



Kansas Grand Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star

Volume 17

June/July 2026

Edition 1

WGM & WGP Reception



WGM Cindy and WGP Herb Receiving their Quilts

Silver Leaf Chapter #464 Hutchinson and Byington Chapter #177, Leavenworth joined forces on Sat. May 2, 2026 at First United Methodist Church in Hutchinson to honor WGM Cindy Moore and WGP Herb Merrick. The banquet tables were beautifully decorated with Trees, Peacocks, Crosses, and Cardinals, the emblems for this year. Red and yellow roses were also prevalent. Bethel #21 of Job's Daughters International served our guests a delicious lunch of roast beef, fried chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, and homemade rolls.

After photos were taken, Silver Leaf officers took the floor and informally opened for the reception. The chapter room was adorned with tree and peacock tapestries and emblematic trees behind the star point chairs, as well as few strategically placed peacocks and cardinals! We were honored with the presence of 16 Grand Officers and 22 PGMs and PGPs. In all over 130 guests enjoyed the afternoon.

Meaningful and entertaining skits were performed for Sister Cindy by Silver Leaf Chapter, who told all the story of "As a Tree Grows" which related the things

necessary to grow and sustain a tree to the things necessary to grow and sustain a Worthy Grand Matron. One of the highlights of this skit was the presentation of a branch from a Silver Leaf Maple tree planted at our former lodge location by PGM Sheryl Heft and PGP Donald Hendricks on June 1, 1995 when Cindy served her first term as Worthy Matron. Of course this, presentation was done by none other than our Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of KS AF & AM and PGP, Brother Dave Hendricks.

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Worthy Grand Matron Cindy's Program at the Reception

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Deadline for next issue is
September 21, 2026

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Worthy Grand Matron



Cindy Moore

**Theme:
For The Beauty
of the Earth**

**Aims:
To Educate and Engage
each member on our
Eastern Star journey
through Trust and Faith.**

**Watchwords:
Faith, Family & Friends**

**Motto:
Trust, Respond,
Educate, Engage**

**Scriptures:
WGM:
Genesis 2:9
John 3:16
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**WGP:
Deuteronomy 32:11
Psalm 91:11
Revelation 2:7**

**Honor Stations:
Organist, Martha, Electa**

**Emblems:
Tree, Cross,
Cardinal, Peacock**

From the Desk of the WGM.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is an honor and privilege to address you as your Worthy Grand Matron of the great state of Kansas! Brother Herb and I have been planning our year and are looking forward to sharing our goals, hopes and dreams with you.

Our Theme is "For the Beauty of the Earth" and our watchwords are Faith, Family and Friends. Our Motto is "Trust, Respond, Educate, Engage" or TREE for short. That is why you will hear us refer to ourselves as the TREE grand family. Please pick up an itinerary for all of the details of our year.

Sister Teresa Ryan, PGM, and Brother Carl Anderson, PGP have "planted the seed" and it is now our job to make it grow.

Brother Herb and I have chosen to continue in the support of KSDS as our only charity. We believe in the necessity of the work that they do and want to do all that we can to support them. To help us do that, we have opened "The Dog Store". It is stocked with dog themed items that we are excited to offer for sale. There is a great variety of items from keychains, stickers, kitchen towels and much more. You can also order a special t-shirt, beautifully designed by Sister Ronna Kimbrell with a tree made up of doggy paws. We plan to have the store at all of our major events. Please contact members of the Service Dogs or KSDS committees for more information. Special thanks to Sister Glenda Gilpin for volunteering to help with the Service Dogs Committee.

Sister Roberta McGrew is doing her best but her health keeps her from traveling much so the extra set of hands is truly appreciated.

Our 5 State Gathering in Leavenworth is coming soon so get your registrations in and come prepared for a fantastic weekend! Remember if you want to take the tour of Ft. Leavenworth, you must fill out the application form at least 2 weeks ahead of time. We look forward to hosting many members from South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri!

