



OES STAR DOGS OF NEBRASKA, INC.

P.O. Box 6571
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506-6571

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Friends, and Encouragers,

Welcome to this celebration and revelation! You are among the first to hear and know about **OES STAR DOGS OF NEBRASKA, INC.** . Tonight we celebrate the official announcement of the Nebraska Eastern Star vision brought to life in this public charity. Tonight we celebrate the engagement of this charity that will open the door to a wide range of opportunities for our loving and serving through the dogs. New possibilities, new relationships, new fundraising for the dogs will be our reality! **OES STAR DOGS OF NEBRASKA, INC.** provides a firm foundation for building, growing and sharing the great gifts of our Nebraska Star Dogs. Thank you for joining us in this kick off! We hope you will engage with your energy, involvement and support as we move forward with this public charity.

It is no small accomplishment to have reached this plateau. Please join me in recognizing and thanking those whose vision, dedication, diligence, patience, and hard work have made this public charity a reality! This journey began prior to the 2009 General Grand Chapter Triennium with the appointment of the first Service Dog Committee. In 2015, the membership formally adopted Service Dogs as its primary identifying charity and a steering committee was appointed for the triennium to formulate the Service Dog program. Throughout those first six years as the development of this philanthropy began, PGM of Nebraska Betty Kirby was appointed and served on the General Grand Chapter Committee.

In 2017, WGM Anita Sohm appointed as a special committee the original five members who began developing Nebraska Grand Chapter's preparation for the project. At the Grand Chapter session of 2018 the Service and Therapy Dog Committee by vote of the Grand Chapter became a Nebraska Grand Chapter Standing Committee. The General Grand Chapter Service Dogs program was officially launched at the last Triennial Session on November 1, 2018 in Orlando.

In 2019, as the energy and **“paws-i-tive”** impact of the dogs began to grow within Nebraska, the need became apparent to grow from our own ranks a public charity that could build a broader base and serve to enhance the mechanism for future growth. Thus began the legal work and application efforts to form this 501(c)3 public charity. More than a decade of hard work, wisdom and vision are acknowledged tonight as the Board of Directors and first corp of officers are in place to begin this profound next step in the history of our Grand Chapter and the outreach of our Order.

As the Board of Directors, we thank you for your presence and participation. Thank you for joining us as together we begin this journey to serve and share the greatness of the **dogs**.

With gratitude and great expectations,

Betty Kirby, PGM, President
Lorrie Bryant, PM, Treasurer
Beth Benson, PM
Karan Birdsall, WGM

Cyn Norman, PGM, Vice President
Judy Wehrbein, PGM, GGCCM
Rick Myers, PP
Bruce A. Baker, WGP

Nan Rix, PM, Secretary
Dian Larsen, PM
Jan Thoman, PGM