



Nebraska O.E.S. News

Volume 04, Issue #11

April 2005

Notes in a Nutshell

- ♥ Fontenelle Chapter No. 249 will honor Organists at Metro-Area Visitation on April 22nd at a 7:30 P.M. open meeting. There will be a musical program. 2424 South 135th Ave. Contact Lorna Robinson (333-5829) for more information.
- ♥ Alpha Chapter #325 is hosting a Spring Brunch and Bake Sale on Sunday, April 24th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bellevue Masonic Lodge, 1908 Franklin, Bellevue, Adults \$6.50, Children (2-10 years) \$3.00, Children under 2 years free. Tickets available at the door. Come celebrate Spring!
- ♥ Royal Chapter No. 184 in Gordon is looking for a sheaf of wheat as theirs is in bad repair. If any of the consolidated chapters has one they would be willing to part with please call Annabelle Evert, WM at 308-282-0214.
- ♥ The resolutions tabled during last year's Grand Chapter session are available to Nebraska OES members on the website. Read the Grand Secretary's notes for the access and password.
- ♥ If your Chapter has news or activities you wish to have included in the May edition, please send your information as soon as possible to either the OES Newsletter editor or to the Grand Secretary's office.

Jottings from Jake & Jill

More than 400 Eastern Star members in Nebraska have earned the Nebraska Proficiency Award pin, according to Bonnie Evans of Ainsworth, Past Grand Matron and administrator of the award program. Additional pins are being ordered to meet the demand.

"We've had a really good response," she said this month. "We're very pleased" with the interest in the award. She will report at Grand Chapter on which lectures were given most often, which Chapters had the most members qualifying for the award and other details of the program.

The voluntary program involves recitation of ritual work and a short open-book examination. Examples of

acceptable lectures include:

- ? Any Star Point initiatory lecture.
- ? The Obligation.
- ? The Associate Matron's part in the ceremony for opening of chapter.
- ? The Associate Patron's long or short lecture for initiation.
- ? The Worthy Patron's signet lecture.
- ? The Worthy Patron's part in the Cabalistic work with the Conductress.
- ? The Conductress' initial lecture with candidates.
- ? The Conductress' small parts when speaking to each Star Point up to and including addressing the Worthy Patron.
- ? The Associate Conductress' lecture to candidates in the preparation room.
- ? Either of the Worthy Matron's initiation lectures.

- ? 100 percent accurate wording for signs plus the appropriate passes.
- ? One of the Chaplain's prayers.
- ? The installing officer's long charge to the Worthy Matron-elect in installation.

Worthy Patrons of the individual Subordinate Chapters are in charge of testing. In case of a member's request to use a different lecture than one suggested here, he may use his best judgment or contact the Worthy Grand Matron. "There may be allowances made for individualizing requirements in cases special cases," said Worthy Grand Matron Jill Ramsey. Members interested in earning the award should contact their Worthy Patron.

50-YEAR LUNCHEON: If your Chapter orders tickets to this banquet in a group, please order early! Send your reservations and check to the Registration Chairman (address is on the Pre-registration form) and include a list of the members for whom you are purchasing tickets. Please inform your members that you are ordering tickets for them to help avoid duplications. Tickets can be delivered to the luncheon if request is made when they are ordered. Transportation will be available from Pershing Center and the Holiday Inn and Ramada Limited to the Luncheon. A member of the Registration Committee will be at the luncheon to register any who wish to attend the afternoon session that have not pre-registered. **There is a limit of 200 for this luncheon, so please order your group tickets EARLY.**

HEART NOTES!! On April 4, the Nebraska Grand Chapter Officers exemplified the degrees of our Order in a courtesy initiation at Ruth Chapter # 119, North Bend, Nebraska. The Chapter had just recently read petitions for 11 –



that's right ... eleven – candidates for the degrees. The Grand Officers are pictured here with their Grand Companions, and the officers & members of Ruth Chapter together with seven newly initiated members. Congratulations to the Grand Officers on a job well done; and a hearty welcome to our new Sisters and Brothers at North Bend.

Attention ...

? **PAST APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS (PAGOS):** Once again you are being asked to finish cookies or bars for the Distinguished Guests registration on Tuesday at the Holiday Inn. Please bring your cookies to the Assembly Room of the Holiday Inn Tuesday morning. If you have a few hours to assist with the hospitality in this room, please call your president, Sister Lori Hannan at 402-721-3519 and set up a time to help on Tuesday.

? **PAST GRAND MATRONS AND PAST GRAND PATRONS:** Please note that the Past Grands Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. this year. Your pre-registration packets will be in the Distinguished Guests Room at the hotel on Tuesday May 10. At all other times the packets will be available at the registration desk at Pershing Center. Please remember that you must pick up your packet before you can register credentials at Pershing Center, as you will need your registration card.

