

Queen Esther Trip!!!



The Group at the Branson Bell Show Boat and at the Decades Show

On June 27th, 54 Kansas members and friends set off on the Queen Esther Branson Adventure, what an adventure it was! Four shows, shopping and meals within the 3 day bus trip. Our adventure began early on the morning of June 27th at Village Tours in Wichita where the first group boarded. It was followed up with pick ups in Chanute and Pittsburg. Our first stop was for a leisurely lunch at Cracker Barrel in Joplin, MO. We arrived in Branson for some down time and a getting to know you game at The Branson Belle. We had

plenty of time to socialize, take some pictures, and do a little shopping before the show. We had a delicious dinner and show.

We had a special treat as our own Grand Esther, Sister Marlene Moore was called to center stage to be a part of the show. Ta Dah!

The next morning after breakfast, we all boarded the bus to see the first show of the day, The Irish Tenors and Celtic Ladies. (Our bus driver was grateful for Bill McCord's short prayer as he didn't want to keep his eyes closed very long!) The authentic Irish song and dance certainly got everyone in the mood for the rest

of the day! Lunch was taken at McFarland's before the main attraction of the trip, Queen Esther. What an amazing show! The performance was not disappointing. We were immersed in the story with performers and animals passing by our seats and the stage surrounding the audience on three sides. After the show we had to rush back to the bus for a quick meal at Grand Country Buffet before heading to the final show of the trip. Our bus driver believes this is the fastest bus boarding in the history of Branson tours!

Continued on page 4

In This Issue.....

WGM's Page.....	2
WGP's Page.....	3
Queen Esther Trip.....	4
Calandar.....	5 & 6
Around the State.....	5-7
Service Dogs.....	7

Deadline for next issue is
December 18th


 Washington, Kansas
30 years of training service dogs!
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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 of Kansas,

“Happy Fall Ya’all” everyone ready for cooler temperatures, leaves turning colors and hot apple cider?

Have you noticed on Facebook all the Gnomes that keep appearing at Chapter visits and Official visits? Everytime I look at the pictures, the Gnomes seem to multiply. Each one has it’s own personality, name and several adornments relating to their owner. How fun this has become, thanks to District Aide Jackie Strickland for starting this Gnome family.

September is almost over and Brother Dave and I are ready to continue with Chapter visits and Official visits. We were in Dodge City on September 23 and we are now honoary “Marshal” and “Miss Kitty”, what a fun tradition.

We have lost several of our dear Sisters and Brothers during the Summer and in just the last couple of weeks. Our condolences to their families and the Chapters across our State. We also have had some who were involved in car accidents, thankfully they are okay, in some ways, but still in the process of healing. Some of our members are going through medical treatments and we pray for their healing.

There are three more Schools of Instruction coming up. Saturday, September 30th in Emporia, Saturday, October 7th in McPherson, Saturday, October 28th in Lakin. The last one is a night School in St. Francis, November 9th. Check your Itineraries or Calendar on the KS OES web site, for dates of where Brother Dave and I will be. If it is noted a Chapter visit, you are welcome to attend. The same goes for Official visits. You never know what the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron might be asked to do.

Remember at the Schools to ask the District Aides about tickets that are still being sold for the Kansas Flag, crochet lap blanket, Eagle/Flag picture and Quilt. The Quilt tickets will also be sold at Grand Chapter. Brother Dave’s Eagle pin with the Masonic emblem, would be a nice gift for a Mason in your family.

The Grand Officers will be doing the Degrees of our Order we do have a candidate on Saturday, November 11th in Chanute at my home Sunflower Chapter. That morning, our Kiwians are having a pancake breakfast at our Lodge from 7:30-10:30 am. Just a walk down from the Lodge will be a Veterans Day parade at 11:00 am. Come help us celebrate our Veterans.

My best to each and everyone as we go into the Fall season, Brother Dave and I will look forward to seeing you along the OES trail. Safe travels.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

“In God We Trust”

Wendy Cunningham

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 as they traveled to your Chapters.

