



Kansas Grand Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star

Volume 17

September/October 2026

Edition 2

Kansas/Nebraska Exchange



The Grand Officers of Kansas and Nebraska in McCook Nebraska

The weekend of August 7th & 8th was a busy few days for the Kansas and Nebraska Grand Officers.

Starting late afternoon on Friday the Nebraska Grand Officers held a practice for the evening activities. Everyone gathered while practice was happening to get ready for dinner. Then it was Brother Carl PGP at the camera for the photos!

Eureka Chapter # 86 opened the Chapter and introductions were done. The Nebraska Grand Officers assumed their stations and initiation was done. We happily welcomed Sister Adrienne and Brother Spencer Smith our

newest members for Eureka Chapter #86. The Nebraska Grand Officers retired and Eureka Chapter resumed their stations and went from labor to refreshment.

The Next morning the Kansas Grand Officers held their practice and prepared for their turn. Everyone once again gathered while practice was going on to get ready for the afternoon. Dinner was served and once again Brother Carl PGP was at the camera for photos. The Eureka Officers assumed their stations and the meeting went from refreshment to labor. The Kansas Grand Officers assumed their

stations and Initiated Sister Amanda Braun for Eureka Chapter #86 and Brother Glenn Davis for Silver Leaf Chapter #464 Hutchinson. The Kansas Grand Officers remained in their stations so we could show how we do our introductions. The Kansas grand Officers retired and the Eureka Chapter officers assumed their stations. Responses were given and the Chapter was closed. A grab and go was available for everyone.

After the meeting those staying the night in McCook met up and had a wonderful meal at the local Steak House just down the road from the hotel.

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Deadline for next issue is
December 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's hard to believe that this year is moving fast and summer is already over. Although our chapters were not meeting, Brother Herb and I enjoyed many events the past few months.

Brother Herb and I made a couple of official visits and pin presentations to some of our deserving members to honor their years of membership.

We were pleased to attend the state meetings of our youth organizations, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters and Demolay. I was proud to bring greetings on behalf of the Grand Chapter on each of these occasions.

We were honored to host 5 State in Leavenworth where we reconnected and met new friends from South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. Our committee worked hard to make this an enjoyable weekend full of shopping, museums, carousel rides and walking through history at Fort Leavenworth. The highlight of our Saturday evening dinner was when Brother Herb Merrick, WGP and retired from the U.S. Army was presented with a Quilt of Valor. We are so proud of him and thank him and all of our veterans for their service.

I made a quick trip to Waco, Texas to attend Texas Grand Chapter and Installation of new officers for 2026-2027. Several familiar faces from Kansas were there to enjoy the beautiful events and the sights & history of Waco.

The Kansas/Nebraska exchange was held in McCook, Nebraska where the grand officers of each state performed the ceremony of initiation and we welcomed 4 new members into our beautiful organization, three for Nebraska and one for Kansas. Thank you to all who attended to support our grand family including 9 Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons. Your continued dedication to our wonderful Star is greatly appreciated.

One of the highlights of my summer was what I hope to be the first annual day of service at KSDS in Washington, KS. We had 12 sisters and brothers and family members from across the state meet at the KSDS facility to volunteer. We did everything from cleaning resident apartments, washing windows, cutting stickers and helping to diminish the mountain of shredding for them. Oh, and we got to play with puppies! Thank you to all who joined us in Washington and those who participated in our day of service in your own home town.

Brother Herb and Sister Carolyn Merrick recently traveled on the Grand Master's pilgrimage to Washington D.C. where they celebrated our country's 250th birthday by visiting many Masonic and historical sites. We are so proud that Brother Herb was invited to join Most Worshipful Dave Hendricks PGP and Grand Commander Patrick Carr, in laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. What an honor for these three brothers in Eastern Star to represent Kansas this way. Videos have been posted on our Facebook page for all to enjoy.

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From the Desk of the WGP....

Greetings from your Worthy Grand Patron.

I hope everyone had a great summer. I certainly did have a wonderful time.

June kicked off with a visit to the first Grand Bethel of Heartland Job's Daughters. It was great to see the girls do their work.