? **MEMBERS OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION:** Your Chairman, Sister Sue Johns wants to remind you that she would like each of you to bring two dozen cookies to help with refreshments for the Hospitality Room and the Distinguished Guests Reception. Bring your cookies to the Hospitality Room on Monday or Tuesday beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you would have even an hour or two to assist in the Hospitality Room on Monday or Tuesday, please call Sister Sue and schedule a time to help—(308) 783-1047. Please note; the Distinguished Guests Tea will be from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM on Tuesday May 10th. Both our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron will attend, ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to attend and welcome them and our other Distinguished Guests.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary

BUSINESS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER: You may find the resolutions tabled at the last session on our web site, protected by the password “FaTaL”. Our Web site is <http://neoes.org>. Be prepared to speak at Grand Chapter on these resolutions—they will affect our future. Copies of these and other resolutions will be mailed to the Chapters as soon as approved by the Jurisprudence Committee.

BRING TO THE SESSION: Chapter Credentials, Receipt for Dues, Past Matron/Past Patron Certificate; Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron Card.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please see the housing information included with this pre-registration packet and use the numbers listed there to assure that you receive the special rates. Make your reservations by April 7, 2005. All members must make their own reservations with the hotel. Call 800-832-9320 if you need a

roommate, as the Grand Chapter office can put you in touch with others who have requested roommates.

PRE-REGISTRATION: Deadline for pre-registration is April 25. Mail the form and your check to the address on the form. Reservations for all banquets must be made on the form. If your registration is not postmarked by the deadline you will need to register at the session and will not be guaranteed of getting reservations to the events you wish to attend. If you need your tickets and are not able to go to Pershing Center to pick up your packet, someone from the Registration Committee will deliver them to the banquet or meet you at the Holiday Inn *IF you indicate on your pre-registration form that you need this service.*

CREDENTIALS: All Chapters must register credentials. Chapter Secretaries should carefully follow the directions that come with the credentials. If any of the Chapter representatives (Worthy

Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron) cannot attend they should fill out the lower portion of the credential naming a proxy (who must be a member of the same Chapter). It is most important that your Chapter have all four of it's credentials registered. The time for registering credentials is 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday. Please remember that you will need to pick up your pre-registration packet (or register to attend the sessions) BEFORE you go to register your credentials, as the credential committee must see both your receipt for dues and your Grand Chapter Registration Card. If you are not carrying the Chapter credential you may still register to vote if you have your Past Matron/Past Patron Certificate or your Past Grand Matron/Past Grand Patron card. Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons must present their Past Grand Matron or Patron Certificates to the committee to receive their extra vote.

Eastern Star Education Loan Association

The deadline for applications for loans from the Eastern Star Educational Loan Association is June 15.

Any Nebraska OES member or relatives of any member in Nebraska are eligible providing that they are 18 years of age or a high school graduate and have a 2.0 grade average.

Students must submit the completed application form, a copy of their most

recent transcript of grades, and one letter of recommendation to the Grand Chapter office by the deadline. Applications must be made annually.

The interest rate on these loans is 4%, interest is due each year, and principle is due in four years or when the student finishes school.

Call the Grand Chapter office for applications and more information.

NOTICE: EASTERN STAR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION:

There is a NEW time for the meeting of NESEA.

The meeting will be on the lower level of the Holiday Inn at **3:30 p.m.**

This will be *FOLLOWING* the Reception Tea for Distinguished Guests and just before the Membership Banquet. See that your Chapter is represented at this important meeting.

Meet our Grand Officer

Sister Charley Benke, our Grand Adah, is from Fremont NE where she is a member of Arbor Vitae Chapter 92.



Charlene "Charley" Benke
Grand Adah

Grand Ruth is Sister Loy Teter, she is from Wolbach Nebraska. Sister Loy is a member of Dorcas Chapter #144, Bartley.



Loy Teter
Grand Ruth

Subordinate Chapter Notes

Our South-Eastern Correspondent, Sandra Gleason (271) reports that she talked with Sister Donna of Mercy Chapter, #306, Stella Nebraska. They have an annual fundraiser: a Fish Fry (this year being held the last Saturday in March). They deep fat fry carp. They serve an average of about 300 people. Their Masons started it as a fundraiser many years ago. The Star Chapter began helping them with it; when the Masonic lodge from Stella merged with Humboldt Mercy Chapter continued the Fish Fry tradition. She said they have about 32 members. Several non-members help them out with the event.

Sandra also reported that she received a call from Caylene Martan, Worthy Matron of Columbia Chapter #275 in Lincoln. They have an annual *Bunko Night*. *Bunko* is

a game played with dice. The Masons from the Lodge at their Temple join them along with prospective or potential members who are invited to share the evening of fun and fellowship. Last year Columbia Chapter also had a Bottle Auction to raise money for WGM

Please Take Notice:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

Transportation is provided by the Grand Chapter to and from the hotels and Pershing Center—**WITH YOUR HELP THE GRAND CHAPTER CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE.** Please sign up to assist with the vans. Call the Grand Chapter office 800-832-9320 to volunteer. **The Transportation Committee desperately needs van drivers and assistants.**

Jill's project — the HIKE fund.

