Grand Chapter session and again at the 5-State gathering in South Sioux City. Our four Brothers were good sports and did a great job depicting famous Kansas women.

Now we can focus on our own travels to renew and make new friends across the State with Chapter Visits and Official Visits. At one Chapter visit, those of us that attended filled the Star Point stations and Chapter was opened in form. Some of us had to scramble for our Rituals just to refresh our memory for the opening. This is exactly our purpose when Brother Dave and I come for a Chapter Visit, we want to help in any way we can. Official Visits have been filled with Patriotic themes, songs, decorations and makes us feel proud of our great Country. Thank you for all the courtesies that have been extended.

I hit a little speed bump recently, when my Husband had to have some dermatological surgery and I needed to be his Escort during his recovery. Thanks to Sister Glenda, Associate Grand Matron for filling in for me at the School of Instruction in Kansas City.

We are getting ready to travel to Branson for our "Queen Esther" bus trip. We will have a busy three days. Thanks to Melanie, Valeri and Susan for setting up all of our adventures.

We have been to the Kansas Job's Daughters Grand Session and will be attending the Rainbow Girls and DeMolay sessions also. At each one, we want to help serve the meal, pour tea and water and even clear tables. It is a great way to meet and talk with the young people and let them know we care about their organization.

A reminder of Alpha Omega sewing day July 8th in Emporia. There will however, be no sewing, but decorating the bags to be used for our special guests at Grand Chapter in April. We hope to see many of you there to help complete this project. Thank you in advance. Our Grand Officers will be practicing Initiation that afternoon.

Get your golf clubs out and ready for Brother Dave's Golf Tournament August 11th at the Emporia Golf Course. If you don't play golf, like me, come and enjoy the fun, there will be plenty of other activities to enjoy the day. Thank you to the Chapters that have sponsored a Hole and those that have made up a team to come and play.

Please remember our charities of Passageways, Danny Hendricks Memorial Scholarship and Kansas Service Dogs. Also, remember charity starts at home, with giving to your local food banks.

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## From the Desk of the WGP....

I am truly humbled and honored to be YOUR Worthy Grand Patron and to follow in my parent's footsteps. I truly appreciate the love and support that you have shown Shanda and me as we have traveled to your Chapter.

The WGM/WGP Reception in Emporia was incredible and we thank you for attending. A special thanks and to Sisters Pam Abel, Patti White, Nancy Zook, Donna Fagg, Wanda Ryan, Dee Smith and Garrie Oppitz for planning a really awesome event. To the members of Miriam Chapter for serving as the host venue and for the awesome skit, I really thought I was going to the Masters!

We have hit the ground running with the Appointed Grand Officers' Reception in Topeka, several Chapter visits, three Schools of Instruction and several Official Visits. The opportunity to present 25, 50, 60, and 70 year pins has been the highlight of the year so far, and I thank the Chapters for allowing me the privilege of presenting. Thank you for many donations to our charities: your support is greatly appreciated.

The Queen Esther/Branson Bus Trip was an incredible experience! A special "Thank You" to Sisters Melanie Marcy, Valerie Blackburn and Susan Dennett, all Past Grand Esther's, for planning what was an AWESOME event!

In June we attended the 5 State Exchange in S. Sioux City, Nebraska and Job's Daughters' Grand Session where the Grand Officers helped serve the meals and provided table service. We plan to attend The Rainbow Grand Assembly and the DeMolay Conclave in July, and again plan to serve the members. This is our way to say: "Thank You" for always being willing to serve us!

We are looking forward to the Kansas/Nebraska Exchange and the Grand Master's Masonic Unity event in August.

On August 11th at the Emporia Municipal Golf Course we will be holding the Worthy Grand Patron's Golf Tournament. Many chapters have stepped up their support by participating as a hole sponsor, thank you! Now we need teams and we need you! Please spread the word to your friends, family, co-workers, for just \$85.00 per person or \$340.00 per team you can help support our charities.

Thank you for all that you do for Kansas Eastern Star and we look forward to seeing you down the Eastern Star Road!