The results of our survey have been coming in and we are thrilled with your response, whether it be negative or positive, each one gives us a goal to work on. I wish I could solve all of the concerns on my own, but sadly, some of them are out of my control. I just ask that you keep the lines of communication open and be willing to forgive and work together for the good of the order. I would like to address a couple of the comments today. One concern was expressed that members of the grand family are exclusive and group together at gatherings. At our first family meeting, I instructed our officers to sit separately from each other when attending a dinner or social event, other than when they are required to do so in the chapter room. Each of our officers are wonderful people and welcome the chance to visit with all of our members. Please don't be shy and invite them to sit at your table or join them at the table that they are already seated at. We look forward to meeting each of you. Another suggestion was to do something different for our Spring Charity. Well, I have great news for you!

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From the Desk of the WGP....

Greetings from your Worthy Grand Patron.

This year the "For the Beauty of the Earth" has kicked off with a rush. The TREE family is excited to get out and share our faith with our family and friends. Fraternal fun and fellowship is what makes belonging to fraternal groups worthwhile. Fraternal comes from the Latin "fraternus" which meant friendly or closely allied. By the fifteenth century it was translated brotherly. We are a group of friends and that is our greatest tool for membership. Last year we were planting the seeds and have a strong foundation. This year we are focusing on growing those seeds both personally and as a fraternal community.

With this in mind I want to thank the chapters that have put on events and activities so far this year. It makes me excited to come out and be surprised. The receptions, official visits and the unofficial visits to chapters have really shown the creativity that is in our order. We are a fun group when we let ourselves do it. The three receptions were fun as each of the chapters honored their Grand Officer. Everyone involved got involved and now has a experience to share for years to come. These are great gatherings of friends.

We have only had a couple of official visits to chapters, and both were great fun and displayed kindness and understanding that we are friends. The meals were great and the programs each provided a chance to be involved in a trip, first through a forest of trees and then back in time. I was also able to present service emblems, which to me is one of the most important things we can do for our members. These emblems are the physical recognition of years of involvement and service. They bring back memories of evenings of fellowship. They are important to the members, and I want to be sure that I can help to make the event another valuable memory.

We have several events coming up that offer more opportunities to do things with our friends and to make new friends. There is the Five State Gathering in Leavenworth with its buffalo hunt and a fun filled dinner. I understand that we will have a strong showing from our neighbor to the east. We also have the service day with KSDS, a chance to work together with friends to provide more than just funding to our charity. Even if you cannot make it to KSDS you can get your members together and do something locally. Remember to share this with our Star community. These are open events so you might want to bring a prospect to show what the order is all about.

Chapter meetings should never be something that a member dreads attending. Meetings should be something all our members look forward to attending. No one wants to go to hear the minutes and reports and eat a cookie then go home. Everyone wants to interact with each other. They are an opportunity to educate with short presentations on things like what happened to our heroines after the lessons we teach, or history of the chapter or some of its members. Our new members need to be involved without being overwhelmed. I have always recommended that someone sit next to a new member for at least six months. That is a challenge in many of our chapters as we struggle to fill chairs. In the summer many chapters do not meet formally, But that does not mean you cannot get together. A picnic or an informal evening meal so our working members can come together and share with each other, provides opportunity for fellowship as well as a chance to introduce prospective members.

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Worthy Grand Patron



Herbert F Merrick

Just for Fun:

WGM:

**Jigsaw Puzzles,
York Peppermint Patties,
Cheetos, Board Games**

WGP:

**Frozen Butterfingers,
Root Beer, Ginger Cookies,
Contract Bridge**

Colors:

**Teal, Purple, Blue,
Green, Jewel Tones**

Flowers:

WGM:

Yellow Rose, Purple Iris

WGP:

Red Rose

Songs:

WGM:

**For The Beauty Of The
Earth, The Old Rugged
Cross, What A Wonderful
World, Strong Enough to
Bend (Tanya Tucker)
Love Is Like A Butterfly
(Dolly Pardon)**

WGP:

**Battle Hymn Of the
Republic, Onward Christian
Soldiers, The Cassion Song**

WGM & WGP Grand Reception (continued)

Continued from page 1

Along with her numerous gifts she was presented with a Money Tree from Silver Leaf Chapter.

