

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 21 Number 1~~June, 2021

“Oceans of Possibilities”



Jottings from Jan

Thank you to each and everyone that had a part in helping make Grand Chapter happen and for making it a success. Once the decision was made that we could move forward with meeting in person, the safety of each member was at upmost importance. Thank you for understanding that things would need to look different all the way from registration to the bubble concept. What a joy to be able to share all the open meetings of Grand Chapter on our facebook page and allow all those people that couldn't attend the session in person, to be able to watch. The Younes staff as always did a wonderful job. Without Karan and Bruces guidance and forward thinking we never could have pulled it off and made it such a huge success. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and every one of you!

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND MATRON DOTTIE ARENT

Dottie was born in the Dodge County Community Hospital in Fremont, NE and raised on a farm near Hooper along the Elkhorn river with her sister and their parents. She attended a brand new one room rural school from K – 8th Grades. The school had a finished basement with a kitchen and a concrete fallout shelter. She started school with two

neighbor girls in Kindergarten and they continued together until graduation from Hooper High School in 1965. She was active in her Church, 4-H groups, Band, chorus, and piano. She also enjoyed reading about nursing and travel, baking, sewing, caring for and showing her calves, roller skating and playing softball. She started her College education in Home Economics at UNL, but after a summer mission job as a nurse aide in a hospital in Chicago decided that nursing was her first love. That fall, she dressed up in her nurse aide uniform as a joke and went to visit a roommate recovering from a surgery, when the roommate's cousin and some of his friends dropped in, she met the love of her life. However, she was so embarrassed that he had to remind her later that that was the occasion when they first met.

She Graduated from Bryan Hospital School of Nursing as an RN in 1971 and a week later she married Keevin Arent and became a “sandhillier”. She started working as a clinic nurse in Bassett NE and helped to move that clinic to a new facility in Ainsworth. In 1972, She started working at the Brown County Hospital. In 1991, she took on teaching LPN classes from MidPlains Community College in Valentine parttime. In 1993 she graduated with her BSN from UNMC and began Home Health nursing with the Cherry County Hospital at Valentine. The agency covered a 100-mile radius and with their daughter starting to college in Greenville IL, she managed to put 50,000 miles on their car in 18 months! She earned her MSN degree from SDSU in December 1997. In 1998, she began working as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) at the Ainsworth Family Clinic parttime and the Cherry County Hospital as an RN Parttime. In 2014 she began working as an FNP at a

Quick Care Clinic at HY-Vee in Kearney and retired in August of 2017.

She and her husband, Keevin, were blessed with one daughter Christina Lynne Cook. Who after several changes in her college major also became an RN. After several years of travel nursing, she has settled down in Anchorage, AK with her two children, Jessamyn 10 and Decker 9. She has been a neonatal intensive care nurse and is now getting a certification in Dependency Counseling. The children are in a Rilke school and are learning German along with their other studies and activities. Living along a busy highway, they have lost several dogs over the early years. When their daughter was little and they spent more time at home, they had a miniature dachshound for 9 years. They have had many kitties, but no house cats since their daughter started HS and have found that they are not home enough but they do have plenty of kitties outside who are glad to see them when they come home.

While they were engaged and before they were married, a good friend, Mike Hitchcock, introduced Keevin to the Masonic work and he and Joe McBride's great uncle, Max Crooker worked with him to complete his degrees and become a Master Mason before the wedding in 1971. He became Master of Silver Cord Lodge #224 of Ainsworth in 1976. He also served as Associate Bethel Guardian in 1977 and 1978.

Dottie was initiated into Bethany Chapter #113 in November, 1973. She has served as Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Chaplain, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron and Worthy Matron and repeated several of these offices several times. She is currently serving as Ruth. In 1983, Past Grand Matron Betty

Mabon, appointed her as Grand Representative to Georgia and a Past Grand Guardian was working with her to take on the Guardianship of the local Bethel. That summer, they took a family car trip to the Georgia Grand Chapter. It was an amazing time.

About 3 weeks after they got home, while Keevin was trying to trouble shoot a big round baler for his employer and to catch up on his baling he got his hand caught in the belts of the baler but with the help of a passing NDOT worker and a neighbor he was able to keep his life. Their lives changed dramatically but they were fortunate to have good friends and family around. And Dottie learned to lean on her faith and her music.

The daughter of a close nursing friend became a missionary to Nigeria. The young lady began raising funds for her to begin her work. One of Dottie's very good friends, Leila Crawford accompanied Dottie and they decided to try giving a concert to raise money for this young friend. They spent many hours practicing the music from Sandy Patty's newest album and then put on their first concert. It was successful (mostly because of the excellent pianist) and thus when the new album came out they started practicing again. They eventually did three concerts. The young missionary spent nearly 20 years in Nigeria and her children were all born there.

Dottie was appointed as a DGS in 2008 by Betty Garwood, PGM and continued to serve in this capacity through 2013 and again from 2016 through 2018. She was appointed as Grand Warder by Cheryl Beckius, PGM and Gary Brhel, PGP; served as Associate Grand Conductress for Anita Sohm, PGM and Jim Taylor, PGP; served as Grand Conductress for Candy Martin, PGM and Harold "Terry" Terry, PGP and as Associate Grand Matron for Karan Birdsall, PGM and Bruce Baker, PGP.

