

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 20 Number 1~~June, 2019

"Enduring Hope"



Jottings from Jan

Don't forget you can download Newsletters in color and find lots of information on our Web-site: <http://neoes.org>

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND MATRON: KARAN BIRDSALL

Karan was born in Riverton, Wyoming where her parents and brother had homesteaded in North Portal and farmed and raised livestock. The agricultural project was closed and the family relocated. Karan's parents chose a farm in Cass County, Nebraska. They farmed near Weeping Water where Karan attended Weeping Water schools and after high school graduation moved to Lincoln to attend UN-L. Karan graduated with a degree in Interior Design and worked for Miller and Paine. She and Tim met during their college years and were married in June of 1978. After graduation, Karan continued to work at Miller and Paine and Tim was certified as a locomotive engineer for Burlington Northern Railroad. They soon discovered that their two separate careers left them few opportunities to share time, so Karan changed her course and together they put efforts into expanding A and R Fine Arts, picture framing originally begun by Tim's grandfather. Tim retired from BNSF in 2016 and their time spent in the business has also scaled back as they spend time traveling for and serving Eastern Star. Tim and Karan have two daughters, Jennifer (Kevin) Borges

and Cassandra Birdsall who will wed Shawn Scherer June 29th. Jennifer is expecting the arrival of their first child in early October. Their daughters live in Omaha and are employed by the Westside Schools. Karan's Masonic family journey began with initiation into Weeping Water Assembly #5 Rainbow. Tim (Rainbow Dad and Rainbow Ambassador) and Karan (Grand Executive Board) continue their involvement with Rainbow. They are members of Temple Chapter #271, Lincoln. Karan served as Worthy Matron of Temple Chapter in 2010; Grand Organist for PGM Carol Hudkins and PGP Carl Plants, Grand Chaplain for PGM Sharlene Coulter and PGP Deloyt Young, and appointed Grand Warder by PGM Brenda McGuire and PGP Delbert Rogers for their "Beauty of the Stars" Grand Family. Karan thanks everyone for their support and encouragement and looks with enduring hope to the coming year.

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND PATRON: BRUCE A. BAKER

Bruce A. Baker was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska. After graduating from Hastings High School in 1972, Bruce took a summer job with the Union Pacific Railroad in transportation (riding trains). Susie Pitney graduated from Hastings Saint Cecelia in 1972 and she and Bruce were married on May 3rd, 1974. Bruce and Susie resided in Beatrice from 1977-1984 with Bruce working out of Marysville Kansas; both their children, son Rodney and daughter Lisa were born during that time. They returned to Hastings in 1984 where Bruce continued to work for the Union Pacific Railroad until

retiring in October 2014 with 42 years of service.

Bruce's Masonic career began in 1996 after being raised in Mid-West Lodge #317, serving as Worshipful Master in 2004. Bruce is a member of the York Rite Bodies, Scottish Rite-Hastings Valley, Tehama Shrine, National Sojourners-Omaha Chapter #19, Joseph Warren Camp-Heroes of '76, and served as Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska in 2011.

Bruce was initiated into Acacia Chapter #39, Order of the Eastern Star on July 12th, 1999 along with his father, Glen H. Baker, Sr. and his daughter, Lisa Baker, and served as Worthy Patron in 2003, along with his wife Susie, as Worthy Matron. Bruce was appointed Grand Sentinel by Sister Cheryl Beckius and Brother Gary Berhl, served as Grand Marshal for Sister Anita Sohm and Brother Jim Taylor and as Associate Grand Patron for Sister Candy Martin and Brother Harold "Terry" Terry.

Bruce enjoys spending time with his 9 grandchildren, their dog Charlie, his cars and in the Colorado Mountains. Bruce and Susie recently spent a month in Europe and Scotland and look forward to returning one day soon.

Bruce feels blessed to have Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Karan Birdsall as a partner, and is looking forward to the Enduring Hope Grand Family events, and has great expectations for our "Star Dogs" and the future of the Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star.



Thank You:

A "carload" of thanks to all of the participants who marched in the "Legacy of Service" formations. As you noticed, we simplified and shortened the formations; we hope this added to your enjoyment. We also extend special thanks to Brother Albert Fisher for the sound effects and animated "car" video and to the General Arrangements Committee for once again making our every wish their command. We certainly couldn't do any of it without all of you.

Your humble March Directors,
Bev Donham and Cyn Norman

Thank you to the Nebraska Masonic Home for once again providing coffee, tea, water and of course cookies. The goodies are really appreciated. We also appreciate you setting up a table so the membership can learn more about our wonderful Home!



Our Children's Home program is always a highlight at Grand Chapter. The band is doing such a marvelous job. Thank you to Ron and the board for manning a table and for answering questions concerning the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children.

Lost & Found:

A gavel was found by the Younes staff. Please contact the Grand Chapter office if you lost a gavel at Grand Chapter.

THE "ENDURING HOPE" CALENDAR

**(As space permits in the newsletter - I will try to list your Chapter Events)
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY NEWS BY JUNE 10**

- Jun 2 Reception for Grand Officers, 2:00-4:00 pm, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 332 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln
- Jun 7-9 Rainbow Grand Assembly at Doane Campus in Crete
- Jun 26-29 Job's Daughters Grand Session at Younes Conference Center in Kearney
- Jul 12-14 DeMolay Conclave, Hastings
- Jul 13 Christmas in July Vendor event, 9:00-3:00, Papillion Masonic Center, 101 W Centennial Road, Vendors \$25.00 a table
- Jul 26-28 Five-State Gathering, Sioux Falls, SD
- Jul 28 Trinity #299, Corn Feed, 11:00-1:00, 2424 S 135th Avenue, Omaha
- Aug 10 4-H Achievement Day at Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
- Sep 15 Nebraska Masonic Home Caring Club Dinner 2:00
- Sept 26-27, 2020 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference, Kearney
- Oct 6 Trinity #299, OES Steak Fry, 4:00-7:00

Enclosed with this OES News:

- Star Dogs for Saltdogs flyer
- Five-State Gathering in Sioux Falls, SD
- Service & Therapy Dogs request form
- Grand Officer List with addresses

~~~~ YOU CAN POST YOUR EVENTS ON THE NEBRASKA OES WEB-SITE CALENDAR~~~~

**Visit us on the web at [neoes.org](http://neoes.org). See the Eastern Star Calendar by clicking on "Calendar"**