



NEBRASKA OES NEWS

“Faith in Unity”



Volume IX Number VII ~December, 2008

TRAVELING WITH THE HERD



Work, Work, Work! That Worthy Grand Matron just grabs me around the neck and off we go—she is just full of energy! This past month it was off to Iowa Grand Chapter and after that she had a lot of visits to make to Chapters—we didn’t get back home to Thedford for two weeks! I peeked in when Wanda went to Humboldt Chapter on November 6th and what a full sidelines they had there that night as they celebrated the consolidation of Mercy Chapter No. 306 with Humboldt Chapter No. 234—I know the whole herd is wishing them well.

More work, work, work! I had a good view at the All-Committee meeting at Grand Island on November 8th. I think I counted over forty members there. Nearly all of the Standing Committees, the Fraternal Relations committee and the Board of Grand Trustees met there. They munched on M&Ms and talked and laughed—but when it was all over those committees had set some goals to work on—and they had a good time getting to know each other. I have a feeling you’ll be hearing more from those committees in this Newsletter in the future!

I was also at the Harvest Gathering in Lincoln—different groups bought tables and decorated them up for the tea. They were beautiful—and some (like the one sponsored by the “Grand Ducks”) were very unique! Thanks to the Lincoln Chapters for raising over \$1,000 for make a wish by hosting that event.

I’ll be in the “car trunk” heading east now—to visit another “Herd”. I hope that all of you will have a special time with your “Herd” this Christmas. When we get back I think someone said they were going to send me to school. Love, Pansy



The ESTARL Committee has

designated January as ESTARL Month. Chapters will receive new brochures in December, along with a letter from Committee Chair, Ken Schultz. You’re encouraged to share information with persons preparing for religious service and educate members about ESTARL, especially during the month of January. Deadline for ESTARL applications is March 1.

MAKE A WISH

Thanks so much for your support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nebraska. Thanks to all of the Chapters who have given \$1 a member we now have raised \$10,919 to help grant wishes to children. Thanks for your support of my craft sales. I still have lots of craft items to sell and would be happy to come out to your community event. Please contact me if you would like to sponsor a project.

**Margaret McCall,
Chairperson**



The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other
Burton Hillis

VISIONQUEST

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

We are turning the corner on the Visionquest triennium with eleven months left before the General Grand Chapter session in Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 30 – November 5, 2009.

Our quest is to visit all 105 subordinate chapters in Nebraska during this triennium and make a Visionquest presentation – the focus on **Membership**.

To those chapters that have received the Visionquest presentation, have you changed your approach on increasing membership and revitalizing long term members’ interest in returning to chapter meetings?

Leadership – Leaders are not born, they are made. Leaders must have vision, passion, integrity and trust. Trust is the most important aspect of leadership – it can’t be acquired, it has to be earned.

Involvement (internal and external) – Think of it this way, you and your chapter are not in this thing alone, it is a T.E.A.M. effort. T.E.A.M. = Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

Public Relations and communications are one and the same – Public Relations is something you live, rather than something you do.

Fellowship – In the Order of the Eastern Star “We are Family”, we have responsibilities for one another. If we did not care about others in our fellowship our faith would be meaningless.

“Enthusiasm, Enthusiasm, Enthusiasm” - The difference between winners and losers is what enthusiasm is built on. “Losers do what is required of them, winners do what is required and more.”

The above: membership, leadership, involvement, public relations, fellowship and enthusiasm will be dealt with individually in the succeeding months. Hopefully new insights and revelations will be presented for your consideration.

Remember Sisters and Brothers
“Never give up”.

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



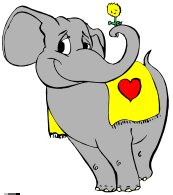
FROM YOUR GRAND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Walt McGuire, Chairman

The Grand Chapter Membership Committee is asking each Chapter to appoint a Membership Committee. Larger Chapters may wish to have a committee of three, but at the minimum we would like at least one member of each Chapter that we can contact and work with—we want to get to know our Chapters and visit one on one with local Membership Committees. Worthy Matron-elect please appoint a member or members from your Chapter and see that the name is listed on the “Membership Challenge” Form that your Chapter Secretary will be returning to the Grand Chapter office in January. Let’s work together to think of ways to increase membership and participation.

Reminders -----

- 1) The Annual Reports were mailed to the Chapters in November. Don’t forget that they are due back in the Grand Chapter office by January 15, 2009. Remember, you do not need a vote of the Chapter to disburse your check for per capita dues, as that amount is specified in the Grand Chapter Bylaws (Section 97, pg 49), but if you prefer to make a motion for the payment, be sure to do it in December so as not to delay your report, which must be accompanied by the per capita funds.
- 2) Don’t forget to tally up your results for the “Membership Challenge” and return that to the Grand Chapter office with your Annual Reports.
- 3) Many Chapters suspend for non-payment of dues as of December 31st. You may still have time to make a personal contact with those members and encourage them to pay—or at least to request a Demit. We work so hard to get new members; we should work equally hard to *keep* them.



FOR THE GOOD OF THE HERD-----Here is another great idea! This one

was shared with us from Schuyler Chapter No. 75 in Schuyler. It seems that the community of Schuyler has a “Parade of Christmas Trees” each year with different organizations decorating trees for the holiday. Schuyler Chapter is participating this year by decorating a tree (Great Visibility in the Community!!). They have made lots of gold stars and will write the names of each of the Children who are current residents of our Masonic-Eastern Star Home on those stars. Signs beside the tree will tell the significance of the names and let people know that Eastern Star in Schuyler is active in support of our Home. What can you do this holiday for the good of your community?

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 January News due Dec. 15

We will try to put all Installation dates in the January News—please send us the dates and times.

December 15, 2008 ...Deadline for the Purple Ribbon Club, the project to help purchase 4-H animals for the children at the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

January 9, 2008Deadline for Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons and Grand Officers for reservations for the annual School of Instruction.

January 18-20School of Instruction for District Grand Supervisors, Valentine NE

February 5-7Grand Lodge Communication, Kearney