

# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 26 Number 1~June 2026

*“Leap of Faith”*



Sharing from Shellie: A short note from Jan; I would like to say what an honor and privilege it has been working with all of you the last 16 years as Grand Secretary! Thank you for the high honor of voting for me to become Grand Secretary Emeritus. That is a title that I am very proud to receive. I'm so happy that the Grand Chapter Office will be in the very capable hands of Sister Shellie Smith, Grand Secretary. Many thanks for the retirement reception at Grand Chapter. Thank you for the Retirement Love Gift. Star love, Jan Thoman, PGM and Grand Secretary Emeritus

**Meet your new Worthy Grand Matron:** Worthy Grand Matron Andy Stewart joined Eastern Star in Sutherland and was initiated on February 9th, 1983. She has held almost every office that a woman can hold during her time in Star. She has been Worthy Matron multiple times in two different Chapters. While her daughter was in Job's, she was Director



of Epochs. Andy and her late husband have three children. She has 5 grandchildren. She graduated from Mid Plains Community College with an Associate Arts Degree and from the Medical Laboratory Technician program, there. She then became a Certified Medical Assistant through the American Association of Medical Assistants. She worked for Dr Dan Nguyen for almost 30 years, in both the Sutherland and North Platte offices. Then when the practice in Sutherland was sold as Dr Dan retired, She worked for Family First Health Center where she helped start the office as only one employee along with the

Nurse Practitioner. There she worked for 14 years before retiring at the end of December 2025. She loves frogs and horses, doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles and reading all sorts of books. She loves to go on motorcycle rides with her partner, Randy and now has a bike of her own. She enjoys going to her grandkids functions as much as she can.

**Meet your new Grand Secretary:** Sister Shellie Smith is a member of Martha Washington Ch #153, in Lincoln NE. I was initiated March 3, 1988. I have held several offices in our chapter, mostly WM, Conductress and Adah. I'm married with two children, and 3 grandchildren; who live in Grimes IA. I retired from the NE Air National Guard as a full-time employee, Dec 2012 after 28 years of service. Since retiring, I've held multiple positions, all relating to finance. My interests are spending time with my family, decorating cookies, and riding my 2015 Streetglide Harley Davidson motorcycle.



## The "LEAP OF FAITH" SCHEDULE



- May 30 Area 1 Visitation
- May 31 Reception for WGM in North Platte, 2-4pm
- Jun 6 Shrine Bowl Parade and Game—Kearney
- Jun 7 Reception for WGP in Bellevue, 2-4pm
- Jun 12-14 Rainbow Grand Assembly, Marriot Event Center, South Sioux City
- Jun 20 Area 2 Visitation
- Jun 23-27 Job's Daughters Grand Session, Kearney
- Jul 18 Area 3 Visitation
- Jul 24-26 5 State Get Together—Leavenworth KS
- Aug 1 DeMolay Conclave—Grand Island
- Aug 5-9 Wyoming Grand Chapter—Casper, WY
- Aug 7-8 Kansas/Nebraska Exchange—McCook
- Aug 14-15 International Peace Garden Trip
- Aug 22 Area 4 Visitation
- Aug 29 Area 5 Visitation

### **Enclosed with this OES Newsletter:**

General Grand Chapter letter regarding International Headquarters tours  
2026-2027 Grand Officer and Companion List



**Please visit our website for information regarding the  
*5 State Get Together*, to be held in Leavenworth KS from 24-26  
Jul, or contact our office to receive paper copies**

**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)**



General Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star  
Established November 1876

All tours are by appointment. Tour requests must be emailed to the International Headquarters Administrator at [Lvonweigel@easternstar.org](mailto:Lvonweigel@easternstar.org)

Tour dates are tentative until confirmed by the International Headquarters Administrator within two months of the tour date.

**LARGE TOUR GROUPS OF FIFTEEN (15) OR MORE – Monday thru Saturday**

1. A suggested donation of \$10.00 per person is encouraged and appreciated for non-Eastern Star or non-Masonic members.
2. The tour date and estimated number of participants must be scheduled and approved by the International Headquarters Administrator by email at least thirty (30) days in advance. The tour group must send a deposit of forty-five dollars (\$45.00 US\$), payable to the General Grand Chapter, OES, at least fifteen (15) days before the tour date. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable for no-shows; it will otherwise be refunded after the tour. The tour coordinator's cell phone number is mandatory. The tour time must be no later than 10:00 am on the scheduled date.

**SMALL TOUR GROUPS OF FEWER THAN FIFTEEN (15) – Monday thru Friday**

1. No small-group tours will be scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays.
2. The tour request must be sent by email and must be approved in writing by the International Headquarters Administrator at least ten (10) days in advance.
3. Tours are scheduled for Monday through Friday, no later than 10:00 A.M.
4. A suggested \$10.00 per person donation is encouraged and appreciated for non-Eastern Star or non-Masonic members.
5. When scheduling the tour, please provide the name of the tour coordinator, the tour coordinator's contact cell phone number, the Chapter name, the town, and the state (if applicable).

**ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

1. An unscheduled tour request **may be declined** due to previously scheduled meetings, building repairs, maintenance, or cleaning.
2. Food or beverage services will not be provided.
3. If unable to arrive at the reserved time, the International Headquarters Administrator must be informed of the estimated arrival time or the tour cancellation by calling 240-618-2243.

Billie Bradfield  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

Larry von Weigel  
International Headquarters Administrator

# GRAND OFFICERS & COMPANIONS

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