



## Kansas Grand Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star

Volume 16

December 2025/January 2026

Edition 3

### After 53 Years....Welcome Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496



**The Members of Sarah E. Stewart Chapter with Teresa Ryan WGM, Carl Anderson WGP, Glenda Perkins PGM and David Ahlstrom PGP**

For the first time in 53 years, the State of Kansas proudly welcomed the constitution of a brand-new Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. The journey toward this historic milestone actually began around four years ago, when a few former members felt the spark of revival and reached out to the Grand Secretary Christy Hard to ask what steps were needed to reopen the Chapter. Their inquiry

planted the seed that would eventually grow into something extraordinary.

With encouragement and guidance, a dedicated group of petitioners soon formed, ready to bring new light, new energy, and renewed purpose into our jurisdiction.

Their formal journey began when the new members were initiated by Glenda Perkins PGM and David Ahlstrom PGP,

accompanied by their Grand Family. With warmth, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment, Sister Teresa Ryan WGM, Brother Carl Anderson WGP and their Grand Family with Sister Glenda Perkins PGM, embraced the responsibility of teaching and guiding the new members. They led them through every step from the basics of our ritual, to learning how to properly conduct a meeting, to mastering

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Deadline for next issue is  
March 16, 2026

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**KSDS, Inc.**  
Assistance Dogs

\*\*\*\*\*

Worthy Grand Matron



**Teresa M. Ryan**

**Theme:**

**Plant a Seed**

**Aims:**

**To celebrate the Order  
of Eastern Star and honor  
the history of those who  
planted seeds before us.**

**Watchwords:**

**Service, Faith, Belief**

**Motto:**

**Spread Encouragement  
Every Day**

**Scriptures:**

**WGM:**

**Matthew 17:20  
Hebrews 11:1  
Psalm 118:24**

**WGP:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17  
1 Peter 4:10**

**Honor Stations:**

**Conductress, Associate  
Conductress, Chaplain**

**Emblems:**

**Sunflower, OES Star  
Square and Compasses  
Holy Bible**

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope the holiday season brings you much joy and happiness along with lots of memory making! Reflecting over the past year brings me so much joy and happiness thinking of all the memories I have made with all of you along the way. Traveling across the state and being honored by visiting so many of your Chapters has truly been amazing. So many thoughtful programs as well as donations made to KSDS have been a blessing and so much fun while raising money for charity. Our membership is small but mighty and I am honored that you are allowing me to lead this awesome organization.

As we look forward to a new year, let us remember our obligations to each other and continue to serve our communities and charities as we are able. We are looking forward to the Cruise at the end of January where we can relax or go on crazy excursions. The KS/OK Exchange in February will allow us to keep the tie that binds between our states.

The Spring Charity in March is sure to be fun and raise lots of money for KSDS. And of course, our Grand Session where we will welcome our out-of-state guests as well as our in-state members with love. We look forward to a wonderful end to our 150th anniversary year and hope that you will all be able to attend this celebration.

Star Love,

*Teresa M. Ryan*

Worthy Grand Matron



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

Greetings from your Worthy Grand Patron.

The fall is a very busy time for the Grand Family. We have been traveling across the state, again and again, attending Schools of Instruction, Official Visits and Service Pin presentations. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed by members and Chapters made the travel and meetings absolutely worth the effort and expense. The words of encouragement and support given at the meetings and the many positive comments made on the images I, and many others, shared on Facebook have been very appreciated. Service Pins were presented at both regular and special Chapter meetings and also in private presentations when the recipient was unable to travel to a Chapter meeting. The many stories shared of how our members joined Star, the activities they participated in and the friends they made were often entertaining, sometimes humbling and always well received and appreciated.

Fall out of state travel by members of the Grand Family included Grand Chapter sessions in Missouri, Oklahoma and other states. (Did I mention there was travel involved with the out-of-state meetings?)

As the fall travels drew to a close (for the most part) we immediately transitioned into the holidays. Of course, there had to be a meeting or two (with travel, of course) to celebrate the holidays. As the end of January rapidly approaches we are preparing for the cruise event on Carnival to the Western Caribbean. (Hmm, more travel.)

Soon after we return from fun in the sun we will be preparing for the upcoming Kansas-Oklahoma exchange, which is being held this year in Oklahoma. (And more travel. I think I see a theme here!) And then the sprint begins to our 150th Grand Chapter of Kansas session.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at Grand Chapter, and also meeting even more OES members from Kansas (and other states) for the first time.

Safe travels, my friends.

