

# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

*"Make a Joyful Noise"*

Volume X Number V ~October, 2009

**VISIONQUEST**

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

A final exam "of sorts", to stir interest, enthusiasm and commitment to our beautiful Order, a chance for your Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron to challenge the Chapter membership to discuss these thought provoking questions:

- ✓ Identify five new things you could do to delight your members. (Fun nights)
- ✓ Imagine you are just becoming a member and know very little about the fraternity. What actions by your Chapter would "delight" your membership? (fellowship - enthusiasm)
- ✓ Friends or relatives are not Masons or Stars, but you would like them to be. All are busy with families. If you were to approach them, what might be the reasons why they would not join? (The obvious, not time, draw them out.)
- ✓ You are having coffee with an acquaintance; she notices your Masonic ring or Star pin and asks, "What does that stand for?" (Be ready to discuss Eastern Star or Masonry membership - our brochure is a good reference.)
- ✓ Organizations such as the Moose, Elks, IOOF and Masonry have difficulty defining value. Discuss the following: Less for less, more for less, less for more and more for more. (Consider these four values and "where is your Chapter today? Where does your Chapter need to be in the future?")
- ✓ Identify in order of the most to the least important benefits we offer a person who joins our Order. (Making new friends - the cost of membership)
- ✓ Finally, why has your Chapter or the entire Masonic family in general been so reluctant to adapt to the needs of youthful prospects and members? (Could it be age of the membership?)

There is certainly more than one answer to the above questions. Test yourself and Chapter membership. You will reap benefits and insights into improving your Chapter. "Good Luck!"

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

## *From our tree ~ ~*

We just have a few days to rest our wings and it sounds like we will be off again. We are so proud that our whole family was in attendance at every single Area Visitation and we are so grateful to you for all the wonderful birdseed you put out in your feeders for us. We made one long trip to Colorado and we have a few more long trips to come—this month we will be going to South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa and then off to Oklahoma for a "Triennial Assembly". We heard they like Red things down there also, so we should be right at home.

Curtis, Christie, Ring, Ding and Ling



## NOTES FOR COMMITTEES:

All Members of Standing Committees—Benevolence, Educational Loan Fund, ESTARL, Jurisprudence, Membership, Publicity and Youth, as well as members of the Eastern Star Journal Committee, Fraternal Relations Committee, Scholarship Committee and Grand Line officers will meet together on Saturday October 17, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Grand Island. Please RSVP to the Grand Chapter office (402-727-8644) so that reservations can be made for you for lunch, which will be provided by the Grand Chapter.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

### *What is in your Membership Tool Box?*

#### **We would like to add – Chapter Assessment**

Do you know the strengths and weaknesses of your Chapter, as seen by the members? Are there changes your Chapter may consider based on member feedback? Are there changes that can not be made that need to be explained to Chapter members?

Have you ever sat down to counsel an employee, your child or a friend and found out that the problem you had identified prior to the meeting wasn't the problem at all? Or maybe

you learned that there wasn't any problem. By encouraging open and non-threatening communication, we can learn a lot about our Chapters. We may think we have problems that we don't have and we may think we are doing a great job of things that could use some improvement.

Have your Membership Committee create a Chapter Assessment and review the replies to identify areas that affect membership retention and may affect membership recruitment successes. Discuss the results with your Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron and members. If you would like some help by using an Assessment form that has already been prepared, you can request a copy by sending e-mailing: [terryfolk@yahoo.com](mailto:terryfolk@yahoo.com). (A copy is also included with this *OES News*.) You may want to use this form as a guideline and change and "tweak" it to meet your Chapter's needs,

Chapter Assessments will prepare you for the next Tool we will be offering for your Membership Tool Box. Membership – Recognition, Retention, Recruitment. It's important and it's fun! Keep up and keep going.

**Add a Chapter Assessment to your Membership Tool Box . . . . .**

**Your State Membership Committee**

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

**---Your Publicity Committee has a deal for you!!** With this issue of the *OES News* you will find several order forms for the *OES Journal*. (You may make copies.) From now until November 6, 2009, if you renew your subscription for three years (\$36.00) or order a new subscription for three years (\$36.00) you will receive **FREE** a copy of the new 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet on the International Headquarters—the beautiful Belmont Mansion in Washington DC.—a \$10.00 value!! What an opportunity to learn more about our Eastern Star Headquarters—and to also learn what Chapters all over the world are doing. We hope you won't pass up this opportunity!

