

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

“Faith in Unity”

Volume IX Number VIII ~January, 2009



JANUARY

is ESTARL Month.

Please read the enclosed letter from the Chairman of our ESTARL Committee and make plans to see that all churches in your Chapter's area receive the enclosed brochures. Participation of all Nebraska Chapters in this promotion of ESTARL during January has proven to be a great success. The rewards will be evident in your area churches and in your communities in the years to come. Please call the Grand Chapter office if you need more brochures at 800-832-9320.



Put this on your Calendar!

Once again it is time to remember to file your Form 990-N online. The information for 2008 must be filed between Jan 1 and May 15, 2009 at www.irs.gov/efile. Do it soon so you won't forget. We are hoping it will be easier this year, but if you have problems or concerns, call the Grand Chapter office.

DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS

This is a reminder that all resolutions to be presented before the Grand Chapter Session in May 2009 must be received in the office of the Grand Secretary by Feb 11, 2009.

Publicity Corner

The Grand Chapter Publicity Committee is hoping that you will share what your Chapter has done for the good of your communities this year. Mail, call, or email this information to:

Susan Corbin
Publicity Committee
2011 Ashland Road
Plattsmouth NE 68048
402-298-8683
bjcorbin@alltel.net

The Committee reminds all Chapters to send pictures and news articles to them or to the Grand Chapter office for publication in the “Eastern Star Journal” and the “Nebraska Mason”.



TRAVELING WITH THE HERD

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Wow! Winter has arrived! It's been a busy December for me—but in a rather unusual way compared to the travels this past summer! Yes, I did get to go in the “car trunk” to a few places—the Grand Officers did a Courtesy Initiation at Capitol Chapter No. 320 in Lincoln and the next day they got together for a fun Christmas party. Then several of them attended the DeMolay Grand Master's Class out in Hastings.

I just love all the Eastern Star Christmas cookies! The Chapters have been busy with Christmas festivities, cookie exchanges and helping out the food pantrys in their communities—that's all part of what they always do without any desire for credit or acknowledgement of any kind. I'm coming to know that is how our “Star Herd” is all year long, and you shine bright in my heart!

Mostly I've been sitting on the desk while the Worthy Grand Matron types and prints and emails. She is so busy. I guess she is getting ready for School of Instruction and Grand Chapter—I'm about to learn what all those things are.

Margaret, who has been working hard all year making and selling crafts and selling some crafts that you all gave her, reports that there has been \$13,596.49 collected for our Make-a-Wish Foundation of Nebraska. Thanks for your \$1 per member! That's going to make wishes come true for lots of special youngsters this year. Happy New Year everyone!

Pansy



BY MIKE DONHAM

Visionquest Committee  
of the General Grand Chapter  
Past Grand Patron of Nebraska

### **Membership Development**

I have talked continuously these past two years about two words – “Just Ask”. Two words to use that can help to forestall our declining membership.

Along with these two words, you must be able to answer questions that a prospective member may have concerning the Order of the Eastern Star. You must keep yourself well versed on who and what we are and what we do that makes us so special and why people should join star.

- We are the largest fraternal organization in the world that has men and women as members.

- We support many philanthropic activities namely the Heart and Cancer Funds, the youth and many others. In Nebraska this year the Worthy Grand Matron's special project is “Make a Wish Foundation”.

- Our purpose is to inspire good with the tenets of truth, charity, loyalty and kindness as our main stays.

“What does Eastern Star mean to you and me?” This is a question that will take time for you to mull over and come up with an answer. Each of you will have different answers to this question which, in turn, you can relate to a prospective member --- Think about it!

It is important for each member to have in their possession “membership brochures” and also petitions or easy access to them. Encourage members to bring a friend (non-member) to Chapter activities.

The Grand Chapter Membership committee has asked that at each stated meeting we poll members who have asked someone to join Eastern Star in the preceding month. A splendid idea!

How to find prospective members:

- 1) Majority Rainbow and Job's Daughters are a natural. Contact current and past adult leaders for names and phone numbers. When you have a list, invite them to lunch with a couple of ‘Fun’ Star members and don't forget the brochures and petitions.

- 2) Hold a brainstorming session with as many members as you can get and generate a list of eligible women and men. Again, invite them to a ‘fun’ activity with your members.

