

# Kansas Oklahoma Exchange



**Kansas and Oklahoma Grand Officers**

The weekend of February 23, 2024 brought our annual Kansas/Oklahoma exchange. The grand families of Oklahoma and Kansas joined together for a weekend of degree work and social time in Claremore, Oklahoma.

The weekend started with dinner followed by many introductions and the Kansas family performing the degrees with the Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress of Oklahoma filling in as candidates.

Saturday brought us lunch followed by pictures and

Oklahoma performing degree work with the Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress of Kansas filling in as candidates. After all the formal activities of the weekend were complete it was time to change clothes and have a delicious dinner followed by some fun social time.

Claremore chapter brought in a representative from the Will Rogers museum to share some history and provide some rope twirling lessons, followed by some trivia and prizes before we retired for the evening.

Special Thanks to the Oklahoma committee and Claremore chapter for all they did to provide a fun and informative weekend.



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Deadline for next issue is June 25, 2024	


  
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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 Eastern Star,

It is hard to believe this will be my last entry for the Star Gazer. Where did the year go? It has been an amazing year traveling to be in every Chapter across this beautiful State. I thank each of you from not only the "bottom" of my heart, but my "whole" heart for your kindness, hospitality and friendship.

Saturday December 16th, in Leavenworth on a very cold and rainy day, our FlaG Grand Family participated in Wreaths Across America. Each one of us had the privilege to lay a wreath on the grave of a fallen Soldier. Looking out over the fields of white grave markers, makes one very grateful for their ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom. We then laid wreaths on the graves of Brother Dave's Mom, Dad and his brother Danny.

January, with the cold, snow and ice was not good for Chapters to have meetings. Derby was the only Chapter that I was not able to visit due to the weather. Sorry about that! We did make it for a Chapter visit in Lyons. Merrill and I stayed in McPherson and got to visit our grand daughter, who goes to College there. She designed our "session pin" with the cross, eagle and heart.

February, was our last official visit at Martha Washington Chapter in Atchison. What an impressive Chapter room they have.

The Kansas/Oklahoma exchange was held in Claremore OK, February 23-24. Kansas Grand officers exemplified the Degrees Friday evening and Oklahoma Grand officers did the same Saturday afternoon. Kansas had a great group of Sisters and Brothers in attendance. We had a fun time of fellowship, delicious food and making memories with our Oklahoma counterparts..

Also in February, I went to visit several Chapters in my corner of the State, even my own Sunflower Chapter, it was fun just to be there and help fill in an office.

I can't let it go by without mentioning, the Chiefs won the Super Bowl!

March 9th, the Spring Charity was held at the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. Where to start as to how much fun the day was, from "Adopt A Dog", silent auction, auction of baskets and "stuffing" the car, aka Bronco, for Passageways. We met Adah, a service dog from KSDS. She lives and works in Andover at a grade school with her handler.

Thank you to the Committee and Silver Leaf Chapter for a "far out" day. All of this to support our Charities, your generosity is very much appreciated.

March 15th, I gave remarks on Friday morning at Grand Lodge in Manhattan. What is really fantastic, Brother Derik Hockett, from Ulysses was Installed Deputy Grand Master, he will be Grand Master in 2025. Brother Dave was installed Grand Senior Warden and will be Grand Master in 2026 and Brother Mark Reeder from Silver Lake, was installed Grand Junior Warden and be Grand Master in 2027. We can truly be proud of our Eastern Star Brothers!

Continued on page 4

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

The Crazy Train is just about to pull into the station and the final preparations are being made for Grand Chapter!

I am truly humbled and honored to be YOUR Worthy Grand Patron and to follow in my parent's footsteps! Your support has been truly amazing and words cannot express my gratitude to each and every one of you.

The new year brought three Chapter visits; Derby, Queen Esther, and Martha Washington, with these visits I accomplished our goal of visiting all 41 Chapters this year. A special thanks to the members and officers of all the Chapters for welcoming me into your chapter. Thank you for the welcome hugs, smiles, handshakes, meals, the courtesies extended to all our Grand Family, the programs and especially the Honorary Memberships. I have said several times during the year that our Eastern Star Sisters are some of the most creative people in Kansas!

In February we attended the Kansas/Oklahoma exchange in Claremore, OK. This was an opportunity to reconnect with our Oklahoma counterparts and meet new friends. Your Grand Officers exemplified the degree work with proficiency and represented the Kansas Eastern Star well. They made me very PROUD!

In March, we held the Spring Charity Auction at the Cosmosphere in Hutchison. A special thanks to Sisters Carla McKinney, Cindy Moore, Laura Cross, Christy Hard and the members of Silver Leaf Chapter for planning and organizing an incredibly awesome event. A special thanks to all who attended and participated in the auction, the preliminary report is that we raised approximately \$10,000!

Sister Wendy and I represented the Order at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas in Manhattan, where Sister Wendy had the opportunity to give remarks.

