

# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

*"Make a Joyful Noise"*

Volume X Number VI ~November, 2009

**VISIONQUEST**

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

As we travel the Eastern Star road, we learn many lessons. The Visionquest Committee members and I have shared those lessons with the Sisters and Brothers around the state.

I am happy to report that the committee has attended all of the Subordinate Chapters in Nebraska and have given a Visionquest presentation at those Chapter meetings.

The importance of attending the Subordinate Chapters and relaying the messages of membership, leadership, involvement, public relations, fellowship and enthusiasm was a goal of Sister Barbara Benton, MWGM and I also had this as a goal.

As I look back on my visits to various Chapters the phrases "Never Give Up" and "Just Ask" have been the by-words for our members to embrace and carry on for the future.

There was another phrase that I think says it all and that is "We are Family" - We are a Masonic family as well as an Eastern Star Family. We care about one another; we care about each others welfare; we care about each others feelings; and we stand up for Star members in times of need.

The example I use about family, I used in the July 2007 OES News article: The story of Joe Gordon and Larry Doby two baseball players who played for the Cleveland Indians in 1947.

Gordon took Doby under his wing and nurtured the young rookie through that opening season. The scene as portrayed in the story has Doby striking out at his first time at bat as a major leaguer. Doby was despondent and went to the end of the bench and put his head in his hands. Gordon's turn at bat, he struck out on three straight pitches. He also went to the end of the bench and sat next to Doby. It shows "We are Family", we care about each other and care about the feelings of others in our family.

- A special note: Joe Gordon was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame this summer at Cooperstown.

I extend a special "Thank you" to all of my committee members for a job well done and my Star Love to the Eastern Star members in this wonderful Nebraska Grand Jurisdiction. I have enjoyed the past three years.

E. I. Honey S.J. "Until we meet again"

Note: This is the last Visionquest article. Brother Mike ends his service on this GGC Committee this month. Brother Mike has personally given his presentation at over 50 Chapters and his dedication should be an inspiration to us all. **Our thanks to Mike for three years of inspiring articles in the OES News.**

## *From our tree ~ ~*

It's time for us to fly south you know—but we have decided to just take the bus this year. We'll be headed to Tulsa on October 29<sup>th</sup> with our Eastern Star Friends. We may hang out with them at that General Grand Chapter Assembly. We have such fun being with them! This month we have enjoyed flying to Missouri, South Dakota and Iowa for their Sessions. When we got back we heard the news: The WGM has recently accepted the resignation of Sister Jan Thoman, PGM from the Board of Grand Trustees. (Sister Jan has accepted the job of Office Assistant in the Grand Chapter office.) Billie has appointed Brother Delbert Rogers, Past Patron of Franklin Chapter No. 213 to fill the vacancy until the Grand Chapter Session when the members will elect two Grand Trustees. Congratulations Jan and Delbert.

Curtis, Christie, Ring, Ding and Ling

## JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE:

**REMINDER:** Resolutions to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter are due in the Grand Chapter office 90 days before the Session. (sec. 174) **Deadline for submitting resolutions: FEBRUARY 10, 2010.**

## YOUTH COMMITTEE:

**---We will be soliciting help from our Eastern Star members for the following events:**

✓ **Nebraska Rainbow will need over 200 volunteers when the Rainbow Supreme Session is held in Omaha, July 26-Aug. 4, 2010.**

✓ The next **Masonic Youth Leadership Conference will be held in Kearney Oct 1 & 2, 2011.**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

**What is in your Membership Tool Box?**

This month we would like to add a **Chapter Spring**

### **Cleaning Action Plan**

Before we invite friends and family to visit our homes, we do a little cleaning. So now, before we continue to invite new members to our Chapters, let's use the results of those Chapter Assessments to clean up some of our clutter and outdated things and let in some fresh air.

The following is a sample that might help you develop your Chapter Spring Cleaning Action Plan

The Action Plan describes: A clear picture of where you are going, how you are going to get there, who is involved, the timeframe, and a means to monitor progress and assess success.