Although our Chapters were dark in July and August, the OES calendar remained full. Sister Wendy and I had the opportunity to attend the Job's Daughter's Grand Bethel, Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly and the DeMolay State Conclave. Our Grand Officer's assisted with serving the meals as way to thank our youth organizations for their continued support.

In August we attended the Grand Master's Unity conference which brought all 53 of the Masonic organizations, recognized by the Grand Lodge of Kansas, together, it was an awesome event and we learned a lot. That same weekend we renewed friendships with our Sisters and Brothers from Nebraska, as we gathered in Hays for the Kansas/Nebraska Exchange. The degree work was exemplified well, good job to all! Kudos to Sister Alison Voss and her committee for putting on an awesome event. A good time was had by all who attended.

On August 11th we hosted the Worthy Grand Patron's Golf Tournament in Emporia. A goal of 12 teams and 18-hole sponsors and to raise \$2000.00 was set, and thanks to all you we far exceeded all expectations. At the end of the day, we had 11 teams, 44-hole sponsors and raised \$5,038.58. A special thanks to all Chapters and members who supported either as a hole sponsor, or being on site to assist with registration, raffle, food and drinks.

September has been a blast as we have hit the road attending both Chapter and Official Visits. I have attended football training camp, while forced to wear Chiefs gear, learned about the Quilts of Valor, was made an Honorary Marshal of Dodge City and received numerous honorary memberships. Thank you to all the Chapters for your hospitality, courtesies and support, it is greatly appreciated.

The greatest honor of the Worthy Grand Patron is the presentation of membership pins. I have had the honor to present a combination of nineteen - 25, 50, 60 and 75 years pins and I thank you for that honor. I have met some truly amazing members who are definitely "Fairest Among Thousands Altogether Lovely." As we roll into the fall, the calendar has us on the road, crisscrossing the state and the FLAG Family Road Show is coming to a Chapter near you!

It has been a pleasure connecting with our members and I look forward, with great anticipation, to the upcoming visits.

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**

Queen Esther Trip!

Continued from page 1

Our final show was the Decades Show. You would think we were at a rock concert as many of our Branson Adventure participants were singing along to the songs with lighters and some new fangled technology; an app that displays a picture of a lighter on a cell phone being waved in the air. I do believe that our Worthy Grand Patron, Dave was reliving his youth with the music. This show was a special treat as the lead singer Tony is a Chanute graduate and our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Wendy's son and Tony were friends in High School and were in Band and Choir together. We were able to capture a picture of him being surprised seeing Sister Wendy and giving

her a huge hug. After all of the excitement of the day we headed back to the hotel for one final night.

We started our final day with breakfast at the hotel then headed to Branson Landing for some shopping and ice cream. Off to the bus again for our final stop of the trip to Lambert's for some flying rolls.

We started each day with a prayer by our Grand Chaplain, Brother Bill McCord or Grand Sentinel, Brother Carl Anderson. There was plenty to do on the bus from group games, trivia games about Queen Esther, a share the wealth raffle, lots of laughter, sleeping with risk of blackmail pictures being created. As mentioned before we had people from all over Kansas

on the trip. Sarah Orr won the award for traveling the furthest of 5 hours to catch the bus.

District 7 had the most members traveling, 13 from each chapter in the district represented, and Lakin Chapter #244 had 7 members on the trip. The share the wealth raffle proceeds were split among three charities; Danny Hendricks scholarship fund, KSDS service dogs, and Passageways.

Our bus driver Keith thanked us for including him in all the activities. He also commented that this was the most fun bus tour he had done in awhile.

On a bittersweet and closing note, this was the last trip that we had with our special Sister Carrie Turner. We are so glad that we had this special time with her.

Photos from the Trip



Thank you for joining us for Dublin's Irish Tenors & The Celtic Ladies. We hope everyone enjoyed their trip with us to the Emerald Isle. We welcome your group back anytime to see more of our award-winning productions. Happy travels. Love & Crew King's Castle Theatre

Thank You!!!
Sisters Melanie Marcy,
Valeri Blackburn and Susan
Dennett for your planning
and making the bus trip
FUN!!!

Around the State!

60 Year Pins



Sisters Dorothy Knudsen and Leah Brown 60 year members with members of the "Believe in Yourself" and "Fully Rely on God" Grand Families.