Then it was off to an official visit with Weir and then Dodge City the same weekend. Carolyn and I also got a brief visit with our counterparts in Missouri. We were able to end the month with the Shrine bowl in Emporia.

July was highlighted with visit with both Rainbow Grand Assembly and DeMolay State Conclave. The youth groups are busy and growing I would strongly encourage everyone to visit a youth event you will see our future in action. July concluded with Kansas hosting the Five State Exchange in Leavenworth. We had a great weekend visiting with over 160 sisters and brothers from a total of seven grand jurisdictions, and Grand Representatives from Wisconsin and Florida joined our traditional five grand jurisdictions. Leavenworth was an outstanding event, and I thank Sister Nora Bayless and her committee for putting on this three-day event. We were supported by the Leavenworth Visitor's Bureau and the Leavenworth Heritage Center. I was honored and humbled to receive a Quilt of Valor at our dinner. It was a great time, and I would encourage everyone to attend the Five State next year in Hannibal Missouri.

August started off with an Exchange in McCook Nebraska where each Grand Jurisdiction did its degree work. Again, this is one of those events that is open to all our membership, and I encourage you all to attend.

I was also able to present pins at Haysville; it was a wonderful evening. The month concluded with a unique opportunity to join the Grand Master Dave Hendericks and Grand Commander Patrick Carr on a weeklong tour of the Masonic attractions in the Washington DC area. Beside joining in the opening of the Grand Lodge of Kansas in Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, I was able to represent our Order in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington and at George Washington's grave.

September began with being able to represent our Order at the Masonic Guild in McPherson. Then it was pins in Wathena which was a great highlight as Past Grand Patron Thurman Miller received his 60-year service emblem. Four sisters who received 50-year pins had each been officers in more than one chapter, almost every one of those fifty years. There was also one 25-year pin, and the sister gave some of the best remarks on the impact of our Order on her life. It made me feel truly humble. We also were able to do pins at Evangeline and Derby. The month and the summer concluded with our first school of instruction in Hutchison.

Eastern Star offers each of us many opportunities to have fun and fellowship which are the building blocks of our Order. I encourage each of you to come out and join us in our activities.

Herbert Merrick

Worthy Grand Patron

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**

Five State Gathering.....Leavenworth Kansas!

Friends and Fellowship, July 24, 25 and 26 saw a gathering of brothers and sisters from five grand jurisdictions for fun and fellowship in Kansas First City, Leavenworth. Over one hundred sixty brothers and sisters from seven grand jurisdictions met in Leavenworth Kansas to share fun and fellowship. It was a wonderful time beginning with a mixer the first evening as friends greeted each other and new friendships began as the Five State Exchange Committee headed by Sister Nora Bayless and her team passed out

sandwiches and treats.

Day two was spent shopping and sightseeing in Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth and the surrounding area. There were also a lot of coloring and games.

Finally, a family feast at the Leavenworth Heritage Center. Each Grand Chapter provided a brief play and the Grand Chapter of Missouri revealed that next year we will meet in Hannibal Missouri for fun on the Big Muddy. The evening ended with presentations including a quilt of valor to WGP Herb Merrick in

recognition of his service in the United State Army. The group gathered together back at the hotel for more fellowship, games and art projects.

Sunday morning saw fond farewells after attendance at Pilgrim Community Church hosted by the WGP. It was a great weekend, and we all thank Sister's Nora, Twyla, and Carol Shobe plus Brother George for all the planning, coordinating and hard work.

Photos from KS/NE Exchange and Five State!



WGM & WGP Letters (continued)

Continued from page 3

I had fun at the Kansas State Fair handing out "You have found the WGM at the KSF" stickers to members who found me at the fair. Sister Christy Hard, Grand Secretary designed the sticker and Sister April Alvarez, who was initiated at Grand Chapter, printed out the stickers for me. This was such a fun activity at the Kansas State Fair.

I was also honored to join Sister Teresa Ryan, Jr. Past Grand Matron and several other Kansas Eastern Star members in presenting KSDS with the final check from the "Plant A Seed" year. We gathered at their stand in the Pride of Kansas building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds and Sister Teresa very proudly

announced the presentation to members of KSDS and the crowd of fairgoers close by. What an accomplishment for the "Plant A Seed" family and I am so proud of all the work that went into raising the funds.