## *O. Carl Anderson*

Worthy Grand Patron



Worthy Grand Patron



**O. Carl Anderson**

**Just for Fun:**

**WGM:**

**Roller Skates, Green Bay  
Packers, M&M's,  
Hershey Kisses**

**WGP:**

**Lab Rats, Photography,  
Amateur Radio, Science,  
Reese's**

**Colors:**

**Yellow, Green, Blue, Brown**

**Flowers:**

**WGM:**

**Sunflowers, Lilacs**

**WGP:**

**Orchids**

**Songs:**

**WGM:**

**Plant A Seed  
Somewhere Over  
The Rainbow  
I Can Only Imagine  
Marches written for  
Past Grand Matrons**

**WGP:**

**Make Me A Servant  
Freely, Freely**

# Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496

Continued from page 1

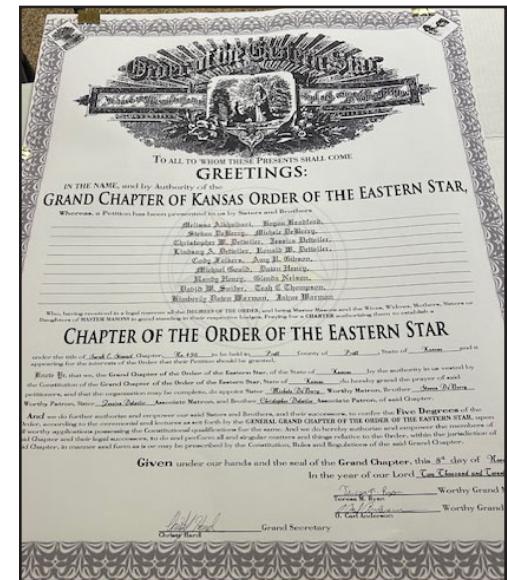
the beauty and precision of our degree work. Week by week, month by month, the group grew stronger in knowledge, confidence, and unity. After more than a year of focused effort and dedicated mentorship, their dream finally reached fruition.

At a special session of Grand Chapter, held in Valley Center, Kansas, on November 8, 2025, Worthy Grand Matron Teresa Ryan and Worthy Grand Patron Carl Anderson officially constituted the Chapter and installed its first officers. The room was filled with cheering, applause, and more than a few

joyful tears as Kansas celebrated the "birth" of its newest Chapter.

Following the ceremony, everyone was surprised with a cheerful birthday-themed celebration honoring Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496 a fitting tribute to the excitement, perseverance, and hope surrounding this new beginning.

The constitution of Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496 is not only a milestone it is a testament to dedication, vision, and the enduring spirit of our Order. May this new chapter shine brightly for generations to come.



## 75 year pin at Queen City #138, Winfield

On November 25, 2025, Worthy Grand Patron O. Carl Anderson traveled to Villa Maria Nursing Home in Mulvane, Kansas, to present a milestone honor to long-time member Sister Evelyn Smith. Surrounded by family, friends, and members of the Order, Sister Evelyn received her 75-year membership pin, recognizing a lifetime of dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to our beloved Order of the Eastern Star.

The Worthy Grand Patron shared warm remarks highlighting Sister Evelyn's decades of faithful support, her steady presence in Chapter activities, and the shining example she continues to set for all of us. Though her years of active attendance have slowed, her love for the Order remains steadfast.

The presentation was filled with

joy, gratitude, and heartfelt memories—a beautiful reminder of the lasting bonds within our Order. We celebrate Sister Evelyn's remarkable achievement and thank the Worthy Grand Patron for ensuring her service was honored in such a meaningful and personal way.

Sadly Sister Evelyn Passed away during publication on Monday, January 12th. Prayers for her family and her sister Carlene Brown.



Sisters Carlene Brown, Evelyn Smith 75 yr member, Cheryl Brock WM, Brothers Carl Anderson WGP and Don Flickinger PGP and WP

Thanks to all who provided photos for this issue!

Carl Anderson WGP,  
Cindy Smith, Ronna Kimbrel,  
Jana Gobal, Melanie Marcy  
and Karen Adams PGM

Thanks!

## Golden Rod #163 Yates Center



Golden Rod packaged up 12 Sprite Cake kits to deliver to the local food bank. We always think of food, but what about that special occasion you need a cake.

## St Bernard #97 Dodge City



Dodge City Mason's and OES holiday dinner and white elephant gift exchange

# Around the State! (Continued)

## White Rose #297, Gridley

On October 25, 2025, White Rose Chapter #297, Gridley and Hebron Lodge #314, Gridley had a fundraiser to help one of our members to get a Service Dog for their daughter who is 5 years old. She is the daughter of Laci & Zach Hansen and granddaughter of Sharon Ryan. Both Laci and Sharon are members of White Rose Chapter #297. Their daughter, Adalyn has been having seizures since she was a baby. The seizures occur mostly in the overnight, early morning, waking hours 3:30 am to 6:30 am. Her seizures are considered refractory and if not treated early, very often progress to status epilepticus. A seizure alert dog will be huge in assuring they are awoken immediately upon a seizure occurring so they can treat it as soon as possible. Not only will this dog be used for seizure alert, but mobility assistance and deep pressure therapy to help her in

anxious situations, providing her a little independence.

