

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Volume X Number IX ~February, 2010

From our tree



Don't we look INTELLIGENT this month? We have all been to School—the School of Instruction for the District Grand Supervisors hosted by Trinity Chapter No. 299. We sat up front again and watched as they listened and wrote and walked and talked. And, it was warm inside, so we were happy birds for sure. One of those nice Supervisors will be coming to your Chapter soon. They did a coin march at the school for the benefit of the Salvation Army, and a total of \$56.49 was collected. Sister Billie wants you to keep sending in your money for the Salvation Army and be sure you send in your receipts for tangible items you took to the Salvation Army (be sure there is an estimated value on the receipts!)

Curtis, Christie, Ring, Ding and Ling

Haiti Relief Fund

To all Chapters and Members:

Our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Rennie Ofton has informed us that the General Grand Chapter has established a Haiti Relief Fund. Those Chapters and individuals who wish to contribute funds for the people of Haiti may send their donations to the Grand Chapter office and those funds will be forwarded to the General Grand Chapter to be included with funds from other jurisdictions to assist the people of Haiti. Please make checks payable to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska and designate the “Haiti Relief Fund” as the charity.

EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

Deadline for Loan Applications is April 30th. A new brochure telling about the Loan Fund is enclosed with this OES News. Please pass it along to any member interested in educational loans.

Duck Hunting Season is Open



Any Eastern Star Brother who is interested in serving as a Grand Duck at the Grand Chapter Installation of Officers on May 13, 2010, is asked to please call Candy Martin (402-502-0120, daytime or 402-727-4048 after 6:30 pm.) You will be required to wear a black tux. What is a Grand Duck? They are the team of Brothers who place and remove the chairs for the ceremony of Installation.

From the Board of Grand Trustees

Please remember that any Past Matron or Past Patron who may be interested in the position of Grand Secretary may request information from the Grand Trustees regarding salary and benefits relating to the position. Any interested Past Matron or Past Patron may submit a resume which will be furnished to the voting members prior to the election of Grand Officers at the Grand Chapter Session next May. If you have questions you may call the Grand Chapter office at 402-727-8644 or Brother Mike Donham, Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees at 402-558-9032.

JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE:

Deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered at the next Grand Chapter Session: FEBRUARY 10, 2010.

ESTARL COMMITTEE:

Deadline for ESTARL Applications is March 1, 2010. Please help us notify those who may need funds for attending seminary of this important deadline.

Please note: Information for the 2010-2011 Scholarship Program is included with this mailing—hope you plan to participate!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

What is in your Membership Tool Box?



Let's add a Community Service Event.

Think about our Grand Chapter projects, your Worthy Matron and Patron's projects, the projects of our Youth Organizations. Maybe your Chapter would like to sponsor a project to help an organization in your community, a food bank, military servicemen, a retirement center or a homeless shelter.

Think about inviting other Masonic organizations to join you with sponsoring the event.

Think about doing the event out in your community. Instead of getting people to come to our Masonic Centers, move outside your “comfort level” and go out to the people.

Discuss whether or not you would like Chapter members dressed in shirts that identify the organization.

Once you have selected your Community Service Event, ask for help from the community. Include non – members as workers at your event. Give them the opportunity to see who we are and what we do by role-modeling and including them. Many people like to volunteer and get involved.

Advertise for workers to help in church bulletins, newspapers, websites, the organization you are serving, etc.

During that “refreshment and fellowship” time you will, of course have some information about your chapter to give to the non-member volunteers. You may even ask for contact information from the non-member volunteers, so you can contact them about future events, send invitations to other open chapter events, maybe a complimentary ticket to a fundraiser, etc.

A Community Service Event – Get Out Into the Community! Get 'er dun!

A Request:

We would like some feedback. If you have used some of the Membership Tools we have been providing, please let us know how it's going. Which Tools were helpful, which ones weren't, what else can we help you with. Please take a few minutes and send your feedback to Ellen Ott at aeott@hotmail.com.