Now that the summer events are completed, it is time to gear up for fall with regular chapter meetings resuming, schools of instructions, official visits, pin presentations, attending nearby grand chapters and celebrating the holidays. Brother Herb and I are looking forward to visiting with our sisters and brothers across the state over the next few months.

Star Love,

Cindy Moore

Worthy Grand Matron

Around the State!

Kansas/Nebraska Surprise



While attending the Kansas Nebraska Exchange a new pin pal was created.

Sisters Phyllis Coolidge 104! and our own Marjorie Lewis 100! Struck up a conversation on Friday evening. They found out that they had a lot in common and that they both currently are holding the station of Adah in their respectful chapters.

Meriden #399, Topeka

Past Grand Patron Dennis Reed presented Shirley Neiberger Tripp with her 75-year membership pin. A special meeting was held on September 9th with Worthy Matron Susan Welborn presiding for the Meriden Chapter #399, Order of the Eastern Star.



Up Coming Events!! Mark your Calendar!

Official Visits and Pins

October 15th
Anthony #187

October 27th
Queen City #135
Winfield

October 28th
Radiant #229
Atwood

November 3rd
Haysville #494

November 9th
Miriam #14, Emporia

November 11th
Adda #467, Prairie Village

November 13th
Gladiola #459,
Kansas City

December 10th
Clay Center #180

School of Instructions

October 17th
District #7
St Bernard #97

October 24th
District #5
North Star #483, Wichita

November 6th
District #1
Byington #177

November 21st
District #4
Fidelity #38

Please see your
Chapter Secretary for
more information



Around the State! (Continued)

Ninnescah #423

Working Hard and Having Fun
Ninnescah Chapter members joined Unity Lodge #273 working a food booth at the Annual Lake Afton Car Show June 7th. This has been a joint effort the last few years. It has been a great fundraiser for both organizations. It has been great working with our brothers to make this fundraiser a big success.

We have been tweaking our processes, so it is a smooth running machine. We work hard but have fun kidding each other and making each other laugh. We sold pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers, nachos, chips, drinks, cookies and brownies. We even had coffee for those die-hard midday drinkers (Shauna Viele.) This year we even had Deb Lindsten and Doris Kammerer join us to sell meat sticks for North Star Chapter.



Ninnescah Chapter and Unity Lodge got together the next weekend for a family day at the Lodge. We had a delicious carry-in dinner and a fun time of fellowship.

We truly love working and spending time with our Masonic brothers.



Friday June 19th we were out and about again. Chapters of District #5 joined us for a night at the ballpark. Twenty-one OES members and family went to watch the Wichita Wind Surge baseball team play. The new ballpark is wonderful and has all the amenities of the bigger ones. It is such a great atmosphere. We have done this several times and always have fun. I'm not sure just how much of the game we catch but, conversations and laughter make for a fun night. Several of us met at to eat at Braum's before the game. Who doesn't love hamburgers and ice cream? The night was capped off with fireworks after the game. It was great and was a fantastic way to end the night.



Thanks to all who provided photos for this issue!

Carl Anderson PGP, Cindy Smith
Jackie Strickland, Mary Allen
and Jamie Klenklen
Thanks!!

Union Chapter #15, Ottawa

On September 23, 2026 Herb Merrick presented two 50 year service pins to two on Union Chapter #15 members at Rock Creek retirement facility in Ottawa.

The meeting was presided by JoAnn Duvall Worthy Matron and Glen Duvall Worthy Patron on Union Chapter.

There were 19 members and visitors present and refreshments were served after the presentation



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This will help with postage and printing cost!
It costs between \$2.25 & \$2.50 per issue

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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.

Martha E. Stewart Chapter Pratt.....One Year Ago.....



Left to right are: Lindsay Detwiler, Jessica Detwiler, Ronald Detwiler, Amy Gibson, Michael Gould, Kimberly Warman, Melissa Alkhaibari, Jahue Warman

Some stories are not forgotten.
They simply wait to be continued.

