NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 26 Number 5 ~ October 2026

~Leap of Faith"

~Sharing from Shellie:

The season is upon us for donations coming into the Grand Chapter office. Please make sure to use the Cream colored Contribution form and specify your donation. In order for *Thanksgiving* gifts to reach the homes by the Thanksgiving holiday, they must be received in this office by October 31st, and Christmas funds must be in the office by November 30th. Purple Ribbon donations deadline to our office is December 1st.

WGM Andy's travels ~

September has been a quiet month as far as visitations go. I hope you had a great Labor Day Weekend! The weather has certainly changed, so you know that fall is in the air. I love this time of year, the leaves changing colors, a few less bugs, cooler mornings and everything pumpkin spice. Yes, I am a pumpkin spice girl!

September 19th finds us in Papillion for a visitation and Rick's roasting. I can't wait to see what the red-eyed tree frogs have in store for him!

September 24th-26th is Colorado Grand Chapter and we have a few Grand Officers going.

October 3rd is the visitation in Brownville and then both South Dakota and Missouri Grand Chapters are October 8th - 11th. We have several Officers going to one or the other or both!

October 17th is the All-Committee Meeting in Hastings. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. This is a good time to come up with ideas and ways to implement them. And Hastings has the best cinnamon rolls!

Our last visitation is October 24th in North Platte. And when that is over, that same night, we are headed to the Grand Masters' Western Gala held at the Ramada Inn. It should be a "Grand" Night!

Lastly, I hope everyone has a safe and spooky Halloween!!

Star Love, Andy, WGM

Fun Frog Fact: Did you know that frogs absorb water through their skin, not drink it with their mouth and breathe and absorb oxygen through their moist skin as well as their lungs!

The "Magnificent Tree Frogs" Schedule

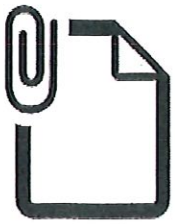
Oct 12.....Columbus Day
Oct 17.....All Committee Meeting in Hastings
Oct 24.....Area 8 Visitation - North Platte
Oct 24.....Grand Masters' Western Gala (see our website for details)
Oct 31 Tangier Trunk or Treat OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 11:00 AM-2:00 PM TSC
Nov 7.....All Past & Present Grand Representatives meeting in Kearney
Nov 26.....Thanksgiving

ALL Past and Present Grand Representatives are invited to the Neb Grand Representatives Fall meeting, Nov 7th at the Kearney Masonic Temple. Registration will begin at 11, meeting starting at noon, $15, RSVP by Oct 24 to Kevin Johnson, 2715 I Ave #103, Kearney NE 68847.

All members of the Masonic Family, are invited to attend The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation's first-ever fundraising gala October 4th at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Omaha
4pm – 8 pm

Enclosed with this OES News:

*Revised Grand Officers & Committees Book
GGC 2027 Triennial Session information
Thanksgiving letter from our WGM & WGP
GGC Choir Director Letter for 2027
Letter from OES Star Dogs of Ne Inc Board

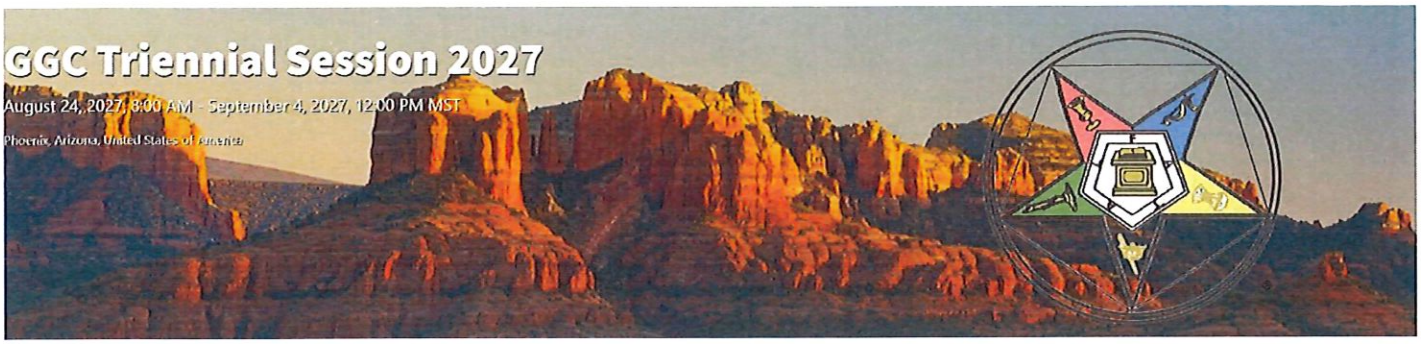


Grand Chapter Sessions for Surrounding States:

