

# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 25 Number 11~April 2026

*“150 Years of Loving One Another”*



Jottings from  
Jan: A few  
reminders for  
Grand Chapter:

- (1) Make your housing arrangements.
- (2) Mail in your Pre-registration form.
- (3) Don't forget: Credentials, Dues Receipts, Past Grand Matron and Past Grand Patron Cards.
- (4) Bring your basket for the silent auction.

The price of postage continues to rise and it seems like we are getting a lot of returned mail. Once we get the correct address we have to resend the mail which costs Grand Chapter double. We are requesting that the secretaries and anyone that has a change of address, email, phone number or name to please let us know when it happens.

Thank you for your help!

Jan & Shellie

**" Welcome to April!! With the changing of the season from Winter to Spring the dragonfly reminds us to embrace change and navigate life's challenges with grace. Dragonflies are considered messengers from the spirit world, offering protection and guidance. Dragonflies are not just beautiful insects; they carry deep spiritual meaning and are symbols of HOPE, growth and blessings.**

**As we are gearing up for our "150 Years of Loving One Another" Grand Session, we remind you that the deadline for registration is April 8. You can find the registration materials on our Nebraska OES website or call the Grand Office if you need assistance. If you would like to join in the "Loving One Another" Choir please contact Br. Jim Carlton at [jcarlton1945@gmail.com](mailto:jcarlton1945@gmail.com). We would love to have a large choir this year. A great way to support the WGM and WGP projects is by donating a basket to the Silent Auction. Please connect with Sisters Deanne Grant and Angie**

**Keck and Brother John Grant when you arrive at the Younes Center.**

**If you are a Grand Representative and planning to participate at Grand Chapter please email Sr. Gloria at [gloriawgm2526@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriawgm2526@yahoo.com) for information. We would love to see you participate. We welcome your candidates! If you have a candidate that we could initiate at Grand Chapter please let WGM Gloria know. The candidate would need to be balloted on in April. We invite you ALL to attend our 150 Years of Loving One Another Grand Session May 12-14 in Kearney. We have had a wonderful year celebrating all of you during this 150<sup>th</sup> year. Our District Grand Supervisors have been traveling the State visiting each of your Chapters. Thank you for Welcoming them and your hospitality. We appreciate your focus on our beautiful ritualistic work and attention to detail. During April We enjoyed attending Grand Yorkrite and our fellowship there. Also, Kansas Grand Chapter which is always a great time. Kansas also**

celebrated 150 years this year and we congratulate them on a wonderful year. WGM and WGP Gloria and Dennis, and Sr. Jan Grand Secretary attended a Summit sponsored by MW Grand Master Mike Jones where much great conversation was shared and planning for a strong future of Nebraska Masonic groups. Please look for more to come and events where we can all join together and make our Masonic Family strong.

***Star Love and Loving One Another, Gloria & Dennis***

Reminder: Please be aware that scammers are constantly at work to see what information they can get from unsuspecting people. Grand Chapter and our Grand Officers will not request personal gift cards or cash. If the message says, "Are you available?" or asks for your help with a certain

individual who may be a victim of a serious illness—double check the email address of the sender. If it is not the address of the person it says, then it probably is a scam. Delete it before responding to the request, and if possible, block the contact.

**Special Projects:** *OES Star Dogs of NE Inc. and Road Runners*



**THE "STARGAZER" SCHEDULE**



PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MAY NEWS BY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

- Apr 1 Educational Loan applications due
- Apr 1 Masonic Youth Scholarships due
- May 1 Notification must be received at Grand Chapter Office for the High School Scholarships
- Apr 3 Queen Esther #1, Good Friday salad luncheon, 11:00-2:00 \$10.00 Eat in or take out, Masonic Lodge, 1104 Central Ave, Nebraska City
- Apr 16-18 Grand York Rite Annual Communication, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- May 12-14 Grand Chapter at Younes Conference Center in Kearney**
- Jun 12-14 Rainbow Grand Assembly, Marriot Event Center, South Sioux City
- Jun 23-27 Job's Daughters Grand Session, Kearney
- Aug 15 (All-Masonic) Masonic Gala Celebrating 250 years of Freedom and Independence, 6:00 pm, Lincoln Scottish Rite Masonic Center