Byington Chapter honored Brother Herb with a military style presentation, sending him to various posts around the chapter room to retrieve gear that he will most certainly need to have at the ready as he performs the

duties associated with his new assignment.

Gorgeous quilts were presented to both Sister Cindy and Brother Herb by their first Grand Families. The Hayselden/Boyer Spirit of Love and Aloha family, and the Perkins/Ahlstrom Windmills Across the Prairie family.

It was a wonderful way to

introduce the new Grand Family and all of the aims, goals, and dreams of our new WGM and WGP. We know that Cindy and Herb will be wonderful ambassadors and representatives of the Grand Chapter of Kansas for the coming year.

Grand Officers Reception Hays (West)

Beam me up Scotty! An out of this world experience was had by the six Grand Officers during their Reception to honor them held in Hays on May 16th. The catered meal was served in the dining room which was decorated with Trees of Life ornaments. The lobby was decorated with a picture screen of all the recipient's installation pictures and included our WGM's and WGP's yellow and red roses, peacocks, cardinals, and trees of life.

The open meeting allowed those in attendance to learn a little about each of our Grand Officers.

For Winona Gebauer, our Grand Organist, we learn that she a superb artist, as attested to by her daughter Lisa, her escort. Debra Buseman, our Grand Adah, was quite speedy in her youth, (still

is!) enjoys doing a lot of activities, devoted to family, and to Eastern Star. She was presented a poem written by Virgil Vesterberg, her co-companion in the East for numerous years. Cheryl Shackleford, our Grand Esther, was taken on a journey to collect items for the food banks, for which she generously donates her time. For Esther Gable, our Grand Electa, her devotion and love for Eastern Star was pictorialized by a parade of balloons presented in the star point colors and her office for the finale was a red heart. Our Grand Marshal, Teresa Wasinger, and our Grand Sentinel, Brad Penka, were given a tribute which exemplified F-R-I-E-N-D-S-H-I-P, qualities that Hays chapter values in these Grand Officers.

The final tribute was given to Lil' Brother Bradley, presented by his "older" Brothers and Sisters from the Star Trek Enterprise, where we all enjoyed learning about his love of history, sci-fi (especially the Star Trek series) and Pepsi! We also learned our Grand Marshal is very creative and talented.

Our meeting ended with a cookie reception, provided by the chapters of our Grand Officers. A special thanks is extended to my committee members Lisa Blair, and Alison Voos, absentee Worthy Matron, Cecelia Hillebrand, who wrote the program, and to Carol Middleton who presented the program as WM and Darin Voos who stood in for the WP, and all the remaining fill ins. Thank You

Grand Officers Reception Winfield (East)

On May 30, Queen City Chapter #138 proudly hosted the East Side Grand Officer Reception at Baden Square in Winfield, Kansas.

Thanks to the hard work and cooperation of the chapter members, the event was a wonderful success and a celebration of Eastern Star fellowship.

Guests enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner catered by Biederman's, followed by homemade cookies generously provided by the chapters honoring their Grand Officers.

The reception honored Brother Larry Wise, Grand Chaplain; Sister Carlene Brown, Grand

Ruth; Sister Janet Lewis, Grand Martha; and Sister Virginia Rawlings, Grand Warder. Each chapter presented a unique program and thoughtful gifts that reflected the personality of their honored officer and the love and pride their chapter has for them.

The day was filled with friendship, appreciation, and memorable moments, making it a fitting tribute to these outstanding Grand Officers and a wonderful example of the spirit of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The East Side Grand Officer Reception was more than a celebration of individual officers—it was a celebration of service,

dedication, and the unity shared among our chapters. Through fellowship, laughter, and heartfelt recognition, the day exemplified the values of our Order and left all who attended with treasured memories.

Congratulations once again to Brother Larry Wise, Sister Carlene Brown, Sister Janet Lewis, and Sister Virginia Rawlings. May your continued service to the Grand Chapter of Kansas be richly rewarded, and may the friendships celebrated on this special day continue to strengthen our Eastern Star family.