Missouri Grand Chapter Oct 9-11	Pre-registration deadline Sep 7, 2026
South Dakota Grand Chapter Oct 8-10	Pre-registration deadline Sep 17, 2026
Oklahoma Grand Chapter Oct 18-21	Pre-registration deadline Sep 30, 2026
Iowa Grand Chapter Nov 12-15	Pre-registration deadline Nov 1, 2026
Arkansas Grand Chapter Nov 29-4 Dec	Pre-registration deadline Nov 13, 2026

If you would like additional information on the above sessions, please contact the Grand Chapter office; gsneoes@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at: neoes.org
Call the Grand Chapter Office at 402-937-7056
or gsneoes@gmail.com



"Dream, Imagine, Believe"
2027 Triennial Session
August 24 – September 4 2027
Phoenix Convention Center
Anchor Hotel: Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

General Grand Chapter Website: https://easternstar.org
(Triennial Assembly 2027 tab at the top of the page)

- Hotel reservation link is now live! Book your room now!
- Nebraska Party Luncheon tickets can be purchased in the ticketing link with your Registration! (Ask Sister Gloria Guern, PGM for details)

Reach out to Sister Sheli Rice, PGM if you plan to join us in Phoenix for any portion of GGC. Email: srice2425@gmail.com or text 402.676.3495

Sister Sheli will share with you (via email) the direct links for:

- Registration & Banquet Ticket purchases
- Tour purchases (Grand Canyon, Sedona, Heard Museum)
- Main Event! Diamondbacks v Phillies Baseball Game tickets
- Hotel Reservations
- Scooter Rental info
- Tentative Program

Assistance is available to help navigate online registration and ticket portal. Need help with flight reservations? We can put you in touch with a travel agent or OES member to help with that navigation as well.

You have the freedom to travel as you choose!
Want to drive? 16 hours from North Platte; 20 hours from Omaha
Want to fly? Southwest and American have non stop flights from OMA to PHX. Frontier, Southwest and United all have non stop flights from DEN to PHX. Ground transportation to/from hotel is easy in PHX; the Sheraton also has a hotel shuttle. (PHX is 5.9 miles from the Sheraton Hotel)

Thanksgiving: Friends, Families, and Frogs

Thanksgiving is a time for gathering around the table, sharing good food, telling stories, and appreciating the people—and sometimes the unexpected creatures—that make life special.

For many of us, Thanksgiving begins with family. It might be a crowded house filled with grandparents, parents, children, cousins, and the familiar sounds of laughter coming from every room. It might also be a smaller gathering with just a few loved ones. Whatever it looks like, Thanksgiving reminds us that family is about more than a last name. It is about belonging, caring, and making memories together.

But Thanksgiving is also a celebration of friends. Friends can become family, especially for those who live far from their relatives or whose families have grown and changed over the years. A friend who brings a favorite dessert, helps prepare the meal, or simply sits beside you and listens can be every bit as important as someone sitting across the table.

And then there are the frogs.
At first, frogs might seem like an unusual part of Thanksgiving. They don't carve the turkey, pass the mashed potatoes, or argue over who gets the last piece of pie. But frogs have something to teach us about gratitude. They remind us to appreciate the small and often overlooked parts of the world around us.

A frog sitting quietly beside a pond, calling into the evening, is part of the same world we are celebrating. Like family and friends, frogs have their own communities, their own homes, and their own place in the natural world. They remind us that gratitude doesn't have to stop at the dinner table.

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to look around. Be thankful for the people who have stood beside you, the friends who have made you laugh, and the family members who have helped shape who you are. Be thankful for warm meals, safe places, good conversations, and new memories.

And if you're lucky enough to hear a frog calling from somewhere nearby, give thanks for that, too.

After all, Thanksgiving is ultimately about recognizing the many connections that make life meaningful ***~friends, families, and even frogs***.

There is always more to be thankful for than we realize.

From the "Leap of Faith" family
Andy, WGM and Rick, WGP

To all of you songbirds out there – past, present, and future:

If you are sad that there is no opportunity to sing in a Grand Choir in your jurisdiction, here is your invitation to get back into the "sing" of things. Plans are in the works to have the biggest and best choir to sing during the biggest and best Triennial Assembly in 2027! Our beautiful music is the best gift we can present to MWGM Billie and MWGP Mike. The musical selections are chosen from their personal lists of favorite songs. There might be a few surprises in the collection as well.