The following weekend several of your Grand Officers attended the multi-state event in Golden, Colorado, with members of Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Kansas. This was my first time meeting the Colorado Grand Officers and they are amazing. Once again, I was able to make new friends and expand my Masonic network!

As the year comes to an end and the Grand Chapter Session grows closer, I want to take time to give thanks: to the officers and members of the subordinate chapters who welcomed us with open arms as we visited the chapters. To the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, thank you for your continued service to our order, for your support, hugs, handshakes, willingness to help, often without being asked, and for always whispering good counsel in my ear. I look forward to joining the ranks of Past Grand. To the FLAG family, thank you for representing Kansas with dignity and grace. You have traversed our state time and time again and your footsteps have traced upon the map an intricate design. You have attended meetings, receptions, and exchanges, and you have served this Grand Chapter well. You put the GRAND in family!

Continued on page 5

## 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**

# Around the State!

## Thank You From Grand Electa

Thanks all of my Star sisters and brothers for making my year as Grand Electa in Kansas so wonderful. From my FLAG Family to my Kansas sisters and brothers who have genuinely welcomed us into their chapter rooms. I will never forget the smiles, words, and the new, old and rekindled friendships made throughout this year. It was my privilege to travel Kansas - from here in Kansas City to Dodge City, from Pittsburg to Clay Center, and so many points in between and so much FUN!

My Star grew several times into Nebraska; in Oklahoma, where I was once Grand Representative in Rainbow; into Missouri where my dad's family belongs; and most recently Colorado. The Colorado multi-state Official Visit's train rides, introductions, and square dance was great then we all raced a late season snow storm back into Kansas!

I was privileged to be Worthy Matron at Byington Chapter #177 in Leavenworth this year as well. As Byington was the home Chapter for Dave's parent's, Past Grand Matron Lynne and Past Grand Patron Don Hendricks, we

were honored to have their portraits adorning the room for our Official Visit. We hope the evening was as special for Dave as it was for us.

The next day the Grand Family participated in Wreaths Across America. This was my first time to participate in placing so many wreaths to keep the memories of those veterans alive. The site of the rows of greenery with red ribbons at the cemetery awe inspiring.

So thank you all. I will never forget this privilege to be your Grand Electa this year. You have forever changed my life for the better. You are all Fairest Among Thousands. Thank you.



Sister Ronda Theroff, Grand Electa and Husband

## Yates Center #163

Three generations installed this evening into Golden Rod Chapter #163 in Yates Center.



Pattie Wilson, Associate Matron; Granddaughter Bobbie Sue Jones, Warder; Great Granddaughter Summer Wilson, Electa



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

Continued from page 2

March 22-23, twenty of us traveled across Kansas to Golden, Colorado for a Multi-State gathering. We really felt welcome, as the Chapter decorations were Red, White and Blue. All of our Star Points from Kansas were there, what a joy to see them connect with the Colorado Grand Chapter and Mt. Zion Chapter Star Points, making memories and creating new friendships. Several of us went to the Colorado Train Museum Saturday morning, and rode a train around the train yard three times. There were others

that went to see the Red Rocks Amphitheater. The mountains did have snow and there were piles of snow pushed off the roadways melting in the parking lots. We all managed to leave Sunday morning and get home before the blizzard came in Sunday afternoon across western Kansas. Thought it was Spring, guess Mother Nature had other ideas.

Now on to the "In God We Trust" Grand Session April 25-27 in Topeka at the Ramada. It has been five years since we have been there and things might not be

the same, as times have changed. We are looking forward to seeing all of you and hope you will enjoy the Session we have planned for you. My best to Sister Glenda and Brother David as you start your journey in the Grand East. Your plans are set in place, enjoy the journey and remember the year does go by really fast. Savor every moment, I did!

*Wendy Cunningham*

Worthy Grand Matron

# Around the State! (Continued)

## 50 Year Pin

Sister Doreen Foster received her 50 year pin on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the Official Visit in Valley Center.

She was pleasantly surprised by not only her immediate family but also some of her In His Amazing Grace Grand Family.

Sister Kathy Johnson, PGM and Brother Rick Stripling, PGP arrived at the end of dinner to surprise Sister Doreen and watch her receive her pin. Well Brother David Hendricks WGP had other

plans for them!

The WGP asked them if they would like to participate in the ceremony since Sister Doreen was Grand Ruth during their year. They said yes they would be honored.

Brother Rick PGP read her record. (several pages long....) and Sister Kathy PGM presented her with her certificate. Friend Sister Rosemarie Geisdorf presented Doreen with her 50 year pin.



Photos:

Left: Debbie McDonald, Janet McClaren, Doreen & Bob Foster

Center: Some of In His Amazing Grace Grand Family and Escorts

Right: Sister Doreen Foster & Sister Rosemarie Geisdorf

### From the Desk of the WGP..... Continued from page 3

Sister Wendy and I never visited a chapter where there wasn't at least one Grand Officer present, this meant more to us than you can imagine! Every Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron says that they had the best grand officers, and this year is no exception. You guys' rock!