Dottie is a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Ainsworth. She and her husband

joined the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council in 1998 and the National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in 2001. They actively followed much of the trail together from Monticello, where the idea started to Philadelphia, where Lewis was educated for the trail, Louisville, St Charles, Kansas City, Omaha, Pierre and on out west thru Montana, Washington, and Oregon and back. They visited their travel nursing daughter in Yuma, Tuscan, and Bakersfield and on over 15 trips to Anchorage for birthdays, Christmas, and the Nutcracker Ballet.

She enjoys watching baseball and football, listening to music, flowers and gardening and travel. But she has given up many of her hobbies for various reasons.

Having Worthy Grand Patron, Brother David Wetrosky as her partner has been a wonderful blessing for Dottie and for our beautiful Order. The seas have been stormy at times this past year but he has remained calm and directed through it all and we are looking forward to a wonderful voyage with the "Oceans of Possibilities" Grand Family and the members of our Grand Chapter.

MEET YOUR WORTHY GRAND PATRON

DAVID A. WETROSKY

David was born and raised in Akron, Iowa (a town 30 miles north of Sioux City on the South Dakota border). After graduating from Akron High School, David began college at Iowa State University in 1976. David earned his Chemical Engineering degree in 1980 and began work for Omaha Public Power District. David held several positions at OPPD throughout his 37-year career for the company including Plant Engineer, Operations Superintendent, Manager – Operations Engineering and Plant Manager – North Omaha Power Station. Most of those years were at the power station located south of Nebraska City. David retired from OPPD in 2017. He immediately began his second career in the Meat

Market at Fareway Grocery in Nebraska City and is still working there on a full-time basis.

David married Marsha Mohlman in 1989 and have lived in Nebraska City since that time. They have 3 children (Alex, Audra, and Ava). Alex and Ava continue to live in Nebraska City. Audra married Matt Heskett in 2020 and now lives in Auburn, NE with their dog Jammer. David and Marsha also have a dog named Nala and 3 cats (Simba, Meeko and Ellie).

David's Masonic career began in 1986 after being raised in Western Star Lodge No. 2 in Nebraska City. He was Worshipful Master of that lodge in 1993, 1995 and 2019 and was Secretary of the Lodge for many years. He has been a Deputy Grand Custodian since 2017. He is also a member of Tangier Shrine Temple in Omaha and York Rite bodies in Plattsmouth.

David was initiated into Queen Esther Chapter #1, Order of the Eastern Star, on April 25, 2002. He has served as Worthy Patron of Queen Esther Chapter several times during that period. He also joined Palmyra Chapter #257 in 2018. David was appointed Grand Chaplain by Sister Judy Wehrbein and Brother Alvin Benemerito and Grand Sentinel by Sister Anita Sohm and Brother Jim Taylor, served as Grand Marshal for Sister Candy Martin and Brother Harold "Terry" Terry and as Associate Grand Patron for Sister Karan Birdsall and Brother Bruce Baker.

David enjoys watching all sports particularly his alma mater Iowa State University Cyclones. David also stays busy being Treasurer for his Church and being a member of the Board of Public Works in Nebraska City. In his spare time (not very much lately), he enjoys working on stained glass projects.

David feels blessed to have Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Dottie Arent as his partner, and is looking forward to the Oceans of Possibilities Grand Family "Port of Call" events.



THE “OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES” CALENDAR
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY NEWS BY JUNE 10TH

- Jun 1-5 Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp at UNK in Kearney
- Jun 5 Shrine Bowl Parade in Kearney
- Jun 10-13 Grand Assembly at Doane University in Crete
- Jul 4 Happy Independence Day
- Jul 4 Oshkosh Hamburger Feed
- Jun12 Fish Fry at Martha Washington #153, Lincoln, drive up and honk event, \$12.00, fish, fried potatoes, baked beans or coleslaw, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
- Jun 16-19 Job’s Daughters Grand Session at Holiday Inn in Kearney
- Jul 17 Grand Officers Reception in Nebraska City from 2-4 pm, Masonic Center, 1104 Central Avenue
- Jul 18 AkSarBen Chapter’s 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Jul 24 4-H Achievement Day at Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
- Jul 24 DeMolay Conclave, Midtown Motel, Grand Island
- Jul 25 Grand Officers Reception in Ainsworth from 2-4 pm, Congregational United Church of Christ, 236 West 3rd St, Ainsworth
- Jul 23-25 Five State Gathering (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota) in Wichita, KS
Contact Donna Fagg (donna2015oes@cox.net) or kansasgrandchapteroes.com
- Sep 3-5 IA/NE fun weekend in South Sioux City
- Oct 16-17 7th Triennial Masonic Youth Leadership Conference at Holiday Inn, Kearney (\$200 sends a youth to MYLC)

Enclosed with this OES News:

- The Nebraska Masonic Home Flyer
- Letter from Service & Therapy Dog Committee
- List of 2021-2022 Grand Officers and Companions

Visit us on the web at: neoes.org
Become a friend on Facebook at Nebraska Eastern Star
“LIKE”, “FOLLOW” and invite friends to Nebraska Star Dogs Public Facebook Page
Visit our Eastern Star Nebraska “YouTube Channel” and connect with our
Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers across the state
Call the Grand Chapter Office at 402-937-7056