I'd like to invite anyone and everyone who may be a boisterous bass, terrific tenor, admirable alto, stunning soprano, or just a normal person who likes to sing to join the DESERT TROUBADOURS. There will be a place for you next summer – a ringside seat as a matter of fact. Also, I am in need of a dynamic trap set drummer and a vivacious violinist.

More information will appear in the OES journal this fall, and will be updated as necessary. The choir has a head start with ten singers from Manitoba and North Dakota who wanted to be first in line. Registration forms will be available online beginning in September. Feel free to pass this information on to anyone who might need a little persuasion.

If you have questions for me, feel free to contact me at any of the options listed below. In the meantime, I'll be rustling up more tunes and tending to business.

With a song in my heart,
Cheryl Hewson, Choir Director

PO Box 3058, Dickinson ND 58602
hewsonc@ndsupernet.com
Home phone: 701-483-5302
Cell phone: 701-260-8825

DESERT TROUBADOURS 2027

____ YES! I want to be one of the Troubadours.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CHAPTER AND JURISDICTION_____

EMAIL _____

PHONE NUMBERS _____(HOME)_____(CELL)

ALL ABOUT YOU

PART YOU SING: (You can check more than one)

_____ Soprano _____Alto _____Tenor _____ Bass/Baritone

_____YES _____NO I can play the piano.

_____YES _____NO I can read music.

_____YES _____NO I play other musical instruments.

NAME THEM:_____

SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTS I NEED:_____Violin _____ Bass Guitar _____Trap set

_____YES _____NO I plan to attend the entire GGC session.

If no, please state the days you plan to attend._____

When you have completed this form, you can send it to me electronically, but please mail me a hard copy. Sometimes computers fail you, and that tends to happen to me. When I hear from you, I'll let you know by email,,or phone, your preference. At a later date, more information will be sent to you regarding attire, schedule of rehearsals and performances, and anything else I can remember you need. Feel free to email me or call me if you have any questions in the meantime.

CONTACT INFORMATION

602CHERYL HEWSON PGM
PO Box 3058
Dickinson ND 58602

hewsonc@ndsupernet.com

PHONE: 701-483-5302 Home/answering machine
701-260-8825 Cell/text

The Board of Directors of OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. would like to update you on the charity's progress since the last article was included in this newsletter in October 2025. First, we would like to extend thanks to all the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons who included Star Dogs as one of their projects. Also, thank you to Nebraska OES Trustees and the Nebraska Eastern Star Chapters and members who have donated financially to OES Star Dogs since this public charity was incorporated in 2019. We were pleased to receive a grant from Union Bank & Trust this past summer to assist us in our fundraising efforts, and have also received donations from individuals who are not members of a Masonic organization.

After General Grand Chapter identified service dog programs as the primary and identifying charity, OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. was founded to raise funds through charitable donations to assist and support service and therapy dog organizations, and individuals in need of a service or therapy dog. By providing financial support through grants, OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. is assisting qualified dog training organizations and individuals in their efforts to raise funds to obtain a service or therapy dog. Star Dogs does not provide the service or therapy dogs, but partners with dog training charitable organizations that recommend qualified individuals to Star Dogs to help with funding. Most organizations require individuals seeking a dog to fully fund a dog, or at least a large portion of the cost. A trained service dog can cost as much as $30,000 and a therapy dog as much as $5000. During the last fiscal year which ended May 31, 2026, Star Dogs helped fund six service dogs and one therapy dog for a total of $29,665. This year we have already provided $2500 grants for three service dogs. We anticipate more grant requests during this 2026-2027 fiscal year and are hopeful we can help several more individuals.

Please go to our Facebook page (Nebraska Star Dogs) for photos of grant recipients as well as other informational posts. Your continued tax-deductible donations will allow OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. to support more individuals in obtaining service and therapy dogs. You might also consider designating OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. as an organization to fulfill your charitable goals through a planned gift in your will or living trust, or through your retirement plan as one of your required minimum distribution charities.

The current Board of Directors of OES Star Dogs of Nebraska, Inc. are Chair Lorrie Bryant, Vice-Chair Karan Birdsall, Secretary Rick Myers, Treasurer Nan Rix, Betty Kirby, Dian Larsen, Don Norman, Sheli Rice, Laurie Sieg, and Allen Straub. The current Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, and Deputy Grand Master also serve as ex-officio members on the Board of Directors. You can reach us through our website (www.nebraskastardogs.org) and email (oesstardogsofne@gmail.com) with questions or requests for Star Dogs to share information with a Masonic or community group.