

Sisters and Brothers,

Our Theme this 2024-2025 year is "Windmills Across the Prairie". When the homesteaders and settlers arrived, 2 structures were usually built first. Windmills, for water needed to sustain life and Barns to house their animals. Therefore, windmills and barns symbolize life, serenity, resilience, self-sufficiency and perseverance.

My charity this year is The Capper Foundation. Their mission is "To build abilities and empower people of all ages living with disabilities." Their services include Children's Services, Adult Services, Adaptive Recreation, and Training to name a few. If you're hankering for a cup of coffee, I recommend Dialogue Coffee House. They provide employment opportunities to those with disabilities and support The Capper Foundation.

Our other charities are KSDS and Scholarships.

All the receptions for the Appointive Grand Officers are complete. Thank you to all who attended these receptions. The Chapter rooms were full, with almost all the chairs occupied. Each reception had greetings and programs that were essentially the same theme, but were totally different. No two were alike. Just goes to show how versatile and creative our Order of the Eastern Star members really are.

In May, we had a large showing of Kansas Grand Officers in attendance at Nebraska Grand Chapter. It's always fascinating to observe how other Jurisdictions perform the work.

The Queen Esther Branson Bus Trip was a huge success. Besides seeing the Queen Esther productions, we also attending Baldknobbers, Dalena Ditto, and Dolly Parton's Stampede. A huge Thank You goes to Melanie, Valorie and Vicky for making this a memorable adventure.

Five State Weekend will be July 19 – 20, 2024 in Brookings, South Dakota. This is a relaxing event, so you will not need to bring a formal. They will be having a "Basket Auction" this year, with the proceeds divided between the 5 States. Brother David and I have decided to take 2 themed baskets. One will contain all Kansas made products. The other will be "Wizard of Oz" items. I will accept any donations for either of these baskets.

The Alpha-Omega Sewing Day will be in Salina this year. We will be making several items for The Capper Foundation: drawstring bags (like shoe bags) and cover-ups (bibs). We will also be making tissue covers for the distinguished guest bags. Any cotton fabric will be accepted. You do not need any sewing skills as there are plenty of jobs that do not require sewing. There will be a carry-in salad/dessert lunch, so bring your favorite dish to share. This is also a time we can enjoy some fellowship with our sisters and brothers as we work on the projects.

Our Kansas/Nebraska Exchange will be August 2 – 3, 2024 in Bellevue, Nebraska. The Kansas Grand Officers will perform the degree work on Friday, then the Nebraska Grand Officers will do the degree work on Saturday. It's always interesting to see how the other Grand Jurisdictions perform the degree work.

In September, we will be off and running with Schools of Instructions, Official Visits and Pin Presentations. I look forward to visiting the Chapters as we travel across our great State of Kansas.

Enjoy the summer, be safe, and be thankful.

God Bless you all.

Star Love,

Glenda S. Perkins, Worthy Grand Matron

June 18 – 20 was the KS OES Bus Trip to Branson, MO where we saw: “Queen Esther”, “The Baldknobbers”, “Dolly’s Stampede” and “the Dalena Ditto show”. We also enjoyed fabulous meals at several different venues as well as much social interaction and fun times.

“Then said the King unto her, What will thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the Kingdom.”

After viewing the fabulous, enjoyable and spectacularly produced & acted Queen Esther show at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Branson, the story of Esther became vivid and meaningful and poignant. Everyone on the bus trip gained an in-depth understanding of the story of Esther. Several bus riders remarked about a desire to read/reread “Esther” when back at home.

Thank you to Melanie and Vickie for putting the trip together and taking care of all the details... including games on the bus - we learned in trivia that Esther is the only Book in the Bible where the name ‘God’ is not used. (add edit... David Ahlstrom’s name is horizontally listed on the 12<sup>th</sup> row of the ‘find the Grand Officers names’ game... hahaha – just had to throw that in.) Money was raised for our special projects and scholarships by having a ‘Share the Wealth’ raffle and raffling off several aprons embroidered with OES designs. Look for additional OES aprons to also show up at Spring Charity. A special Thank You to Chip for computing the game scores/winners. And, a note to everyone reading this article --- it was wonderful to not have to drive in Branson, not have to pick the shows, not have to pick the hotel, not have to pick the restaurants and not have to drive to/from Branson.

I hope you don’t mind the eclectic nature of my rantings in this column... now a change of pace; moving from the fun of the bus trip to the serious business of my Charity – HIKE -- “Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment” is the charity of the Jobs Daughters International. The purpose of HIKE is to provide hearing aids for children in need at no cost to the family. Hearing aids can be expensive and are often not covered by insurance, thereby making HIKE a much needed and very, very useful charity. As you may know, HIKE assisted my great-niece in Georgia with the cost of her hearing aids. This gives me a personal appreciation for this great charity. All money donated to HIKE in KS stays in KS which is another benefit of contributing to HIKE in KS.

As I ramble along, the August OES golf tournament comes to mind. John Ryan is doing a fabulous job in setting up and promoting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual OES Golf Tournament. This year’s tourney will be held in Topeka, KS on Monday, August 26. The weather may be hot but the beverages will be cold. Wanda Ryan is preparing a great feast for everyone attending whether they are golfing or not! Details are in the brochure John put together for this event. Contact John Ryan with any questions about the tourney.

I have thoroughly enjoyed (Cathy has too) traveling to OES events so far this year. It is so great to meet and socialize with everyone. I hope to see you at the Alpha Omega sewing day in July or at one of our 7 Schools of Instruction in September and October.

David Ahlstrom, Worthy Grand Patron