On a beautiful, hot, windy Kansas summer afternoon, two lovely Eastern Star Sisters were honored. The special occasion took place at a retirement center in Topeka on July 13, 2023.

Sisters Dorothy Knudsen and Leah Brown were the honorees receiving their 60 year OES service pins. Sister Dolores Smith PGM, Leah and Dorothy were all very active members of Oskaloosa Chapter #52, Oskaloosa before that chapter consolidated with Meriden Chapter #399 in Meridan.

The room was overflowing with friends, family and sisters and brothers. Brother Richard "Dick" Short, PGP welcomed each

guest. He then introduced Sister Dolores Smith, PGM, who presented Sister Dorothy with her 60 year service pin. Dorothy in turn introduced her family members present as well as members of the "Believe In Yourself" grand family of 1993-1994. Dorothy served as Grand Esther for Sister Martha Norris and Brother Thomas Owens Brother Dick was privileged to present Sister Leah her 60 year service pin. (in the absence of Brother Larry Swaim, PGP) Members of the "Fully Rely On God" Grand Family of 2013-2014 were introduced. Sister Leah served as Grand Martha for Sister Dolores Smith and Brother Larry Swaim.

It was a delightful afternoon with much visiting, photo shoots and light refreshments.

Congratulations Sisters Dorothy and Leah and we all say "Thank You" for your dedication and service to our beautiful Order.

District #7



St. Bernard Chapter #97 had a visit from our District Aide Aide Winona Gebauer of District #7 visit on June 13th.

Lakin Chapter

Darrel Miller, PGP, Lakin Chapter #244 was the second place winner of Gale Masten's, PGM and Tony Anderson's, PGP membership contest last year. Darrel signed 4 of the 5 petitions for members initiated by Lakin #244. He was presented the quilt at their May 4th meeting.



Photos Provided for this issue by:
Wendy Cunningham WGM,
Jackie Strickland, Melanie Marcy
and Cindy Smith THANKS!

Up Coming Events!! Mark your Calendar!

October 9th
Official Visit - White Rose
Gridley

October 10th
Official Visit - Queen City
Winfield

October 13th
Official Visit - Gladiola
Kansas City

October 15th - 17th
Oklahoma Grand Chatper

October 19th
Chapter Visit - Anthony

October 23rd
Official Visit - Olive
Meeting in Pittsburg at the
Mirza Temple

October 24th
Official Visit - Fidelity
Carbondale

October 26th
Chapter Visit - Hays

October 28th
School of Instruction Dist #7
Lakin

November 1st
Official Visit - Union
Ottawa

November 2nd
Chapter Visit & Pins - Kent
Weir

November 6th
Official Visit - Goodland

November 7th
School of Instruction Dist #6
St Francis

November 8th
Chapter Visit - Atwood

November 11th
Grand Officers Degree Work
Chanute

November 12th - 15th
Missouri Grand Chapter



Around the State! (Continued)

There is so much from District #1 and District #5 last issue....
Here is the rest!!

School of Instruction District #1

On Monday night, May 15, 2023, Wendy Cunningham WGM, held her very first School on Instruction at Martha Washington Chapter #215, Atchison.

There was a very nice crowd for her first school. Traveling along with her and Brother Dave Hendricks WGP, and eight of their Grand Officers. Sisters Glenda Perkins AGM, Christy Hard Grand Sec., Teresa Ryan Grand Cond., Carolyn Merrick Grand Organist, Sheryl Todd Grand Adah, Sharon Blair, Grand Ruth, Ronda Theroff Grand Electa, and Brother David Ahlstrom AGP. Sister Arlene Kuhnert, District Aide of District #1 introduced our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron informally. Sister Wendy introduced Sister Arlene.

Members from Martha Washington, Byington and Wathena Chapters filled the stations along with Sisters Ronda Theroff, as Chaplain and Jennifer Reed as Martha, both from Adda Chapter.

Since it was Martha Washington's regular meeting night, the chapter opened in form. After quick introductions, Sister Wendy began her school. She gave the chapter a few pointers about opening chapter and introductions and reminded us not to nod at the WM when addressing her. Then WGM had the conductresses prove chapter and then we practiced balloting with WGM giving instructions.