**Enclosed with this OES News:**

- 🐾 Resolutions & Standing
- 🐾 Resume for Grand Secretary
- 🐾 Chapter History Form

**Visit us on the web at: [neoes.org](http://neoes.org)**

**Call the Grand Chapter Office at 402-937-7056 or [nebraskaoes@msn.com](mailto:nebraskaoes@msn.com)**

Resolution 01-26  
Grand Chapter of Nebraska  
Order of the Eastern Star

Bylaws, Section 42, IMHOFF AWARD, which currently reads:

Section 42. IMHOFF AWARD,

- (1) The Grand Chapter of Nebraska has instituted an award named the Imhoff Medal (named for the first Worthy Grand Matron of Nebraska). This medal will be presented by the primary Chapter to that member of said Chapter who possesses the longest period of membership in good standing. In the case of a member holding plural membership, no Eastern Star member shall be entitled to hold more than one Imhoff Medal.
- (2) Physical possession of an original Award Certificate shall remain in the Chapter to display the same in a conspicuous and secure location indicating the date of issuance and to whom presented and any other information the Chapter may deem appropriate. The Eastern Star member to whom the Imhoff Medal has been presented shall receive the Imhoff Medal and an Award Certificate and be designated as the holder of the Imhoff Medal.
- (3) If two or more Eastern Star members shall have identical periods of membership and each shall also be otherwise qualified, each such Eastern Star member shall be entitled to be designated as the holder of the Imhoff Medal.
- (4) If a Chapter consolidates with another Chapter resulting in two members in that Chapter holding the Imhoff, both will remain Imhoff Medal holders until their death.
- (5) The Imhoff Medal shall remain the property of the recipient's family upon the death of the Imhoff Medal holder.

Shall be amended to read:

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(4) If a Chapter consolidates with another Chapter resulting in two members in that Chapter holding the Imhoff, both will remain Imhoff Medal holders until their death.

(5) The Imhoff Medal shall remain the property of the recipient's family upon the death of the Imhoff Medal holder.

(6) In the event that a Chapter (which has received members through Consolidation) has a member who has a greater number of years of membership and service to the Order than the existing Imhoff Award holders (of the Chapters that have consolidated), that member will also be entitled to receive an Imhoff Award.

RATIONALE: As our Chapters continue to experience a decrease in membership numbers and consolidations have become a way for Chapters to unite as one; it is still important to honor the longest serving member of the original Chapter, if their Initiation date supersedes the Initiation date of the Imhoff Award holder from the Chapter that requested the consolidation.

Example:

Chapter No 222 receives Consolidation Request

Chapter No 222 – Sister Betty Smith Initiated 7/10/1945 – Imhoff holder

Chapter No 222 – Sister Rebecca Jones Initiated 10/15/1946

Chapter No 444 – makes the request to Consolidate with Chapter No 222

Chapter No 444 – Sister Lucy Bell Johnson Initiated 4/7/1947 – Imhoff holder

Chapters consolidate – two Imhoff holders

Sister Betty Smith – Chapter No 222

Sister Lucy Bell Johnson – Chapter No 444

Sister Betty Smith passes away; leaving Sister Lucy Bell Johnson as the only Imhoff Award holder in Chapter No 222; but Sister Rebecca Jones (an original member of Chapter No 222) has been a member longer than Sister Lucy Bell. Through no fault of her own, Sister Rebecca is not given the honor of being the recipient of the Imhoff Award.