In closing, it has been an incredible honor to serve as your Worthy Grand Patron! I have tried to serve with a servant's heart, while serving as the WGP as it is about the membership not the person! I wish each of you

continued success in your chapters and I challenge you to become more active and engaged in your communities! Becoming visible will reap your chapter the benefits of obtaining new members. Thank you for all that you do for Kansas Eastern Star, and I look forward to seeing you in Topeka at Grand Chapter.

Fraternally,

*Dave Hendricks*

Worthy Grand Patron

**Up Coming Events!!  
Mark your Calendar!**

**(With Covid and the flu still around  
Please be mindful of your Sisters and Brothers)**

April 25th, 26th & 27th  
Grand Chapter  
Topeka

Worthy Grand Matrons  
Reception

Saturday, May 4th  
Yates Center  
Grand Ball Room  
Light Hardware Building  
100 E. Rutledge St  
Yates Center, KS

Worthy Grand Patrons  
Reception  
Saturday, May 11th  
Wyandotte Masonic Lodge  
2835 N. 103 Terrace  
Kansas City, KS

Nebraska Grand Chapter  
May 14th - 16th  
Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, NE



Thanks to all who provided photos for this issue!

Ronna Kimbrell, Carl Anderson,  
Jana Goebel, Cindy Smith and  
Liz Granberg-Jerome

# Around the State! (Continued)

## Evangeline #162

Evangeline Chapter #162, Baldwin City, wrapped up the 2023-2024 term by initiating Sherrie Hess of Spring Hill. Growing our group is always a blessing as our general membership continues to age. We are so happy to have Sherrie part of our chapter!

We also enjoyed a surprise visit from Wendy Cunningham, the 2023-2024 Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, Order of the Eastern Star. As her year-long term as leader of our organization at the state level

winds down, she has enjoyed making informal surprise visits to several chapters around the state. Wendy and her escort Marlene Marts were even invited to substitute and fill vacant stations for the evening, thus making them truly feel at home with our chapter members.

We have more exciting times ahead as we dive into the 2024-2025 term with another initiation, a scholarship to award to a local senior, and exciting times with our own AGP David Ahlstrom as he continues his grand journey.



Kathleen Thomas, WM with our new member Sherrie Hess and Wendy Cunningham, WGM

## The Spring Charity!

Over 100 space explorers came from all corners of this galaxy called Kansas to come share our space at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Museum in Hutchinson on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Blast off was all systems go at 10:00 a.m. with registration and accepting items for the silent and live auctions. Additional ways to donate to the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's charities was to adopt an eagle or dog and we introduced the Grand Officers cat creations to claim your vote for your favorite. The pin table made a comeback with some special contributions from Carrie Turner's collection.

A table was set up for donations to Passageways. We collected so much that it filled the Viele's spaceship named Bronco to be delivered to Wichita. There was time to explore the Cosmosphere and Space Museum before lunch.

The Cosmosphere Café catered a baked potato bar with all the fixin's and stellar homemade cookies from Silver Leaf for dessert.

After lunch, we were visited by Adah, a service dog that we sponsored and her handler, Donna Jo Hunsinger, a teacher who shared her experience with Adah and the impact that she is making in her students' lives. It was very inspiring!

## Stuff The Car!!!!



Stuff the Car for Passageways was a success!

Thank you to all who brought items to stuff the car!

A BIG THANK YOU to Duane Viele for the use of his bronco to make sure we had plenty of space!

## ~ 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.



# SAVE THE DATE

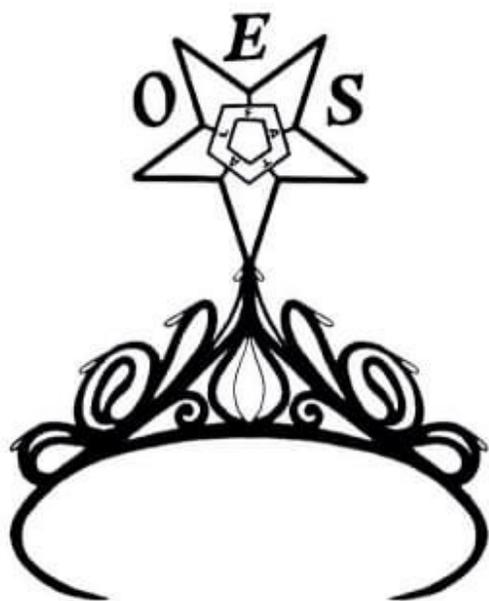
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Also on the Website  
is a WalMart Registry

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

### *Star Gazer Information*

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[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.

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**O.E.S. Mission Statement**  
(Kansas)

The Order of the Eastern Star,  
the world's largest fraternal  
organization involving men and  
women with Masonic Affiliation,  
is dedicated to raising the quality  
of life within each community,  
giving philanthropic and  
spiritual aid that benefits  
humanity, and providing its  
members with fulfilling and  
uplifting experiences.