EASTERN STAR JOURNAL COMMITTEE



Sister Jill Ramsey, PGM, member of the General Grand Chapter Eastern Star Journal Committee wants to encourage all of you to purchase a subscription to the ESJ. Rates are \$15 for 1 year; \$26 for 2 years; \$36 for three years. The winter issue will arrive soon and contains two articles from Nebraska. Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is March 15th. Our Worthy Grand Matron has appointed a committee to assist members with articles and pictures for the ESJ: Barbara Wood, Imperial; Dian Larson, Hastings; Melva Kube, Norfolk, Isobel Taylor, Omaha; Bridget Anderson, Lincoln. They will be happy to assist you with subscriptions or submitting articles. A "Journal Challenge" for this triennium from Sister Jill: To have each Eastern Star Chapter get 15% or more ESJ subscriptions each year of the Triennium. For questions contact any member of the committee or Jill Ramsey at 402-498-2821 or email jillramsey@tconl.com. Visit the ESJ website at: journal@easternstar.org. Mail subscriptions to Eastern Star Journal, International Eastern Star Headquarters, 1618 New Hampshire Ave. NE, Washington DC 20009. More information will appear in later issues of the OES News.



Once again it is time to remember to file your Form 990-N online. The information for 2009 must be filed between Jan 1 and May 15, 2010 at www.irs.gov/efile. Do it soon so you won't forget. Every Chapter must file.

Enclosed with this OES News

- ❖ The information and forms for the 2010-2011 Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Committee and the Board of Grand Trustees have approved \$500 scholarships again for the coming year.
- ❖ An informational tri-fold from the Educational Loan Fund Committee. Please hand this to any members who may have relatives in or about to begin college. Call the Grand Chapter office for more copies of this brochure.
- ❖ Brochure and reservation form for a fun get together with Iowa Eastern Star. This is being sent at this time because the deadline for reservations for this June 4-6 weekend is March 15th. There are many fun activities planned—get a friend and plan to attend.



Grains from the Past Preserving the Past; Preparing for the future— Having just concluded Nebraska's School of Instruction, I thought it might be interesting to visit one of our past years when Eastern Star was at its height in membership, so I just chose a proceedings book from the 50's—1957. In preparation for the supervision of the 44,408 members of the 262 Chapters in Nebraska, Supervisors were divided into 26 districts. Each Sister supervised ten or more Chapters. In 1956 a revision had been made to the Book of Instruction. Worthy Grand Matron Lorene Peterson gave her loving thanks for "the long hard hours of labor given so unselfishly by the Supervisors..." While our numbers are now much smaller, we continue to have dedicated District Grand Supervisors who do spend long hard hours preparing to instruct the Chapters assigned to them and I hope you join me in extending my thanks and appreciation to all of them—and I'm praying for good weather and "joyful noises" at Chapter schools across the state in the coming months.

THE OES CARDINAL CALENDAR

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH NEWS BY FEB. 15, 2010

Reminder: Remember to send information on your Chapter's events to Gwen Hurst-Anderson: pengwensrule@gmail.com and she will enter your events on the website's Masonic Calendar.

- Feb 3-6 Grand Lodge, Holiday Inn, Midtown, Grand Island—take an item for the Youth Silent Auction!!
- Feb. 10th Resolutions to be presented at the 2010 Session due in the Grand Chapter Office.
- Feb 13th Open house in honor of Ruby Foley's 100th Birthday, to be held in the Chapter room (on circle drive) in Republican City from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Sister Ruby still serves her Chapter as Conductress. If you can't attend you may send Sister Ruby a card at 1103 3rd St., #12, Alma NE 68920
- Feb 21st Alpha Chapter Soup Supper, 4 to 6 pm, 1908 Franklin Street, Bellevue. Adults \$8; Children (2-10 yrs.) \$3
- Feb. 21st Fontenelle Chapter Spring Breakfast, 8 am-1 pm, 2424 S 135th Ave., Omaha. \$7.00 adults; \$4 children
- April 16-17 Nebraska-South Dakota Exchange. Reserve the dates for a fun weekend with our neighbors. More information will be out soon.
- June 1st Deadline for reservations for the Homecoming for Brother Frederick W. Clarke, Most Worthy Grand Patron, to be held July 4th at the Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich Nova Scotia. Call the Grand Chapter office for details.