Fraternally,

*Dave Hendricks*

Worthy Grand Patron

## Worthy Grand Patron



**Dave Hendricks**

### **Songs:**

#### **WGM:**

**My Faith Looks  
Up To Thee**

**Proud To Be An  
American**

**Onward Christian  
Soldiers**

**Children of the  
Heavenly Father**

**Here I Am Lord**

**I'm Walking On Sunshine**

#### **WGP:**

**Crazy Train**

**Notre Dame Fight Song**

**Amazing Grace**

**How Great Thou Art**

**Fly Like an Eagle**

**God Bless America**

**On Eagles Wings**

#### **Just for Fun:**

#### **WGM:**

**Cats, Panda Bears  
Sunflowers, KC Chiefs**

#### **WGP:**

**Anything Golf,**

**Notre Dame**

**Dallas Cowboys**

# Appointive Grand Officers Reception



Back Row Left to Right: Carl Anderson Grand Sentinel, Kara Wilkie Grand Warder, Carolyn Merrick Grand Organist, Jeanine Blessant Grand Marshal and Bill McCord Grand Chaplain.  
Front Row Left to Right: Ronda Theroff Grand Electa, Vicky Boyer Grand Martha, Marlene Moore Grand Esther, Sharon Blair Grand Ruth and Sheryl Todd Grand Adah.

On Saturday June 3, nearly 140 members of Kansas OES gathered with the In God We Trust Grand Family to celebrate the Appointive Grand Officers.

The patriotic theme reception was held in the Shawnee Ballroom at the City Hotel in Topeka and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sister Joan Miller and Brother Tony Anderson were the acting Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for the day. Jo both entertained and kept the crowd on its toes. Sisters Cindy and Jennifer Reed were wonderful as the Conductresses.

Brother Gary Ayres gave beautiful prayers as chaplain, Sister Juanita Euler played lovely music for us as the organist and Sister Mary Keffer rounded out the officers as Secretary.

Sister's Jenny Ayres and Jean Osbourn were joined by the Special Pages in attendance for a cute skit honoring the AGOs, helping to prepare them for all their travels coming this year.

The Grand Family tested Brother Carl Anderson the Grand Sentinel on his knowledge of Kansas OES Trivia while dressing him as Sherlock Holmes. It was both fun and educational!

Following the reception guests mingled with cookies, desserts, iced tea, and water while the Grand Officers were inundated with gifts.

Sister Jenny Ayres painted adorable flowerpot centerpieces and the Appointive Grand Officers were all presented with a corsage or boutonniere made by Sister Jean Osbourn.



Continued from page 1

## The Worthy Grand Matron Worthy Grand Patron Reception Committee



Left to Right: Sister(s) Pam Abel (chair), Patti White, Dee Smith, Wanda Ryan, Garrie Oppitz, Nancy Zook and Donna Fagg

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## From the Desk of the WGM.....

Be active, make yourselves known among your local community. Get together with your local Masons, prepare a meal, have a gathering and invite prospective members. Meet and greet, get to know them and they get to know you, you never know they might what to join our beautiful Order.

I do pray each and everyone of you have a wonderful Summer and will be attending some of the events planned. Come back in September full of enthusiasm

for more time to be together with Chapter Visits, Official Visits and Schools of Instruction and your own Chapter meetings.

Star Love,

*Wendy Cunningham*  
Worthy Grand Matron

Photos Provided for this issue by:  
Carl Anderson, Pam Able PGM,  
Wendy Cunningham WGM,  
Jackie Strickland and  
Ronna Kimbrell.....THANKS!

## WGM Brings Greetings to Prince Hall OES



Grand Worthy Matron Marsha Brown, Prince Hall Kansas OES and Worthy Grand Matron Wendy Cunningham Kansas OES. After the Chapter of Sorrows.

On Wednesday, May 31st the Kansas Grand Chapter OES attended part of the Prince Hall OES Meeting in Lawrence Kansas. Those in attendance were able to attend the Memorial Service called the Chapter of Sorrows. Which both the Prince Hall Masons and the OES combine to read the names of those who have passed.

Then on Thursday June 1st Sister Wendy Cunningham, WGM was invited to bring greetings from The Kansas Grand Chapter to The Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Kansas. This is the first time a WGM of Kansas has been asked to bring greetings to Prince Hall OES. Her remarks were very hopeful that the two groups could one day be able to work together for the good of both groups. We were welcomed warmly for all of the activities that we were able to attend. We were also invited back to attend next year.

## ~ MEMBERSHIP CORNER ~

Plan a fun event or outing for your Chapter and invite prospective members. Always, include your local Lodge and their Ladies.

Don't hesitate to ask someone to join. A "No" doesn't cost you a thing but a "Yes" can be a priceless gift of love, loyalty and friendship.