**Remember my sisters and brothers “Just Ask”, but also be prepared to answer questions.**

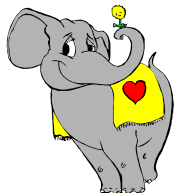
**E. I. Honey S. J. (Until we meet again)**

**“Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and of true progress.”**

**Nicholas Murray Butler**

# Reminders -----

- 1) Annual Reports are due January 15. Thank you for sending in your Chapter's report on time—and please don't forget your report on the "Membership Challenge" which also includes the names of those appointed to your Chapter's Membership Committee—your Grand Chapter Membership Committee is anxious to hear from you!
- 2) Please send your After Installation Report and the receipts that have been signed for the Red Books and Secret Work within 3 business days after your Installation—yes! It's a busy month for Chapter Secretaries.
- 3) Chapter Secretaries, please read the enclosed letter from our ESTARL Committee Chairman to your Chapter this month. We are hoping that every church in every community in Nebraska will be made aware of the OES ESTARL Program.
- 4) Watch for the scholarship information packet coming with next month's news—start making plans to participate in this program which will now allow your Chapter to give \$1,000 in scholarships by spending only \$150 from your Chapter's funds. If you need to have a small money-making project to be able to participate in this new Scholarship Program, it would be time well spent for your community.



**FOR THE GOOD OF THE HERD**—Thank you to the Chapter Secretary at Narcissus Chapter No. 269, Gail Lichtenberg. She shares with us "what a terrific Membership Committee" her Chapter has. That committee is stressing "Recognition" of their members; "Retention" of current members; "Recruitment" of new members. Each member of the Narcissus

Membership Committee is assigned one of these areas to work on, and their projects are evident at each meeting. For recognition, they hosted a "Shining Star" banquet to honor members who had excelled in some special way. They gave awards to both members and non-members, some of which were nominated by other members. For retention, committee members visited personally with those who had not yet paid their dues and they prepared thinking of you cards to send non-resident members. They passed out small items at the meetings to show appreciation to the members. In the area of recruitment, committee members actually visited the annual state-wide meetings of all three youth groups, handed out membership brochures and visited with youth, their parents and adult leaders as well. Sister Gail included many good ideas in the information she sent to the Grand Chapter office—too many to list here, but if you need more ideas please contact the Grand Chapter office or any member of your Grand Chapter Membership Committee (See your gray "Grand Officers and Standing Committees" booklet for their names and contact information!) **Thank you to Narcissus Chapter for what it's Membership Committee is doing for "the Good of the Herd". Have you appointed your Membership Committee??**



KEEP UP WITH THE HERD --- OES MONTHLY CALENDAR



**No need for you to stay home at all in January!!! Here is a list of the Installations that have been brought to our attention along with several other Eastern Star and Masonic Family events**

**PLEASE SEND IN INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FEBRUARY OES NEWS BY JANUARY 15, 2009**

- January 9,.....Deadline for Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons and Grand Officers for reservations for the annual School of Instruction.
- January 18-20 .....School of Instruction for District Grand Supervisors, Valentine NE
- February 5-7.....Grand Lodge Communication, Kearney
- February 15.....Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Fontenelle Chapter No. 249, 11 am to 2 pm, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha Adults: \$7.00; Children: \$3.00
- March 15.....Pancake Breakfast sponsored by AkSarBen Chapter No 277, 8 am to 1 pm, 83<sup>rd</sup> & Maple, Omaha

## **INSTALLATIONS:**

- Jan 3, 3 pm.....Phillips Chapter No. 204, Masonic Temple, Main Street, Phillips
- Jan 8, 7:30 pm.....Herman Chapter No. 216, Hwy 75 & 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Herman (Closed Installation)
- Jan 10, 2 pm.....Papillion Chapter No. 114, 84<sup>th</sup> & Centennial Rd, Papillion
- Jan 10, 2 pm.....Home Chapter No. 189, 513 Main St., Plattsmouth
- Jan 10, 1:30 pm.....Martha Washington Chapter No. 153, 4430 N 70<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln
- Jan 10, 7 pm.....Arbor Vitae Chapter No. 92, 350 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fremont
- Jan 15, 7:30 pm.....Narcissus Chapter No. 269, 5903 Maple St., Omaha
- Jan 17, 2 pm.....Signet Chapter No. 55, 1600 W. B Street, North Platte
- Jan 17, 2 pm.....Vesta Chapter No. 6, 83<sup>rd</sup> & Maple St., Omaha
- Jan 18, 2 pm.....Temple Chapter No. 271, 331 Centennial Mall S., Lincoln
- Jan 18, 2 pm.....Alpha Chapter No. 325, 1908 Franklin, Bellevue
- Jan 23, 7:30 pm.....Fontenelle Chapter No. 249, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha
- Jan 24, 2 pm.....Luna Chapter No. 169, 300 Hopper St, Elkhorn
- Jan 24, 2 pm.....Blue River Chapter No. 132, 115 B Street, Milford
- Jan 24, 2 pm.....Vesper Chapter No. 9, 601 Grant Street, Beatrice
- Jan 25, 2 pm.....Myrtle Chapter No 94, 2610 N. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln
- Jan 25, 2 pm.....Trinity Chapter No. 299, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha
- Jan 26, 7:00 pm.....AkSarBen Chapter No. 277, 2823 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Omaha
- Jan 31, 2 pm.....Adah Chapter No. 52, 84<sup>th</sup> & Centennial Rd., Papillion