*Beth Benson, PM*

*Geraldine Wilcox, PAM*

*Susan K. Anderson, PGM*

*Beverly Donham PM Locality # 299*

*Patty L. Kirby PGM*

**Resolution 02-26**  
**Grand Chapter of Nebraska**  
**Order of the Eastern Star**

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- (4) If a Chapter consolidates with another Chapter resulting in two members in that Chapter holding the Imhoff, both will remain Imhoff Medal holders until their death.
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Shall be amended to read:

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- (4) If a Chapter consolidates with another Chapter resulting in two members in that Chapter holding the Imhoff, both will remain Imhoff Medal holders until their death.
- (5) The Imhoff Medal shall remain the property of the recipient's family upon the death of the Imhoff Medal holder.
- (6) Grand Honors are given to the recipient of Imhoff Award only at the time of the presentation of their Imhoff Medal.

RATIONALE: The Imhoff Award is a significant honor given to a very select group of Nebraska OES members. The Imhoff Award is equal in importance, to the honor given to those members who are recipients of 50 or 75 year membership pins. The Imhoff Award recipient should also be entitled to receive the Grand Honors at the time of presentation of their Imhoff Medal.

*L. Marie Rasmussen P. G. M.*

*Marcia Donly, WM, Acacia Chapter #39, Associate  
Grand Conductress:*

*Beth Benson, PM, Electa Chapter #8*

03-26

Section 42 Imhoff Award

Purpose of Resolution: To provide award for the Member in the State of Nebraska that holds the longest Membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

Be it resolved that the following resolution be made to Section 42 – Imhoff Award. Which currently reads:

Section 42. IMHOFF AWARD (1) The Grand Chapter of Nebraska has instituted an award named the Imhoff Medal (named for the first Worthy Grand Matron of Nebraska). This medal will be presented by the primary Chapter to that member of said Chapter who possesses the longest period of membership in good standing. In the case of a member holding plural membership, no Eastern Star member shall be entitled to hold more than one Imhoff Medal.

(2) Physical possession of an original Award Certificate shall remain in the Chapter to display the same in a conspicuous and secure location indicating the date of issuance and to whom presented and any other information the Chapter may deem appropriate. The Eastern Star member to whom the Imhoff Medal has been presented shall receive the Imhoff Medal and an Award Certificate and be designated as the holder of the Imhoff Medal.

(3) If two or more Eastern Star members shall have identical periods of membership and each shall also be otherwise qualified, each such Eastern Star member shall be entitled to be designated as the holder of the Imhoff Medal. (4) If a Chapter consolidates with another Chapter resulting in two members in that Chapter holding the Imhoff, both will remain Imhoff Medal holders until their deaths.

(5) The Imhoff Medal shall remain the property of the recipient's family upon the death of an Imhoff Medal holder.

**To add:**

(6) The Grand Chapter shall award the member in the State that holds the longest membership in good standing in Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star, This award shall be called:

**The GOLD IMHOFF AWARD.**

The Worthy Grand Matron or her designated representative shall present the award to the recipient

(6)a If two or more Eastern Star members shall have identical periods of membership and each shall also be otherwise qualified, each such Eastern Star member shall be entitled to be designated as the holder of the GOLD Imhoff Medal.

Rationale: To recognize the member in the State with the longest Membership.

Gloria Guern WGM  
Gary L Babel PGP  
Pamela K Babel, PM, GJE  
Shirley, PGM  
P.P.

**2026**  
**STANDING RULES OF THE GRAND CHAPTER**  
**OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

1. The Tenets of the Order and the Obligations of the Order, previously taken, shall strictly govern the actions of the delegates and members at all times.
2. Parliamentary Authority: "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern this Grand Chapter insofar as it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of Grand Chapter or with these Standing Rules.
3. Subject only to the right of timely appeal in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, all parliamentary rulings and decisions shall be final when made by the chair, that is, by the Worthy Grand Matron or by the Worthy Grand Patron, when requested to preside over the Session by the Worthy Grand Matron.
4. A Proponent, a signer of the Resolution, must present their Resolution for consideration by the assembly.
5. Debate and Voting Rights: Only delegates properly registered with the Credential Committee by noon on Wednesday shall be entitled to make motions, make nominations for offices, take the floor for debate, and vote.
6. Addressing the Grand Chapter Session: To obtain the floor to address the Session, the registered delegate shall be present at the nearest microphone, address the presiding officer, state her or his name, title, and Chapter, and wait for recognition by the presiding officer to proceed. If speaking to a question properly before the Session, the delegate shall state whether she or he is for or against the question.
7. Nomination shall be made for all elective offices and if there is not more than one such nomination, election may be had by acclamation. If there is more than one nomination for an office, voting will be by written ballot.
8. There will be no demonstrations, clapping, or cheering in the Session Assembly during the election process, especially during and following the announcement of the result of the ballot. It is the duty of the Chair to strictly enforce this rule.
9. The Jurisprudence Committee shall be required to read:
  - A. The proposed change
  - B. The rationale for the change
  - C. The entire Bylaw section as amended.