Mileage Checks

Mileage is paid to the highest-ranking Chapter officer attending Grand Chapter. (If none of the top four officers attend, the member who carries the proxy of the highest-ranking officer will receive the mileage check.) Grand Officers,

Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, District Grand Supervisors, members of Standing Committees and Chairmen of

other committees receive mileage. Mileage checks are disbursed on Thursday. If you are due mileage and cannot be there on Thursday to pick up your check, you may stop at the registration desk and fill out a request to have the check mailed to you—THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOU LEAVE GRAND CHAPTER.

Place Your Advance Reservation Request Now for Your Copy of the Subordinate Chapter Histories

Connie Havekost, Chair

The History Committee is industriously working to complete the Grand Chapter Book of Subordinate Chapter Histories in time for Grand Chapter. The collection of chapter summaries has been a fascinating read for the copy writers and editors... and the variety of photographs submitted adds much to the stories told that reflect the lives of our Nebraska Subordinate Chapters.

The booklets will be avail-

able for purchase at the Grand Chapter session in May. However, you have an opportunity to reserve your copy of this history that includes the summary of your Chapter that you shared at last summer's area visitations right now!

The price of the booklet is \$7.00 — with advanced reservation placed by May 1. The histories reserved prior to Grand Chapter can be picked up and paid for at Pershing Auditorium—look for

the History Committee's table.

Cost per booklet purchased at Grand Chapter or thereafter will be \$8.00. If you are unable to attend the 2005 Grand Chapter session this May, you may send your advance reservation request together with your payment of \$7.00 and a copy of the Histories will be sent to you as soon as possible after the close of Grand Chapter.

Our Worthy Grand Matron,

Sister Jill, believes that each Chapter will surely want a copy for their archives, and we are certain many of our Sisters and Brothers will also want their own copy of this interesting booklet. Please contact Sister Cathy Wagner at the Grand Secretary's Office right away to place your advance reservation request.

Cathy Wagner,
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Grand Chapter of Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

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Articles, photographs and calendar items for the Nebraska OES Newsletter must be received by the 15th of the preceding month.

Treasures of the Heart

*Honor the past, Embrace the present,
And Reach To the future*

Insert mailing address here.
Insert mailing address here.
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Insert mailing address here.
Insert mailing address here.
Insert mailing address here.



**Nebraska OES is on the web:
www.neoes.org**

Getting To Work On Your Chapter's Publicity Campaign

Have you taken advantage of the sample news articles that you can use to help you write and release information about your Chapter's activities and the accomplishments of your members?

Have you contacted me or submitted your Chapter's news to the newsletter?

Have you retrieved the sample articles from the Nebraska OES web pages?

Have you visited the web pages?

Have you posted your Chapter's activities and/or fundraising events to the Grand Chapter calendar—either online or in the newsletter?

Have you taken every (or any) opportunity to get out the news of your Chapter's and it's doings in your community?

We know you are very active within your Chapters, in community and youth activities, and as individuals in private and professional lives. Yet many of you still need to let the world know! It really is a good thing to toot

our own horns — if we don't Who will???

One of the most important things ~~we~~ ... correction... you can do is to let the world around us know who we are and what contributions we make on a regular basis to our communities and society at large. People need to know that we are a viable, energetic, philanthropic organization that is worthy of their attention and consideration. There are prospective members in every community, we have to get their attention if they are to contemplate the Order as a good place to invest their time and energies.

[Hmmm.... I think I've heard this before. But it bears repeating!!]

People like to hear about local names and events. People like to know what an organization is doing and what it is about. Prospective members are out there waiting to learn about our Star and learn why we are a good bunch of people to join with for good purpose.

Don't be shy, get your news out to the public and to the OES Newsletter, and/

or the Eastern Star Journal.

Your successful fund-raiser, your special activities, the awards your members earn both in Star and in their personal/professional lives are important news and need to be shared. You are doing it.... Now share it!

Worthy Matrons, please appoint someone as your Publicity Chair — charge her/him to take care of getting the word out about your Chapter, it's activities, and it's members... It is important that you do put Eastern Star in the news—and do it regularly.

Please start right now to make a plan. Devise your own local public relation campaign. And... include the OES Newsletter in your plan.

I hope to hear from each of your Chapter's at least once before Grand Chapter. It would be a nice legacy for Sister Jill and Brother "Jake" and the year's efforts to have something to share from each Chapter in a final newsletter for this Grand Chapter year.

-Carolyn Plants,