Then we went through the signs and passes with help from Brother Dave, WGP, and we practiced the prayer circle a few times. It was a very informative evening, and everyone took away something new that they had not known before. All in attendance receive a special pin from the WGM for attending the school.

Refreshments were provided by Martha Washington Chapter. Salads, sandwiches, and fellowship were enjoyed by all afterwards.

School of Instruction District #5



District #5 had a fantastic School of Instruction held at Clearwater on June 24th with patriotic decorations in the chapter room and dining room. We had a vibrant full house with 74 in attendance.

We were honored to have so many Grand Officers, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons join us for the day. Sister Wendy gave us a great refresher course and reminded us of things we had forgotten over the years.

The district members gave donations to Passageways and The Danny Hendricks charities in honor of the WGM and WGP. We had a great time of fellowship at lunch. A big "thank you" to Steve Boyer, PGP for smoking the pork for the sandwiches and the District #5 Chapters for the salads.

Thank you also to Ninescah Chapter members for organizing, decorating and serving lunch.



(Continued from pg 5)
Up Coming Events!!
Mark your Calendar!

November 20th
Official Visit - Golden Rod
Yates Center

November 27th
Official Visit - Miriam
Emporia

December 4th
Official Visit - Loyal
Silver Lake

December 5th
Official Visit - Beatrice
Shawnee

December 7th
Official Visit - Valley Center

December 12th
Chapter Visit - Liberal

December 14th
Chapter Visit - Felicity
McPherson

December 15th
Official Visit - Byington
Leavenworth

December 18th
Official Visit
Martha Washington
Atchison

~ MEMBERSHIP CORNER ~

Always have a petition available when asked. Print updated petitions from the Grand Chapter website, or see your Chapter Secretary.

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.

District #5 Traveling Gavel



When I first joined OES our district had a traveling gavel. It was fun to take a carload of members to the chapter that had the gavel so we could meet with them and hopefully get to take the gavel back to our chapter.

I don't know what happened to the original gavel, but I thought it would be fun to get a new one that our district could enjoy.

I hope that a little friendly competition will encourage us to go to each other's chapters and bring our district closer together.



Service Dogs

PUT YOUR DOLLARS TO WORK

Have you ever noticed that \$1.00 bills have a letter on the left side?

The Treasury Department may use it for one thing, but Eastern Star members use it for something completely different. If the bill has either a D or G, it's a Dog Dollar. Dog Dollars can be collected and donated to the Kansas Grand Chapter Service Dogs project. It is an easy way to help fund this charity. After doing these donations for a while, you will get to the point that you feel guilty for spending one when making any purchase. It's OK. We all have had to do it from time to time.

To participate in Dog Dollar donations, please identify someone in your chapter to be the collector of these funds for the remainder of the term. Then you can either send the funds to the Grand Secretary or bring them to Grand Chapter. The Service Dog Committee will gladly accept your donations.

Your committee is:
Gary Ayres, Ann Kolarik and
Glenda Gilpin.



This is Lazarus with a couple of donations.



PASSAGEWAYS

PROVIDING HOPE FOR OUR MILITARY VETERAN HEROES

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

Greatest Needs
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Sonic
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Other Needs
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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/helpfulitems/

Star Gazer Information

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

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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.

Donations to the Star Gazer are always welcome!

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Topeka, KS 66611-2379

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Surprising History of OES.....
Warder and Sentinel :

In the 1890's until around the 1920's the Warder and Sentinel only opened and closed the door. What was said between was not in the Ritual. In the 1920's wording was added for the Warder to speak to the Sentinel. (no telling what was said before that)

In the Symbolism of the Eastern Star

Warder: Should remind the member that peace and harmony among the members of the Chapter is the responsibility of each individual. Each individual must strive to be at peace with herself/himself and at peace with her/his fellow members.

Sentinel: Whoes duty is symbolize by the swords of Justice and Protection, guard the coming and the going of the members. And should remind the member that her/his mind and heart should be free from resentment, bitterness, or any harsh feelings as she/he enters the Chapter room.