

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

"Make a Joyful Noise"

Volume X Number XI ~April, 2010

NEW RITUALS ARE NOW

AVAILABLE: Rituals must be ordered through the Chapter Secretary or Worthy Matron. CHAPTER SECRETARIES please find out how many regular and how many large print Rituals the members of your Chapter wish to order and then send ONE order for your Chapter. MEMBERS—please let your Secretary know if you want to order a new Ritual.

From our tree



Our Worthy Grand Matron has thrown us in this big plastic box again, so we know there is an important trip coming up soon—a trip to Lincoln for the Grand Chapter Session. This is the last OES NEWS some of you will receive before that Session, so here are some things we have on our list and we are sharing it with you to help you get ready for the "Make a Joyful Noise" Grand Chapter Session:

1. **Bring your bells**—many of you purchased bells at the Area Visitations—Billie really means it, she wants you to bring those bells to Grand Chapter and/or purchase some more bells to support the Salvation Army when you get there.
2. **Make housing reservations**--call the Holiday Inn (402-475-4011) or one of the other hotels listed on the housing information sheet. DEADLINE: APRIL 15TH
3. **Mail in your Pre-registration form** and your check to the PO Box listed on the form. (Remember if you receive any complimentary tickets: if you already have the ticket—*don't list it on your form*; if you need the ticket, indicate that it is "Comp" in the amount column and order it. **The Deadline for pre-registration is April 24, 2010.**
4. **Don't forget: Credentials—Dues Receipts—Past Matron or Past Patron Card—Past Grand Matron, Past Grand Patron Certificates.**
5. **Don't forget your cookies**—if you are a Past or Present Grand Representative or a member of PAGOS. Our whole family is looking forward to those cookies!
6. **Send in your resume** right away if you are interested in being considered for the election of a new Grand Secretary.
7. **Participate in the Proficiency Challenge**—just have all your installed officers and all new members initiated in 2009 complete the proficiency test, record it in your Chapter's minutes and mail their names to the Grand Secretary by April 25th!
8. **Bring your baskets, craft or other item to participate in the Silent Auction/Raffle.** See the enclosed flyer.

When you get there remember to ask if someone has remembered to get us out of this box!! Curtis, & Family

LOAN FUND COMMITTEE:

Deadline for Educational Loan Applications is April 30th.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

We are again requesting that Chapters send any news articles published in their local newspaper or Masonic publications to the Publicity Committee. Please also let us know of any time your Chapter is mentioned on the radio or local television. We want to share this information with Chapters across the state. Articles will be included in a scrapbook at Grand Chapter. Please send articles and information to Lorrie Bryant 8021 Preserve Lane, Lincoln NE 68516 by April 30th. THANK YOU! [Please note: this is a separate request from the scrapbook pages that have recently been sent out.]



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You are cordially invited to attend a retirement tea for Sisters Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary and Betty Kucera, Office Assistant. The open house will be hosted by Office Assistant Sister Jan Thoman on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Grand Chapter office, 300 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fremont.  
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P The PAGO banquet will be Wednesday May 12th at Grand Chapter. All Past Appointed Grand Officers are invited to come and welcome the "Faith in Unity" Grand Officers to PAGO Club. PAGO's will also be furnishing cookies for the Distinguished Guests Registration. President Louise Scolaro is asking for volunteers to bring cookies and help serve refreshments in the Distinguished Guest Room on Tuesday from 9 am to 4 pm. Please call Louise at 402-733-6249 or email at Ins733@juno.com

The VAMAFLONT Club's aim is to extend courtesy to all OES Members who are hospitalized in the Omaha Area. Please contact Isobel Taylor 402-493-2854 jtaylor@tconl.com or Becky Baker 402-734-1810 beckystar@cox.net to arrange for someone to make a visit to any Sister or Brother hospitalized in the Omaha area.



Past and Present Grand Ducks

You are invited to the Grand Duck Luncheon on Monday May 10 at 12:00 pm at Old Chicago in the Haymarket. Contact Candy Martin 402-727-4048 or Vhsmartin50@aol.com by April 23rd to make a reservation.