## Around the State! Districts #1 and #5 Have Been Busy! Wathena Chapter

Tuesday, May 16th, Wathena Chapter held an "unofficial" Official Visit of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron.

Brother Dave Hendricks, WGP, graciously accepted the request from the chapter to present a 25-year pin to Sister Jaime Arnesen, before the meeting. He told everyone this would be his first presentation and he did a beautiful job.

Brother Thurman Miller, PGP, and grandfather to Sister Jaime, had the honor of pinning her with her new pin. Sister Jaime thanked the chapter for the pin and expressed her love for the Order and what it meant to her to be a member of Eastern Star.

Her mother, Sister Paula Jones, was an active member. It was nice for the members to see Brother Thurman. Brother Dave's wife, Sister Shanda presented a pink carnation to Sister Jaime. The pink carnation was a favorite flower of Brother Dave's wife, Sister Shanda Hendricks.

There is so much from District #1 and District #5.....  
The rest will be in the Next Issue of the Star Gazer!

## District #5

Has been busy since Grand Chapter. I was able to visit all nine of our chapters before our School of Instruction. Our district is about 150 miles wide, so that had us on the road quite a bit while making the chapter visits. I was greeted warmly at every chapter and enjoyed fun ceremonies, lovely gifts and wonderful food and fellowship at each.



The Gnomes of District #5

This year, I thought it would be fun for the chapters in District #5 to have a gnome they could name, accessorize and take with them on their O.E.S adventures. Our District #5 gnomes are George, Maxwell, Maverick, Sherlock Gnomes, Sedgwick, Buzz, Gnorman and Quincy.

Sedgwick and Buzz have even been initiated and have their own dues cards. I'm so excited that so many other members across the state have embraced our District #5 traveling gnome fun and we now have a "Gnome-palooza" across Kansas.



Sister Jackie Strickland, District Aide District #5 Visiting Queen City, Winfield on her travels through the District.

We look forward to our District #5 summer activities. August 5th we will go to a Wichita Wind Surge baseball game. If you are interesting in going with us to the ballpark, contact Jackie for tickets.

Then on August 29th we will have our summer District #5 get together at Clearwater. Contact Ronna Kimbrel or Joyce Kaup to RSVP or for more information.

# Spring Charity....

**SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 9, 2024**

The Spring Charity is scheduled for March 9, 2024 in Hutchinson. The site will be The Kansas Cosmosphere, 1100 North Plum, Hutchinson, KS 67502

This note is to tell you about one of the activities scheduled for this date. One of our fundraisers will be called PINS FOR PASSAGEWAYS.

There will be a pin swap table for swapping leftover, retired, or past years lapel pins, Chapter pins, Grand Chapter pins, along with any Masonic fraternal pins also. Of course, we will want you to swap a Pin for a donation(\$) to Passageways charity. This event was a lot of fun and a huge success the last time we had it at Spring Charity.

The committee would like your help by asking you to sort through your collection soon, and donate any item(s) you would like, to the PINS FOR PASSAGEWAYS Fundraiser! This is a great way to contribute to Passageways charity, and is a fun way to pass on history, memories, and meet someone who knows about the past of that pin.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

We will also accept jewelry that you no longer wear to Chapter. We have lots of members who LOVE vintage jewelry, either to wear or re-purpose, especially if they have Eastern Star emblems. If you have something special that you would like to donate for our silent auction, we would love to do that also.

If you have donations, simply text or e-mail, Carla McKinney, or Cindy Moore, or find us when we visit your Chapter; and we will gladly add your treasures to the Pins for Passageways collection. Our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron will also be happy to pass your donations on to us.

**DEADLINE:** We would like to have as many donations as possible by January 31, to give us time to organize and try to find some background information. We will be glad to accept items after that date, up to and including the day of the Spring Charity, Saturday, March 4, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of Passageways. There will be more news about the Spring Charity as it develops.

Star Love,  
Cindy Moore  
Carla McKinney  
Laura Cross  
Spring Charity 2023-2024  
Committee  
Text (Phone) 620-921-0466  
E-mail  
cinderella\_moore@yahoo.com  
carlamckinney865@yahoo.com

## Thank You! Sisters and Brothers

Thank you for attending the 147th "Be A Light " Grand session. Sister Gale and I really enjoyed the Grand Session this year.

The support and outpouring of help from all that attended was greatly appreciated. No one can ever know how intense planning and orchestrating such an event can be until you have to do it.

