



# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

*“Make a Joyful Noise”*

Volume X Number I ~June, 2009



## VISIONQUEST

BY MIKE DONHAM  
Visionquest Committee  
of the General Grand Chapter  
Past Grand Patron of Nebraska

In the speech I present to the Chapters during my “Visionquest” visits, there is one passage exhorting Chapter members to give a speech or presentation to a Masonic lodge or another Masonic family organization.

Tony Leary, “Mr. Presentation”, relates some interesting and informative tidbits on giving presentations.

Being credible, effective and truthful are crucial in successful presentations. Get rid of the “know it all” approach. You do not need to have all the answers. “Being too slick can break the emotional connection between you and your audience.”

“Know the difference between being effective vs. being right.” To be an effective facilitator you need to treat people fairly and equally and patiently lead the group to a solution.

The self-righteous facilitator gets involved in being right and dictates a position even if not appropriate to the process. If things do not go well, the self-righteous individual does not have results, but excuses, “I’ve done what I can. It’s not my fault if they didn’t get it.”

Be able to laugh at yourself if you make mistakes. It’s humanizing and helps establish you as a real person.

Adapt your language to the group you are addressing. Stand up straight, be confident and smile, maintain eye contact. These tips are a good way to build a good rapport with your audience.

The benefits you will reap include - You will earn the trust and respect of your audience; the group will be able to relate to you as a human being and the audience is more likely to “buy into the message you are trying to convey”.

Remember Sisters and Brothers,  
**“Just Ask”.**

E. I. Honey S. J. (until we meet again)



From  
*the Grand Secretary*

- If you have a preference as to your copy of the 2009 Proceedings being in book form or as a CD, please let us know.
- A new “Grand Officers and Standing Committees” booklet will be available soon—a handy reference of contact information for those serving our Grand Chapter. If you’d like your own personal copy, call the office (402-727-8644). At the request of the Worthy Grand Matron updates are being made to the “Introduction Cards” and they will be sent to Chapters before their Area Visitation. These should be useful for registering and introducing your guests—which this year will be the responsibility of the Chapters.

### PROJECT FUNDS

This is to explain some confusion about our Project Funds. Each year two new funds are established:

---THE WGM/WGP PROJECTS will support all of the charities our presiding officers have chosen. This year that includes our two homes, ESTARL, Youth Groups and the General Grand Chapter Projects. At the end of the year the total in this fund is disbursed to these charities according to the wishes of the WGM and WGP. Money for this fund typically comes from the Chapter gifts given at Area Visitations (including sales table proceeds) and funds you designate for the “WGM and/or WGP’s Projects”.

---The Special Project –this year that will be THE SALVATION ARMY. All funds designated for “Salvation Army” go into this fund (including the sale of bells for “Billie & Bruce’s Bell Choir”) and the total will be disbursed to this charity. The WGM and WGP may also designate that a portion of the money collected in their “projects” fund be transferred to this fund in support of their “special” project. Please use the designation “Salvation Army” when you wish to contribute specifically to this fund.

**Ring Some Bells This Month**  
Ask someone you know to join  
Eastern Star

### Introducing--

### Curtis the Cardinal!!

Did you see that elephant? She was huge! She has been bringing seed to our feeder for several months and I have been watching her. I have a family to protect you know and I was worried. But she was so kind—she said she followed the “Cardinal Rules” she learned in the Order of the Eastern Star. As male cardinals always do, I’m busy helping take care of my family—my wife Christie and my three youngsters, Ring, Ding and Ling. They keep me busy! Pansey told me that I’m just like all the members of the Order because they keep busy taking care of their family too, so I guess we have much in common. I did not understand all about the “petitions”, but my family has decided to join up with you! I hear that you will be trying to “Make a Joyful Noise” this year and I know my family will fit right in there too. I also know that Red is one of your favorite colors—so I guess I’m ready to travel with you. Watch for my family when the Grand Officers visit you!

Joyfully, Curtis



### Notes from Grand Chapter Committees

(This space will be available all year to allow Grand Chapter Committees to communicate with the Chapters---Committee members, we challenge you to fill up this space each month!)

**PUBLICITY:** We hope those of you who attended Grand Chapter took the opportunity to see the new lighted display board that was recently purchased by the Publicity Committee. This can be used by Subordinate Chapters as well as our Grand Chapter. It would make a great OES display at any event where you want to promote Eastern Star. Look for it at our youth sessions and other Masonic Family events and remember it is available to you for your special event.

## Enclosed with this OES News-----

- ❖ A letter from your new Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Secretaries please read this letter to your Chapter so that your members are aware of the projects and theme for the 2009-2010 Grand Chapter year. Then do a little “brainstorming” about how your Chapter can participate—let’s work together this year to “make it happen”!
- ❖ A letter from the Salvation Army Committee. Start now to support this committee and the “special” project chosen by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Plan to support your local Salvation Army not only monetarily but also by volunteering and helping with local projects—visit with your local Salvation Army and learn what needs it has that you can help fulfill—in the name of the Order of the Eastern Star. **DON’T WAIT UNTIL CHRISTMAS TO “RING SOME BELLS”!**

(Please note that not much is underlined for you to read from the OES NEWS this month as the reading of these two letters is very important—pass out a few copies of the NEWS to your members for them to read at another time—and remember it is available on our web-site: neoes.org)



### GRAINS FROM THE PAST

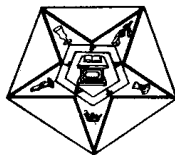
Our Grand Chapter Proceedings Books carry a wonderful history of our Order. To help us toward this year’s goal of “Preserving our Past” we will be sharing with you notes from past copies of our Annual Proceedings Books. We hope you will join us in preserving our past this year by reading these “Grains from the Past” at your stated meetings.