The fundraiser was very successful, raising over \$8,300.00. A check for \$6,409.00 was presented to the family on November 10 during their Official visit of Teresa Ryan, WGM and Carl Anderson, WGP. More money was received later from other Chapters and \$1500.00 was received by the Lodge's matching funds from the Masonic Foundation. The family is very grateful to the support of the community and other Chapters around the state that helped in this fundraiser. Thank you to all that participated.



Brother Don Adams Presenting Check to Family

### Cruising Kansas OES



150 Years

Emporia Masonic Lodge was the setting for the Cruising Through Kansas cruise get together on November 15th with approximately 50 of the 78 people going in attendance. This day was a time for the cruise goers to get acquainted with each other.

During this time we enjoyed a delicious soup lunch, played some games, received some informative information about the cruise, cruise shirts were distributed, collected items for

KSDS and raised money for the service dog project.

We leave on January 23rd and stay in Galveston before boarding the ship on the 24th. There are three ports of calls, which are Mahogany Bay, Roatan, Costa Maya, Cozumel before returning back on the 31st. We have several first time cruisers, families groups, as well as a few celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

Stay tuned for an update of the trip!



Sisters Melanie Marcy, Carly Williams, Cheryl Brock, Terese Ryan WGM and Christie Britt

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

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

**Cruise  
January 23rd - 31st**

**February 27th & 28th  
Kansas/Oklahoma  
Exchange  
Bartlesville Oklahoma**

**More Information  
Coming Soon!**

**March 14th  
Spring Charity**

**March 15th  
March Practice**

**Change of Date!!**

**April 20th - 22nd  
Grand Chapter  
Topeka**

### Star Gazer Information

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

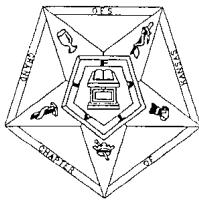
Distribution of the newsletter is primarily through electronic means. Paper copies of the newsletter are available upon request.

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.



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Worthy Grand Matron

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January 11, 2026

Sisters and brothers all,

VERY IMPORTANT NEWS! PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY!

**There has been a change in the date and location of the Plant A Seed Grand Session.** Please mark your calendar to attend Kansas 150 Grand Session on April 20, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026. This is just a few days sooner than we had originally planned. The location will be at Hotel Topeka at City Center at 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka KS 66612.

Stay tuned for further information to come. I am hoping to get the advance invitation out within the next two weeks. Please wait to start booking your hotel until you receive information about our housing. The room rates, meals, and such are still in the works.

This change is something that was out of my control and I hope that your calendars still align with these new dates and that you are still able to help us celebrate a historic year.

Star Love,

*Teresa M. Ryan*

Teresa M. Ryan

Carl Anderson

Worthy Grand Matron

Worthy Grand Patron

# Service Dogs

## KSDS Wish List

### **Gift Cards**

- Amazon
- Wal-Mart or Sam's Club
- Dollar General
- Target
- Home Depot

### **Housekeeping**

- Bleach
- Floor Cleaner (Pine sol, Lysol, Fabuloso)
- Dish Soap
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Trash bags (13-gallon & 38+ gallon sizes)
- Plastic silverware -- forks & knives are needed
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Disinfectant Wipes
- OdoBan Disinfectant
- Glade Plug-in Refills
- Cat litter (Clumping litter for multi-cats)
- Gallon Zip Top Bags



### **Office Supplies**

- First class forever postage stamps
- Letter size (8.5" x 11") copy paper
- Letter size third-cut filing folders

### **Whelping Supplies (for newborn puppies)**

- Heating pads – medium size and self-regulated
- Whelping mats

### **For the Puppies**

- Textured under footings
- Enrichment toys (noise, texture, elevation)

### **For the Dogs**

- Dog Shampoo (for black coats)
- Dog Waterless Shampoo
- Pet Cologne
- Dog Grooming Tools (ZoomGroom Multi use brush, self-clean slicker brush)
- Dog Toothpaste
- Toys (Benebones, Souper Nylabones, Galileo Bones, Big Chew Bones, Nobbly Wobbly II)
- Outdoor Toys (GoughNuts ring, Kong Tug Toys, Jolly Balls)
- Dog Enrichment Toys (food puzzles, treat dispenses, etc.)

**KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc., 120 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington, KS 66968**

**785-325-2256**

**[www.ksds.org](http://www.ksds.org)**



**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!  
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Dear Sisters and Brothers of  
Kansas Eastern Star:

As you think about goals to add to your New Year's  
resolutions, think about adding heart healthy goals.

1. Eat whole foods

2. Move regularly

3. Reduce salt and sugar from your diet

4. Prioritize sleep

5. Stay hydrated

6. Have regular check-ups to monitor BP  
and cholesterol

My heart beats for OES

Have a Heart Healthy New Year

Garnie Oppitz, GGC - Heart