WGM & WGP Letters (continued)

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Sister Sheila Alstatt and the Spring Charity committee have already started making plans for next March. We would like to do a dinner theater or variety show of the many talents of our members. All auction items will be by silent auction so please be thinking about what you want to contribute. Also, loosen up those vocal cords and dust off those dancing shoes because we want to see you all shine!

I would like to thank all of the chapters and Grand Office Reception committees for all of the hard work they did to honor Brother Herb and me and all of our appointed grand officers. The food was wonderful, decorations were over the top and the skits to honor each officer were heartfelt & sincere. Thank you for the love and support you have given us and we really appreciate it.

Special thanks to our Special Projects committee, Sisters Jackie Strickland and Valeri Blackburn for hitting the ground running with our itinerary and pin sales along with our District Aides

who have been hard at work with their chapter visits before the summer break.

Brother Herb and I have lots of plans for the summer including attending our youth organizations state meetings, 5 State Gathering in Leavenworth, Kansas/ Nebraska Exchange in McCook, Nebraska and our KSDS Service Day planned in August. Please plan to join us as we travel our beautiful state!

Star Love,

Cindy Moore

Worthy Grand Matron

Continued from page 4

Stay in touch with our sisters and brothers while chapters are not holding regular meetings. Remember a quick text or phone call can brighten someone's day. I hope to see you soon somewhere in Kansas.

Herbert Merrick

Worthy Grand Patron

Around the State!

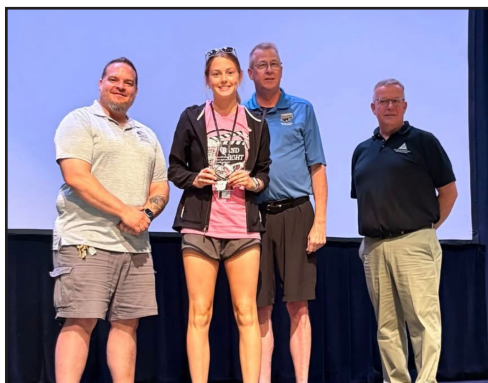
Union #15, Ottawa



Union Chapter #15, WM JoAnn Duvall and WP Glenn Duvall, presented the Chapter scholarship to Lyla Hamblin at the Central Heights High School Senior Award Ceremony on May 8.

Miriam #24, Emporia

Congratulations to Ella Wilson of Olpe HS, Who was sponsored by Miriam Chapter #24, OES for receiving this year's Outstanding Female Musician Award at the Kansas Masonic All-State Marching Band Camp!



Up Coming Events!! Mark your Calendar!

**July 10th & 11th
Rainbow Grand Assembly
Wichita**

**July 18th
DeMolay Conclave**

**July 24th & 25th
5 State Gathering
Leavenworth**

**August 7th & 8th
KS/NE Exchange
McCook NE**

**August 22nd
KSDS Service Day
Washington, KS**

**September 17th,
18th & 19th
Colorado Grand Chapter**

**Official Visits and Pins
September 23rd
Evangeline #162
Baldwin City**

**September 24th
Derby #493, Derby**

**October 1st
Silver Leaf #464
Hutchinson**

**October 5th
Loyal #176, Silver Lake**

**October 7th
North Star #483, Wichita**

**School of Instructions
September 26th
District #3 - Hutchinson**

**October 3rd
District #6 - St Francis**

**Please see your
Chapter Secretary for
more information**

Around the State! (Continued)

North Star #483



Worshipful Master John Charleston of Bester G. Brown Lodge surprised the members of North Star Chapter with a check for help in selling the Kansas Masonic Foundation car raffle tickets. The chapter not only helped sell raffle tickets but also used the opportunity to sell their own fundraiser of Beef Sticks. It was a good opportunity to work in unity and get out in the community.

Thank You!

My Sisters and Brothers,
My apologies for the tardiness in expressing my sincere thank you for the generous and wonderful courtesies that were extended to me at Kansas' "Plant A Seed" 150th Grand Chapter Session. Your warm welcome, lovely hospitality and special kindness made my time with you extra wonderful. Thank you. A special thank you for the honor of receiving the Kansas Grand

We have a Winner! Lisa McIntyre, shown here with Odie Warren of Warren Tax Service in Belle Plaine KS, was one of the winners of Haysville Chapter #494 "Everyone Loves a Pretty Quilt"

Our thanks to all who supported this very successful fundraiser... and better luck next time!!



