

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

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“Rainbows of Kindness”



Jottings from Jan

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

Sisters and Brothers – It is such an honor to share thoughts with you as your Worthy Grand Matron. I hope that many of you who couldn't attend Grand Chapter in Kearney took the chance to watch live on Facebook. Thank you goes to the Trustees for purchasing the equipment and to Brother Albert Fisher and Sister Tiffany Westerholt for their technical expertise.

WGP Wayne and I are excited to get started with our Visitations and bring the message of Rainbows of Kindness. We hope that worst of the pandemic is behind us. We know that Sisters and Brothers have lost so loved ones and we mourn their loss. Others have been ill, and we are grateful that they are recovering. We are hoping that the vaccine and the scientific breakthroughs for treatments are bringing us to a brighter future.

Our first travels took us to Plainview for our Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Wayne Andreasen's reception. It was heartwarming to have members of several Chapters compliment Brother Wayne on his willingness to fill the Worthy Patron or Associate Patron stations and help with initiations. We enjoyed the beautiful weather for the Shrine Parade. Several of our Grand Family members followed the car that we road in and several others watched from the shade by the Kearney Masonic Lodge. The next day was a reception to congratulate Worthy Grand Matron

Laurie. It was also well attended and enjoyable. Thanks to Mount Vernon and Temple Chapters for hosting lovely receptions. Several members of our Grand Family attended Nebraska Grand Assembly, which was held in a new location, the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha. We are thrilled to be able to attend Grand Bethel this year at the Kearney Holiday Inn and look forward to a large Nebraska Eastern Star delegation there also.

Our first visitations will be held in Central City and Hastings which will include a reception for Sister Marsha Donley, serving as Grand Martha, and a belated reception for Sister Barb Crowe, who served PGM Dottie and PGP Dave as Grand Organist. The rest of June is spent with Omaha area Chapters; Humboldt, Bellevue, Beatrice and Brownville; followed by Utica, Milford, Columbus and Crete. In July, Our Grand Family will have the Lincoln area visitation with the Saltdogs game, KS/NE Reunion – held entirely in Kearney followed by 5-State and Nebraska DeMolay Conclave. A Busy and fun month.

When July pops up on my calendar and I think of Independence Day, fireworks, picnics, and, of course, patriotism. Patriotism is one of the essential virtues of Freemasonry and focuses on loyalty to our Country and our Democracy instead of political views and parties. Love of our country inspires Brothers and Sisters, men and women, to serve our country in its military and as first-responders. May we celebrate and appreciate all those who Serve, not just this month but always. We would not be FREE to safely have our family picnics, parade down our streets, shoot off the loudest and largest fireworks we can buy – preferably at a Masonic/Eastern Star fireworks stand, or many of the

other activities we could take for granted. Celebrate our Democracy! Star love – Laurie Sieg, WGM & Wayne Andreasen, WGP

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND MATRON LAURIE SIEG

Laurie was born at Bishop Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, where she later worked in her first professional job. She grew up in Wahoo with her Mom and Dad, Shirley and Carl Meese; sister Kathy and brothers John and Jim. After graduating from Wahoo High, Laurie began college at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She and Ken met the 1st day of freshman tests and began dating shortly after that. They were married after their sophomore years and continued their studies at NWU. Laurie completed her Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences and Medical Technology. After their graduation, Ken and Laurie moved to Omaha and Laurie began working in the laboratory of Clarkson Hospital. She continued working in the Transfusion Service and eventually added the Laboratory Information System to her responsibilities. Ken worked at Nebraska Wesleyan University as the Assistant VP and Director of Admissions for nearly 40 years. Laurie worked at Clarkson for 22 years and left to work for a series of Laboratory Information System companies. She eventually went back to blood banking at the Nebraska Community Blood Bank, in Lincoln. She retired after 13 years as the Quality Assurance Officer in 2009. Laurie and Ken have son, JD (John David), an NWU alum; daughter-in-law, Jolene, a UNL alum; grandson, Brandon, a UNO alum; and granddaughter, Taylor, a soon-to-be UNO alum. They have attended literally hundreds of athletic events

for all four family members – basketball, baseball, soccer, track. Ken coached JD's basketball team; JD coached both Brandon and Taylor and continued to start and coach in a basketball organization, the Omaha Grizzlies. Brandon has continued the coaching tradition for Omaha Sports Academy.