OVER

10. Any delegate presenting a motion to amend a pending resolution must immediately present three copies thereof, in writing, to the Grand Secretary for use by the Chair and for the purpose of notation into the minutes of the Session.
11. Limitation on Debate: Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker on each question. The proponent of a pending question will be the first speaker recognized if she or he desires to speak to the question. There shall be no more than three delegates recognized to speak for the proposition and three delegates to speak against the proposition, except that the proponent may speak a second time for an additional two minutes before the vote is taken. No other delegate may speak more than once on the same question unless permission is granted by a two-third vote of the eligible voters or by the presiding officer.
12. Taking the Vote: When a vote is required to dispose of any Resolution or other business before the Session, the affirmative and negative of such vote shall be taken directly on the question and shall be adopted or passed by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members voting for approval.
13. Requesting a Ballot Vote: Upon motion, which is undebatable, properly made, seconded and adopted by majority vote, a ballot shall be required on any pending question. After such ballot has been closed, business shall proceed while the ballots are being counted. As soon as the ballot count is complete, the result shall be announced. The ruling of the Chairman of the Tellers regarding the validity of any of the ballots is final and not subject to appeal.
14. Nominations for any office do not require a second.

**Michelle (Shellie) R. Smith – Resume' for Grand Secretary**

38 Year member of Martha Washington Chapter #153, Lincoln Nebraska

**Work Experience**

Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star – Office Assistant – Oct 2024 - Present  
 Credit Specialist – Duncan Aviation – Credit Specialist – Dec 2019 – Oct 2024  
 Team Leader – Ace Rent-to-Own Corporate Office – Oct 2019 – Dec 2019  
 Director of Marketing – Ace Rent-to-Own Corporate Office – Oct 2016 – Oct 2018  
 Consumable Sales Manager – Norland International Inc. – Jun 2015 – Oct 2016  
 Office Manager – Norland International Inc. – Jul 2014 – Jun 2015  
 Accounts Receivable/Receptionist – Norland International Inc. – Dec 2013 – Jul 2014  
 Accounts Payable – Norland International Inc. – May 2013 – Dec 2013  
 Quality Assurance Manager – Nov 2011 – Dec 2012-Retired  
 Financial Management Superintendent – Aug 2008 – Nov 2011, GS-9  
 Lead Accounting Technician – May 2008 – Aug 2008 AFSC 6F091, GS-8  
 Budget Analyst – Feb 2008-May 2008 (Temporary upgrade), GS-9  
 Accounting Technician – Nebraska Air National Guard 1998-Feb 2008, GS-7  
 Information Management Specialist – Nebraska Air National Guard 1995-1998, GS-6  
 Military Pay Technician – Nebraska Air National Guard 1990-1995, GS-5  
 Military Pay Technician – Nebraska Army National Guard 1989-1990, GS-5