For the members of Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496 in Pratt, Kansas, this past year has been more than the formation of a new chapter. It has been the renewal of a legacy long rooted in our community and the continuation of a story that began generations ago.

The Order of the Eastern Star has long stood as a companion body to Freemasonry, founded upon principles of faith, fidelity, charity, and loving service. Through the teachings represented by the heroines Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa, members are reminded to live lives of devotion, courage, truth, and compassion. Across Kansas, generations of Sisters and Brothers have carried these lessons into their homes, communities, and chapter rooms. Pratt, too, carried that heritage.

For many years, the community was home to Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #150, a chapter whose members faithfully served the Order and one another. Historical records place Sarah E. Stewart Chapter active in Pratt by at least 1919, with generations of Sisters and Brothers carrying its work forward throughout much of the twentieth century. Though the original chapter eventually faded as membership declined and members relocated to surrounding communities, its memory and spirit endured.

Local tradition preserves the touching story of the woman whose name the chapter carried.

Sarah E. Stewart was remembered as a candidate for the Order whose life ended before she could receive initiation. Though she never formally entered the chapter room, the members who knew and loved her chose to honor her memory by giving the chapter her name—a tribute born from affection, respect, and remembrance.

Sarah E. Stewart, born Sarah E. Shaw in 1849, made her home in Pratt with her husband, George W. Stewart, and their family. She passed away in 1893 and was laid to rest in Greenlawn Cemetery, where her memorial still stands today beneath the Kansas sky.

Yet her story—and the story of Eastern Star in Pratt—did not end there.

From its early roots in Pratt more than a century ago, through years of silence and the absence of a local chapter, the spirit of Sarah E. Stewart endured until Sisters and Brothers once again answered the call to rebuild.

Through renewed interest, dedication, and many hours of hard work, Sisters and Brothers gathered with a shared purpose: to bring Eastern Star home to Pratt.

That vision became reality.

After completing our period Under Dispensation, our chapter was formally accepted into the Grand Chapter of Kansas. Even more meaningful was the privilege of retaining the cherished name Sarah E. Stewart, preserving the connection between past and present. In doing so, Pratt became home to the first newly chartered chapter in Kansas in more than fifty years—a milestone carrying both honor and responsibility.

As our newly chartered chapter prepared to embrace its future, members felt called to pause and remember the past.

That calling led us to Greenlawn Cemetery.

There, gathered beside the Stewart monument beneath a brilliant Kansas sky, members of

Sarah E. Stewart Chapter #496 conducted a memorial service honoring the woman whose name and memory continue to guide our work.

Following the symbolism of the Star Point memorial service, flowers representing the heroines were lovingly placed at Sarah's grave while words of remembrance and Scripture were shared.

Blue flowers of Adah reminded us of honor, duty, and right.

Yellow flowers of Ruth reflected faithful service and constancy.

White flowers of Esther spoke of courage and loyalty.

Green of Martha brought thoughts of prayer, peace, and God's loving care.

Crimson flowers of Electa symbolized charity, devotion, and steadfast truth.

As each tribute was offered, the quiet cemetery became more than a resting place. It became sacred ground where memory and renewal stood side by side.

For many present, the experience carried profound meaning.

A chapter once lost to time had returned to Pratt.

A namesake remembered through generations had been found and honored.

And a community once without its own Eastern Star chapter now stands ready to write its next pages.

Perhaps that is the true beauty of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Its work is not measured only in meetings held or offices served, but in the ties that bind us across generations—the understanding that love, charity, remembrance, and service endure.

As the concluding words of the memorial were spoken—"This concludes our service, go in peace"—members departed with grateful hearts.

Not because the story had ended.

But because, at long last, it had begun again.

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ANGINA

What is angina? I know most of you all have heard the word but what exactly is it? Angina is pain or discomfort in the chest that occurs when the heart muscle is not getting enough blood due to the buildup of plaque in the arteries. It is not a heart attack, but if you have angina you are more likely to have a heart attack. The pain my feel like pressure or squeezing in your chest or may occur in your shoulder, arms, neck, jaw or back. If you are having any of these symptoms you need to seek medical attention and follow their instructions.

My heart beats for OES

Garrie Oppitz, GGCCM-Heart