Ken and Laurie have enjoyed traveling – road trips and cruises. Laurie has been to all 50 states. Together they have been to several European countries.

Laurie joined the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Wahoo Assembly #25, eventually becoming Grand Worthy Advisor. She reacquainted with Rainbow in the late 1990s and has been a volunteer since then. She joined Temple Chapter #271 in 2000 as a Majority Rainbow Girl. Ken eventually joined Lancaster Lodge and Temple Chapter also. Laurie served as Conductress for Ken's initiation. She served as Grand Adah in PGM Bev and PGP Jim's "Stars Across the Prairie" Grand Family in 2013-2014.

PGM Judy Wehrbein appointed her as a District Grand Supervisor and she served for 8 years.

Laurie is thrilled to be serving as your Worthy Grand Matron and looking forward to visiting Chapters and sharing with our members.

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND PATRON

WAYNE ANDREASEN

I grew up on a farm 6 miles east of St. Edward, NE, graduated from St. Edward High School and attended Wayne State College for 2 years.

After Sue and I were married we bought a farm 1 mile east of my parents, where we raised corn, soybeans and hogs.

We have 4 children, one daughter, Karri and 3 sons, Michael, Jamon and Bradley.

Due to health reasons, we sold the farm in 2002, moved to Pierce and later, Norfolk. I worked with my son in-law in his business,

installing furnaces and air conditioners. I retired in February.

Sue and I have 17 grandchildren that we enjoy spending time with and attending their activities. They keep us busy in a good way. I also enjoy watching college sports, building model train layouts, camping and fishing.

We joined Sylvia Chapter #80, Order of the Eastern Star in 1976 and I served as Worthy Patron and Associate Patron there multiple times. When we moved to Pierce, we joined Mt. Vernon Chapter #84 in Plainview, where I still am a member, serving as Worthy Patron this year. I enjoy doing ritualistic work and being with all of our wonderful Sisters and Brothers. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve with Sister Laurie this year as her Worthy Grand Patron.



THE "KINDNESS" CALENDAR



PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AUGUST NEWS BY JULY 10TH

- Jul 4 Happy Independence Day
- Jul 9 Lincoln visitation and Salt Dog Game
- Jul 9 Martha Washington #153, 4:30-7:00 Monthly dinner, pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, watermelon, \$12.00
- Jul 15-17 NE/KS Exchange in Kearney
- Jul 16 AkSarBen #277 Stars Got Talent, cost 12.00 for contestants includes registration, lunch, 1 free raffle ticket, 10:30, Call Carol Reade for details and forms at 402-510-4128
- Jul 22-24 Friendship Exchange 5 State, Hannibal, Missouri, Riverboat cruise, dinner, skits, shopping, wineries, Mark Twain's Cave and beautiful scenery.
- Jul 22-24 DeMolay Conclave at Midtown Ramada Inn in Grand Island
- Jul 24 Alpha Chapter #325 Annual Bottle Auction
- Jul 30 4-H Achievement Day 10:00, complimentary Barbecue and Ice cream treats, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children, 2415 N. Main, Fremont
- Aug 27-28 NE State Fair Chip Event at Grand Island Fair Grounds. (Volunteers Needed)
- Oct 2 Trinity Chapter #299 Steak Fry 4:00-7:00
- Oct 7-9 Masonic Youth Leadership Conference at Holiday Inn in Kearney
- Oct 22 All-Committee meeting

Enclosed with this OES News:

- 🐾 Nebraska / Kansas Exchange
- 🐾 Nebraska Passport Information

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Call the Grand Chapter Office at 402-937-7056