Take a break in September and join members of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on an exciting trip to our Nation's Capital. Highlights of the tour will be the George Washington Masonic Memorial and the International Headquarters of the Order of the Eastern Star. Many other points of interest including a cruise on the Potomac, delicious food events and deluxe hotel accommodations are yours.

Join Associate Grand Matron Jerri Wilcox, Associate Grand Patron, Denny Smith, Grand Master John Parsons and travel with Sisters and Brothers who have the same interests as yours. For more information contact Jerrie Wilcox, PO Box 27171, Ralston NE 68127 or jwilcox4_1@juno.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

What is in your Membership Tool Box?



**This month we want you
to add -
Value through service.**

Why do people join service organizations? There are many answers to that question, but the most common reason I have heard is to provide service for the community. We know that there is no better feeling than the feeling of helping others. That feeling not only increases members self worth, it gives our organization "value" to the members. One of our three R's of membership is retention. People are less likely to let go of something that is valuable to them. We need

our members to find value in our Chapters, so they don't want to leave.

We need to provide opportunities for service. Service to our chapters, to our members and to our communities. What service opportunities does your Chapter provide? Do you need to do some more "planning" to develop these opportunities or to give your current projects potential for growth? I see two surveys in your future, do them now.

- Survey your members to find out what they are interested in and where they want the focus to be.
- Survey your community to assess the needs in your local area. If you are looking for a list of needs in your community and

have a computer, this is an excellent website—
volunteermatch.com.

When you perform your service projects do them under the name of Eastern Star, wear identifiable clothing, let the community know who is bringing this love and concern into their lives, build the self worth of your members and the value of the organization to its members.

Value through service—do it now!



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Deadline for returning Notification of Award forms and money for the 2010-2011 Scholarship Program is May 1, 2011.

Enclosed with this OES News

- ❖ Flyer from the WGM and Salvation Army Committee describing the Silent Auction/Raffle that will be held at Grand Chapter.
- ❖ Special Invitation to 2009 and 2010 Ruths and Marthas, the honored station of the Worthy Grand Matron.
- ❖ Memorial Cards for Past Grand Matron Sister Bonnie Brasel and Past Grand Patrons Brothers C. Robert Todd and Cal Armour. The cards instruct Subordinate Chapters to read the memorial and drape the Charter for these deceased members.
- ❖ One copy of the Resolutions that will be presented at the Grand Chapter Session. Discuss these in your Chapter meeting so that your representatives will know your opinions.



Grains from the Past "Preserving the Past; Preparing for the future"— In our journey through the history of our Grand Chapter we are now up to 1990. I was interested in learning how much our Grand Chapter has changed in the past twenty years, so here I am with the 1990 Proceedings book in my hands, and having just finished up the membership figures for 2009 it was interesting to compare the membership figures for the close of 1989. Here are the comparisons:

Membership close of 1989: 23,569; Membership close of 2009: 9,149

Number of Initiations 1989: 244; Number Initiations in 2009: 118

Net loss of members 1989: 1,059; Net loss of members 2009: 398

Number of Chapters consolidated 1989: 5; Number of Chapters consolidated 2009: 5

Number of Chapters Jan 1, 1990: 175; Number of Chapters Jan 1, 2010: 100

THE OES CARDINAL CALENDAR

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MAY NEWS BY APRIL 15

Reminder: Remember to send information on your Chapter's events to Gwen Hurst-Anderson: pengwensrule@gmail.com and she will enter your events on the website's Masonic Calendar.

April 10th..... Narcissus Chapter No. 269 Roast Beef Dinner, 4-7 pm, 5903 Maple Street, Omaha. Cost: \$8.00. Call Maggie for more information at 712-347-5602.

April 16-17..... Nebraska-South Dakota Exchange.

April 24..... Trinity Chapter No. 299 annual Style Show, noon, 2424 S. 135th Ave, Omaha. Donation: \$8.00. Fashions from the Dress Barn—door prizes. Call Linda at 402-298-8082 for more information.