**Duties performed**

- \*Provide administrative support to the Grand Secretary in preparing for Grand Chapter, annual reports, and school of instruction.
- \*Created continuity book for duties performed.
- \*Began scanning documents to reduce paper maintained at Grand Chapter office.
- \*Monitors Grand Representatives to ensure requests are made, and process Grand Representative commissions when received in a timely manner.
- \*Open, review and prioritize incoming mail to determine action needed.
- \*Review, update and mail Grand Chapter forms when requested.
- \*Maintain a statewide OES membership database; to include 50/75 yr pin recipients.
- \*Continuously monitor chapter supplies to ensure supply on hand is sufficient to meet subordinate chapter needs.
- \*Invoice chapters for OES chapter forms, rituals, pins and books for chapter orders.
- \*Make weekly bank deposits.
- \*Make copies and compile monthly OES newsletters.
- \*Complete on-line USPS monthly bulk-mail form, and deliver to main post office.
- \*Maintain/organize Grand Chapter documents and paraphernalia at our storage unit.
- \*Record payments received into the Grand Chapter office for both state homes; and generate monthly reports as backup for check disbursements.
- \*Enter data monthly into spreadsheets for investment transactions.
- \*Process scholarships; by sending out initial information to chapters, documenting receipt of Verification of Enrollments and sending out checks to colleges.
- \*Create new customer accounts, and update existing accounts
- \*Post customer payments to accounts. (check, credit cards, and wire/ACH's)
- \*Compare cash posting reports to ensure payments are posted to proformas correctly.
- \*Process credit card payments for customers and employees.
- \*Created continuity book of instructions for current position.

- \*Primary person to write manual checks to cover expenses and client refunds.
- \*Submit and follow up on all insurance claims regarding buildings and vehicles.
- \*Reconcile all credit card accounts to ensure charges are legitimate and authorized and receipts are provided.
- \*Create monthly newsletters with pertinent information for all staff members.
- \*Maintain monthly, quarterly and annual budgets.
- \*Invoice customers; apply payments; process credit card payments; reconcile credit card reports; research delinquent customer accounts.
- \*Prepare shipping documents for domestic and international shipments
- \*Prepared and conducted monthly Finance Quality Assurance meetings.
- \*Performed monthly and quarterly random audits on completeness and correctness of payroll and accounting transactions; and establish steps to correct findings.
- \*Primary Customer Service Rep (CSR) for maintaining and reviewing all military personnel personal Government Travel Cards (GTC) for possible abuse usage.
- \*Performed analysis of historical spending trends on multiple Government Purchase Card accounts to ensure future correctness of payments can be met.
- \*Certified funds availability on spending documents to include quarterly and annual spending limitations.
- \*Processed SF 1081's to move funds from either one fiscal year or fund code to another to ensure funds are charged correctly.
- \*Provided financial advice, assistance, interpretation, budget and financial related matters; Utilized various computer software to produce financial reports.

### **Areas of responsibilities:**

- \*Military financial superintendent, supervised 7 members
- \*Assigns orally and in writing specific duties to each member with specific instructions
- \*Ensures subordinates comply with statutory and regulatory guidelines and meet necessary time requirements for specific tasks
- \*Monitor training requirements on all subordinates
- \*Review completed work for correctness and effectiveness in financial related duties
- \*Provide guidance on sensitive financial situations for all members
- \*Exercised judgment in interpreting financial related regulations, ensured subordinates follow specified guidance
- \*Created desktop guides for each enlisted area (military pay, civilian pay, accounting, travel pay, and customer service checklists)
- \*Monitored timeliness and correctness on pay transactions

### **Computer Experience:**

Extensive daily use in Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point, Air Force E-Publishing, Works daily in AS400 for Windows and DOS.

### **Education and Training:**

**Financial Management and Comptroller Journeyman Course – 1995**

**Non-Commissioned Officer Course – 1998**

**Financial Management and Services Craftsman Course – 1999**

**Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course – 2002**

**Contingency Training – 2006**

**Accounting Liaison Office Computer Training – 2007**

We will be putting together some information on our Chapters and the last 50 years. There is a 100 Year commemorative book out and we would like to build on that. We are asking the Chapters to send in information on your last 50 years.

Chapter Name / number / location \_\_\_\_\_

Have any Chapters consolidated with your Chapter since 1976? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have had a Worthy Grand Matron or Worthy Grand Patron Please submit information and highlights from their year.

Please share highlights and any history you would like to share:

Please return to Sr. Gloria WGM: [gloriawgm2526@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriawgm2526@yahoo.com);

Thank you