Susan Corbin, Chairperson, Publicity



## Salvation Army

There has been some concern from Star members when making donations for the Worthy Grand Matron's special project "The Salvation Army". Please write the estimated dollar value of your donations on the receipt before sending it to the Grand Chapter office. If you are planning to use your receipt for a tax write off, just make a copy of the receipt and send the copy to the Grand Chapter office. The Grand Chapter is not using any of these receipts for a "write off", but

we'd like to have the receipts to keep track of the dollar amounts given to the Salvation Army.

We are encouraging members to start collecting non-perishable food and canned food for the food pantries of Salvation Army. With the economy, there are many families in need of food to feed their families and the Salvation Army food pantry's are in need of assistance. You could set a box in your local Masonic Temple with a sign stating you are collecting food and see if the other units that meet at you Temple might not assist

in this very needy and worthwhile project. Also, don't forget to contact your local Salvation Army to sign up for ringing bells during the holiday season.

We appreciate all of your time in donating to the Salvation Army to make Billie's and Bruce's project a success.

Laurel Wolfe & Cathy Voshell  
Co-Chairpersons  
The Salvation Army Project



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

- ❖ Thanksgiving greetings from your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Please remember that for your Ingathering gifts to reach the homes by Thanksgiving the Grand Chapter office must receive your checks by October 30<sup>th</sup>. That is why this letter is being sent at this time.
- ❖ A Chapter Assessment survey form from your Grand Chapter Membership Committee. Why not sent this out with your next Chapter mailing and assess your responses? Your Membership Committee is working hard to help you with membership.
- ❖ Two Order forms for the "OES Journal". Please mention this at Chapter as many would like to have the free booklet on the International Headquarters—remember, the offer ends Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

SIGNET CHAPTER NO. 55 HAS AN ORGAN THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE GO TO A GOOD HOME. IF YOUR CHAPTER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN ORGAN, PLEASE CALL DELOYT YOUNG AT 308-532-7281. HE ASSURES US THAT THE PRICE IS RIGHT!

## GRAINS FROM THE PAST



*Preserving the Past; Preparing for the future*— In the year 1924 the report of the Grand Secretary stated that during the year 1923, Chapters had initiated 2,149 new members and on January 1, 1924 there were 33,234 members in the 247 Chapters. Perhaps the success the Chapters had in procuring new members back in 1923 can, at least in part, be attributed to their passion for their work. For instance, it was also noted that during the Forty-ninth Annual Session the officers of Trestle Board Chapter No. 67 exemplified the ritualistic work and two new Sisters were initiated. The Chapter was commended as "an example of what a Chapter from a small town can do if they become interested and will make the effort. They proved the true loyal spirit gathered from the teachings of the Ritual." Can we find in our hearts today that same passion?

### THE OES CARDINAL CALENDAR

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

- October 6, 2009 ..... Sunflower Chapter No. 214 Harvest Dinner and Friendship Night, 6:30 pm, 1715 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Be our Guests—call Betty at 308-623-1082 for information.
- October 10, 2009 ..... Luna Chapter No. 159 & Elkhorn Waterloo Assembly No. 38 Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7:30 pm, 300 Hooper St, Elkhorn. Call Marcia at 402-553-1229 for details.
- October 10, 2009 ..... Narcissus Chapter No. 269 Turkey Dinner, 4-7 pm, 5903 Maple St., Omaha. Call Karen at 402-455-5183 for details.
- October 11, 2009 ..... Martha Washington No. 153 Roast Beef Dinner, 11 am-1 pm, 4430 N. 70<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln. Cost \$10. ***Tickets must be purchased in advance***--call Paula at 402-489-4241 for tickets.
- October 11, 2009 ..... Alpha Chapter No. 325 Harvest Dinner, 4-7 pm, 1908 Franklin, Bellevue. Call Anne at 402-291-6496 for information
- October 24, 2009 ..... Laura Chapter No. 301 Baked Potato Luncheon, 11 am to 2 pm, St. Paul UMC, 20<sup>th</sup> & A, South Sioux City. Call Betty Garwood at 402-494-5159 for details.
- Oct. 24-25, 2009 ..... AkSarBen Chapter No. 277 Haunted House, 2823 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> St., Omaha. Call Jackie at 402-884-0571 for more information. Bring the whole family for lots of fun!
- November 22, 2009..... Fontenelle Chapter No. 249 Smorgasbord Dinner, 11 am to 2 pm, 2424 S. 135<sup>th</sup> Ave. Call Cathy at 402-933-9095 for more information