**June 23, 1875:** Resolutions were made that Subordinate Chapters be requested to advance annual dues of twenty-five cents for each member; that the Grand Secretary be instructed to notify each Chapter in the State of the formation of this Grand Chapter and that she “request their acknowledged allegiance and recognition” to this Grand Chapter. There were a total of nine Chapters present when the first “Constitution and General Regulations” of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Nebraska were adopted.

### THE OES CARDINAL CALENDAR

#### **PLEASE SEND IN INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY OES NEWS BY June 15, 2009**

- June 5, 2009..... Area 4 Visitation: Masonic Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Streets, Wayne, 6:30 pm. Cost \$9.00. Call Julie at 402-375-3184 for reservations.
- June 6, 2009..... Social Get-together with Iowa Grand Officers, Sioux City, IA. Fun starts at 2 pm at North Riverside Masonic Center 622 Fredette Ave. Call Bertha at 712-255-5943 for more information.
- June 12-14 2009 ..... Rainbow Grand Assembly, Crete
- June 17-20, 2009 ..... Job’s Daughters Grand Bethel, Grand Island
- June 20, 2009..... Clara Chapter No. 222, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Callaway
- June 25, 2009..... Luna Chapter No. 169, Elkhorn—Fireworks Sales begin, through July 4. Waterloo River Road, Waterloo. Discount for Masonic Family members.
- June 26, 2009..... Area 6 Visitation: Lincoln Chapters, Ceresco, Ashland, Palmyra, Elmwood, Weeping Water. Call any of these Chapters for more information.
- June 27, 2009..... Imperial Chapter No. 279, Imperial—Annual Couples Scramble Golf Tournament. Enders Lake Golf Course. Open to everyone. For more information call Barb at 308-882-5725.
- June 27, 2009..... Area 3 Visitation: MESHHC Picnic Shelter, Fremont, 12 noon. Cost: \$9.00. Call Kim at 402-456-7510 for reservations by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- June 27, 2009..... Area 7 Visitation: Masonic Center, 4722 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbus, 6:30 pm. Cost \$7.00. Call Karen at 402-564-5192 by June 20<sup>th</sup> for reservations.
- June 28, 2009..... Ruth Chapter No. 119, North Bend—The Waffleman will be serving from 7:30 to 10:30 am at the Masonic Lodge, 1041 Locust Street. This is a fundraiser for scholarships.
- July 1, 2009 ..... Reservations due for the Annual Five-State Event in Sioux Falls, SD, August 14-16<sup>th</sup>.
- July 10, 2009..... Area 13 Visitation: Masonic Center, 322 Norris Avenue, McCook, 6:30 pm. Call Barb at 308-882-5725 for reservations by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- July 10, 12, 2009 ..... DeMolay Conclave, Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte.
- July 16, 2009..... Luna Chapter No. 169, Elkhorn—“Ladybug Ball” Ice Cream Social, 7:30 pm
- July 26, 2009..... Fontenelle Chapter No. 249, Omaha—Annual Corn Feed with Centennial Lodge, 11 am to 2 pm. 2425 S 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha.



## GRAND CHAPTER OF NEBRASKA

### Order of the Eastern Star

May, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Nebraska Eastern Star,

We are writing this letter to you on behalf of our Worthy Grand Matron, Billie Mattern and Worthy Grand Patron, Bruce Raddatz. We have had the honor of being asked to serve as Co-Chairmen of their statewide Salvation Army Project. Cathy Voshell is a member of Fontenelle Chapter #249, Omaha and Laurel Wolfe is a dual member of Electa Chapter #8, Lincoln and Trinity Chapter #299, Omaha.

The Salvation Army has been known for years to assist those in need from either natural disasters or personal disasters. The Salvation Army is located across our beautiful State. In doing our research, we found that there were only 9 Chapters who did not have a Salvation Army branch in their town and if there wasn't they were approximately 60 miles away from a branch.

There are many ways that you will be able to help the Salvation Army this year. In the Omaha area since 1998, the Salvation Army and a local TV station have sponsored "Help Kids Back-To-School Backpack Program". The backpacks are stuffed with new school supplies to insure that less fortunate children can go back to school with confidence. This year the drive will be from June 29 thru August 12. You can collect your backpacks and school supplies and send them to either Cathy or Laurel to deliver to the Salvation Army, or check with your local offices of the Salvation Army and offer to help the children in your communities get ready to head back to school.

Other things that your Chapter can do to help is collect canned food for the food banks of the Salvation Army; collect toys for a toy drive; and of course, ring those bells during the Christmas season. Be sure and check with your local Salvation Army and let them know that Nebraska Eastern Star is there to help them in whatever way you can.

There are other ways to help raise money for the Salvation Army. A portion of the profits from the purchase of items sold on the sales table at the Area Visitations will be directed to the Salvation Army Project, so please shop at the sales table when it is in your area. Billie and Bruce are also encouraging every member to purchase "A BELL" for \$1 or donate \$1 so that at their Session in May of 2010 you can be a member of the BELL Choir.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Cathy or Laurel. We can be reached by either email or telephone. Cathy's email is [rvoshell@cox.net](mailto:rvoshell@cox.net) and her phone number is 402/933-9095. Laurel's email is [lwolfe@tconl.com](mailto:lwolfe@tconl.com) and her phone number is 402/895-3271.

We look forward to a great year and a wonderful Special Project. We are sure that with your help, the Salvation Army can "do the most good".

Fraternally yours,

Cathy Voshell  
Co-Chairmen of Special Projects

Laurel Wolfe