

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

“Faith in Unity” ~~~~Volume IX Number VI

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TRAVELING WITH THE HERD

The Grand Officers finished up this year's Area Visitations with a wonderful Area meeting at Theford—that's where I live when I'm not traveling with the OES Herd. But if you thought my days of riding in that “car trunk” were over—guess again. I got thrown in there and off we went to the Masonic Youth Conference and I had a great time with the youth there—their leaders had orange and purple hats—made me wish I could dye my ears some bright color and join them! From there we traveled on to a really fun “Four Corner” Event where I got hugs from Eastern Star members from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming—we weren't exactly at that “point” where all those states meet. We were in Sterling Colorado—that's pretty close to that point.

All the time we just keep traveling and our members just keep supporting “Make-a-Wish”—we are now close to \$9,000. Margaret, our chairperson will be in South Sioux City at the Bake Potato Lunch (11-1-08, 11 am-2 pm); Omaha for Trinity Chapter's Pancake Breakfast (11-9-08, 8 am-1 pm); Harvest Gathering in Lincoln at the Scottish Rite Temple (11-9, 2-4 pm)—support her by buying some crafts (Christmas is coming!) or by donating some crafts. Thanks to all of the Chapters who have generously donated \$1 per member (or \$2 per member!) to this project—so far we have collected enough to grant at least 3 special wishes.

What a wonderful loving night we had at Central City on October 14 as Arbor Chapter No. 200 welcomed the members of Laura May Chapter No. 251 into their Chapter. Next, I'm looking forward to the hugs from the members who serve on the Grand Chapter Committees—they will be getting together for some serious work on November 8 in Grand Island—all for THE GOOD OF THE HERD!

I send my best wishes to each family of each member of this herd—for a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. Wish I could be there to watch each and every Thanksgiving celebration.

Love,

Pansy



FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have been blessed to be able to serve you as your Grand Treasurer since 2003. It is with much gratitude that I thank you for the love and support I have experienced these five years. It is now time that I pass this opportunity on to another Sister or Brother for the 2009-2010 year. I know someone will step up to fill this office and enjoy it as much as I have. God Bless You All.

See you at Grand Chapter if not before.

Star Love,

Jan Barnard, Grand Treasurer

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR CHAPTERS FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



At Grand Chapter, during May of 2008, members voted to raise the amounts of our Academic Scholarships! These scholarships will increase from \$200 to \$500. Local Chapters will contribute \$50 for the first \$500 Scholarship. The remainder will be provided by your Grand Chapter. If your Chapter desires to give a second \$500 scholarship the contribution will be \$100, matched by \$400 from Grand Chapter. This means that for \$150, each of our local Chapters can award two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. We can do it! Plan a fund raiser. Have fun and advertise what you are doing for your communities and their youth. This is what the Order of the Eastern Star is all about! Information and forms for scholarships will be mailed to Chapters in January.

Connie Havekost, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee

VISIONQUEST

BY MIKE DONHAM
Visionquest Committee
of the General Grand Chapter
Past Grand Patron of Nebraska

Promoting Membership

At every Visionquest visit I make, I leave with the Worthy Matron a list of 50 ways to promote membership. A number of these ideas, your Chapter may have already done or they are currently doing! Think about some of the following:

- Have regular activities with the Masonic Lodge – Hold a prospect dinner
- Have a brainstorming session to create a list of prospective members
- Call Members who haven't attended meetings for a while to help with events, refreshments and just to check on them
- Abbreviate some meetings to make time for FUN!
- Have a family dinner evening
- Provide petitions and brochures for members to carry
- Talk with members about what Eastern Star means to them
- Ask your members to bring a friend to an activity
- Make a pledge to “Just Ask” someone to join our beautiful Order
- Be supportive and encouraging.
- Be willing to try something new instead of finding fault.

The goals we strive for are to increase membership, strengthen leadership, involve our Chapters in the community. By public relations, let the public know “who we are” and maintain a high level of fellowship and enthusiasm.

Remember my Sisters and Brothers
“Never Give Up”!

E. I. Honey S. J. (Until we meet again)



MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Walt McGuire, Chairman, Membership Committee

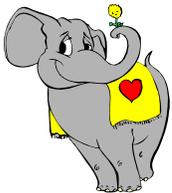
Remember the membership challenge that was made to you in September? There are just a couple of months left in this challenge, as the Secretaries will be asked to send in with their Annual Report your results for the months of September, October, November and December. Worthy Matrons and Secretaries, be sure to remind your members to "Just Ask" in the months to come and be sure to record the number of members who asked someone and the results so that it can be reported to my committee. The Grand Secretary tells me that there have been a lot of orders for Rituals as of late—I'm hoping every one of those Rituals is for a new member! It works, so get involved—"JUST ASK".

Enclosed with this OES News -----

- The Christmas Letter from our Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron and Grand Officers. Secretaries, please read this letter to your members. Remember your monetary gifts for the Homes must be sent to the Grand Chapter (checks made to the Grand Chapter) by November 28th to be sure the gifts get to the Homes in time for Christmas!

Reminders -----

- 1) November is "Election Month". Remember to send in the blue after election report within three days after your election. If bad weather or some other circumstance prevents your Chapter from holding it's election in November, the Secretary will need to request a "Dispensation to elect out of time" from the Grand Secretary (402-832-9320). There is no fee for this dispensation. Best of luck to all Chapters on a successful election.
- 2) The year for our Subordinate Chapters is fast coming to a close! Annual Report forms will be mailed to Chapter Secretaries in mid-November—they are due back in the Grand Chapter office by January 15, 2009 and must include all membership information from Jan 1, thru Dec. 31, 2008.
- 3) Thanks to the Worthy Matrons and other officers who are helping the Grand Chapter office to record the email addresses of our members who have them. We do so appreciate your help!



FOR THE GOOD OF THE HERD-----We have honored the local leaders of our youth groups, and this month we want to honor and express our appreciation to the members of the Masonic Youth Committee that planned and executed the third Masonic Youth Leadership Conference. If one of them belongs to your Chapter, please help us thank them by honoring them under your Good of the Order this month: **Karan & Tim Birdsall (271), Jim Carlton (325), Courtney Fasnacht (249), Michelle Fulmer, Betty Garwood (301), Mary Louise Gillispie (307), Blaine Hornbuckle, Don Jelinek (Chairman) (271, 307), Rex Moats (169), Keith Neisler, Kim Rieken (1), Rush Storz (8), Mike Stuhr (299), Jan Thoman (105), Judy & Gene Wehrbein (189).** Thanks to all of you for your dedication to the whole Masonic Family Herd!

KEEP UP WITH THE HERD --- OES MONTHLY CALENDAR

Call the Grand Chapter office (402-727-8644 or 800-832-9320) with your Chapter's events. Information for December News due Nov. 15

- November 2, 1008Baked Potato Luncheon, 11 am--2 pm, UMC Fellowship Hall, 20th & A St., South Sioux City—sponsored by Laura Chapter No. 301.
- November 8, 2008Meeting of all members of Standing Committees, Interstate Holiday Inn, Grand Island.
- November 8 2008Narcissus Chapter Turkey Dinner & Craft Show, 4-7 pm, 5093 Maple Street, Omaha.
- November 9, 2008Harvest Gathering, Scottish Rite Temple, Lincoln. Proceeds to Make-A-Wish. Cost \$10 or buy a table for 6 for \$50. Call Carolyn at 402-477-9464 for reservations.
- November 9, 2008Trinity Chapter Pancake Breakfast,. 8 am-1 pm, 2424 S. 135th Ave., Omaha.