1. Set up a time and place for the Planning Workshop.
2. Choose / find / appoint a facilitator.
3. Review and analyze results of your Chapter Assessment and provide this information with the facilitator.
4. Choose a group of people to work together to write the action plan. This could be a Membership Committee or all interested members. To be successful the Chapter members have to have ownership.
5. Ask your facilitator to cover the following items during the workshop:

Prioritize issues

Identify actions that will produce changes

Identify barriers

Identify resources

Establish a timeline

Set plan for monitoring and evaluating

At the end of your workshop have a form similar to the Spring Cleaning Action Plan enclosed for each issue you are going to attack. If the form is not enclosed, email [terryfolk@yahoo.com](mailto:terryfolk@yahoo.com) to get a blank form for your editing and use. Prepare two copies, give one to the person taking the action and keep a master copy. Give all the master copies to one person to use for follow-up. This person could be a Membership Committee Chairperson, Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Chapter Secretary, or your facilitator.

*It may seem like the wrong time of the year but, "get 'er done", add that Spring*

Cleaning Action Plan to your Membership Tool Box.

Your State Membership Committee



## Salvation Army

“RING THOSE BELLS”

Now is the time to contact your local Salvation Army offices and get signed up to “Ring The Bells”. I know here in the

Omaha area, they will start ringing on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. This is a wonderful project to help with and a great way to get the Nebraska Eastern Star name out to the public. Who knows, you may gain some interest in membership for your local Chapters, when you visit with the folks dropping money into the buckets. So, please get in touch with your local Salvation Army office now

and sign up to ‘RING THE BELLS’. Also, I am sure they can still use help with non-perishable food for their food banks.

Laurel Wolfe & Cathy Voshell  
Co-Chairpersons  
The Salvation Army Project

## Enclosed with this OES News-----

- ❖ Christmas greetings from your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. It is being sent at this time as a reminder that monetary gifts to the Homes must reach the Grand Chapter office by November 30<sup>th</sup> in order to be received by the Homes in time for Christmas.
- ❖ “Spring Cleaning Action Plan” Form—see the article above from the Grand Chapter Membership Committee and be sure your Chapter’s Membership Committee is aware of all that is being done to assist them with membership recruitment and retention.
- ❖ The Annual Report Packet will be mailed to Chapter Secretaries mid-November. If records have been properly kept through the year, this report will be a “snap”! Take some time now to be sure your records are in order.



## Grains from the Past

*Preserving the Past; Preparing for the future*—

While searching our past Proceedings for some informative bit from our past for this month’s news, I was struck by a little poem that was a part of the thank you response from distinguished guests, given by Sister Iva McNurlin, Grand Representative of Nebraska in Maine. Recorded in the Proceedings of 1932, but as relevant today as ever:

“Do something for somebody always,  
Whatever may be your creed,  
There’s nothing on earth can help us  
So much as a kindly deed.  
A broader view, a saner mind,  
A little more love for all mankind,  
A little more careful of what we say,  
A little more charity every day.”

## THE OES CARDINAL CALENDAR PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER NEWS BY NOVEMBER 15, 2009

- Oct 29--Nov 6 ..General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly, Tulsa
- Nov 8, 2009..... Pancake Breakfast, Trinity Chapter No. 299, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave, Omaha. Call Anna at 402-334-1867 for details.
- Nov 22, 2009.... Fontenelle Chapter No. 249 Smorgasbord Dinner, 11 am to 2 pm, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha. Call Cathy at 402-933-9095 for more information
- Dec. 3, 2009..... Friendship Night, Herman Chapter No. 216, Herman. Soup Supper preceding the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Dessert following the meeting. Call Kim at 402-456-7510 for reservations by November 25<sup>th</sup>
- Jan 15, 2010 .... OES Annual Reports due in the Grand Chapter Office.
- Feb 3-6..... Grand Lodge, Holiday Inn, Midtown, Grand Island
- Feb. 10 ..... Resolutions to be presented at the 2010 Session due in the Grand Chapter Office.

## CALL THE GRAND CHAPTER OFFICE

**Ritual Assistants List:** Please keep in mind as you prepare for your Installations that Nebraska has a “Ritual Assistants List”—those members across the state who have volunteered to assist Chapters in need of help with Ritual work. If you’d like your name added to this list please contact the Grand Chapter office.

**Introduction Cards:** If you will be planning to do introductions at Installation or any special meeting that you have, an updated set of Introduction Cards is available. Call the Grand Chapter office for a set. The cards are similar to those brought out by your District Grand Supervisor last year at her School of Instruction.

**Call the Grand Chapter Office—402-727-8644 or 800-832-9320**

**We are here to help you in any way we can!**