Everyone was so friendly and welcoming to our out of state guests and visitors. Kansas hospitality is alive and well.

Finally I want to thank you for your generosity in supporting our Charities and Special projects. The final amounts are being tabulated and we will be cutting checks to them shortly.

Happiness is achieved when you stop waiting for it to happen, and take steps to make it happen.

Tony Anderson PGP

## Up Coming Events!! Mark your Calendar!

August 11  
Golf Tournament  
Emporia

August 17-19  
Grand Chapter  
Texas

August 25-26  
KS/NE Reunion  
Hays

September 5  
Helena #210  
(Topeka)  
Chapter Visit

September 12  
Sunflower #147  
Chanute  
Chapter Visit

September 13  
Evangeline #162  
(Baldwin City)  
Official Visit & Pins

September 16  
Beulah #34  
(Topeka)  
Chapter Visit

September 21-23  
Grand Chapter  
Colorado

September 21  
Lakin #244  
Official Visit & Pins

September 23  
St Bernard #97  
(Dodge City)  
Official Visit & Pins

September 28  
Clay Center #180  
Official Visit & Pins

September 30  
District #4  
School of Instruction  
Emporia

# Service Dog Report

This report was missed in the line up at Grand Chapter on Saturday.

This is the report of the service dog project for the 2022-2023 year. We had two main ways that we raised money this year for the project. The first was to sell black t-shirts with the OES emblems and the second was to have a best in show dog show.

We made \$872.45 with the sale of the shirts. We still have a few medium and large shirts left to purchase.

For the Best in Show dog show we asked each District Aide to get a stuffed dog to take with them while they travelled around the state and collect money for dog treats for their dog. We have continued the show at Grand Chapter. The dogs were on display at the back of the Chapter room for people to vote for their favorite dog by making a monetary donation.

The Best in Show dog winners were:  
Sue Ayers Mays from District #2  
1st place Doreen Foster from District #8  
2nd place Betty Ann Anderson from District #1

We raised a total of \$5,837.70 with our dog show. I would like to thank our District Aides for helping us with this fun dog show.

OES dog pins were sold at Grand Chapter for \$5 each and there are still a few of those pins available for purchase.

The final figures of money raised for the KSDS service dogs is as follows:

T-shirt sales	\$ 872.45
Dog Show	\$ 5,827.70
Dog Pins	\$ 305.00
5 State donation	\$ 685.00
Donations	\$ 2,286.00
Funds from Mansfield Trust	\$ 3,445.51

Grand Total raised for the service dog project \$ 13,421.66

Respectfully submitted by:  
Melanie Marcy, Chairman  
Gary Ayres  
Ann Kolarik



## PASSAGEWAYS

PROVIDING HOPE FOR OUR MILITARY VETERAN HEROES

Here is a list of items that Passageways is in need of:

Greatest Needs  
Trash Bags  
Coffee  
Laundry Soap  
Dillons Gift Card  
Paper Towels  
Mouth Wash (Zero Alcohol)  
3 Cushion Couches

Other Needs  
*New & Nearly New*

Kitchen  
Kitchen Rug  
Crockpot  
Bakeware (5 qt or above)  
Electric Skillet  
Pots and Pan set  
Mixing Bowls  
Aluminum Foil

Living Room  
Vacuum Cleaner  
Floor/Table Lamps  
End Table  
DVD Player

For a full list of items visit  
[passagewaysltd.org/helpfultitems/](http://passagewaysltd.org/helpfultitems/)

### *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](mailto: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.

Donations to the Star Gazer are always welcome!  
Please send to: Grand Chapter Office  
221 SW 33rd St., Suite 300  
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Write Check to Grand Chapter of Kansas  
in the Memo put Star Gazer Donation  
This will help with postage and printing cost!  
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**Surprising History of OES.....**

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

From the book Symbolism of the Eastern Star:  
 Meaning of the name: Electa means "honorable,"  
 "Lady," and "called of God" Electa, that honored,  
 Christian Lady, through her life and through her  
 death answered the "call of God" to testify to the  
 love of the Father through the love of the son.

Color: Brilliant red is Dedicated to Electa because  
 it has ever been the color of fervency, hospitality  
 and love.

Flower: The deep red rose has been dedicated to  
 Electa because it is symbolic of love. It represents  
 Electa's love of her family, her fellow man, Christ  
 and God.