Haysville #494



On March 31st, Haysville Chapter #494, had an exciting beginning for the coming year with their Installation of Officers. In the last six months their small chapter has increased their active membership by seven, doubling the number of their faithful few of several years and that increase included two more Masons.

Worthy Matron Marilyn Whitney made the occasion more auspicious by selecting representatives from each of the District #5 Chapters to be Installing Officers. Truly an evening of bringing friends together with Love, Loyalty and Laughter!



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.

Photos from the Reception East



Photos from the Reception West



Thank You!

To Eastern Star Members near and far,
It is with pleasure that I write this Thank You note! Serving the Kansas Grand Jurisdiction as WGM, being able to appoint so many wonderful people to Grand appointments, officers, representatives, pages, guards, etc. was more than I dreamed it would be. The outpouring of love and support was evident as we traveled the State highways and bi-ways during the 25-26 Plant A Seed year. When it came time for our Grand Chapter Session, each of you did a wonderful job and we THANK YOU ALL for saying yes when asked to serve. The number

of friends and visitors from out of state that attended our Grand Session in April for our 150th celebration was AMAZING and is a sure sign of the tie that binds.

When we travel the Eastern Star road, we meet some pretty spectacular people and realize that we are all on the same mission. I hope that you will remember the 150th year to be as awesome as I will and know that we made a difference in lives beyond what we can even imagine! I will hold dear to me the memories of this past year and how each of you have touched me by making our historic year one for the books! Even though you plan for things,

remember that there is a higher power involved who will guide us to the RIGHT path whether it was in our plan or not. Having to move our session from one venue to another at the last minute was not at the top of my to do list, however, it turned out to be the best move. Thank you all for your membership and service to our beautiful Order and for making the 150th session THE BEST. Carl and I could not have done it without the whole village. Remember to always Spread Encouragement Every Day!
Star Love,
Teresa M. Ryan PGM

Thank You!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A huge thank you for taking the time to complete our recent membership survey! The Council of Administration is paying close attention to the feedback we received from you; we truly believe that feedback is the compass of our organization. Your insights aren't just words on a page; they provide the clarity leadership needs to ensure we are moving in a direction that actually serves you.

To help us sharpen our focus even further, would you mind sharing your thoughts on one more quick piece?

We've put together a brief follow-up survey- it's significantly shorter than the first - to help us prioritize the specific initiatives and activities you would like to see most in the future. Once again, you can choose for your survey to be anonymous but, we would love it if you would consider including your name with your comments. Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple once said, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't

have any." With the assistance of the membership, we can define our path forward and every individual voice matters in this process. Use your voice - your power - to help us define that path!

<https://form.jotform.com/daltman2/2026-follow-up-survey>

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us build a stronger, more vibrant Order together!

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Thanks to all who provided photos for this issue!

Carl Anderson PGP, Cindy Smith
Marilyn Whitney, Glenn Duvall
and Pam Able
Thanks!!

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TESTING FOR HEART DISEASE

Have you ever wondered how the medical team tests for Heart Disease. It is done through a combination of physical exams, blood work and imaging tests. The exact tests ordered depend on your symptom, risk factors and family history. The testing will start with a physical exam monitoring your blood pressure, pulse and overall physical health. Common test used to diagnose heart conditions include: - Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG): Records the heart's electrical signals to detect irregular rhythms or signs of heart attack. - Echocardiogram: An ultrasound that uses sound waves to create moving pictures of the heart, showing its size, structure, and how well it pumps blood. -Stress Test: Monitors you heart's activity while you exercise (usually on a tread mill or stationary bike) or after taking medication to see how the heart handles increased workload. -Blood Tests: Measures substances like cholesterol, blood sugar, and proteins (such as troponin) to assess risk or detect damage to the heart muscle. Some other tests used are a Cardiac CT Calcium Score or a Coronary Angiogram. My heart beats for OES Garrie Oppitz, GGCCM-Heart