



SUNSHINE AND SMILES NEWS

Sisters and Brothers,

Spring is finally here! It has been a colder winter than usual. I am so ready for tulips and daffodils. I love those Sunflowers, but the first Spring flowers remind us of the renewal of life.

Easter is almost here reminding us that Christ has risen, let us rejoice! Bunnies and chicks and hiding eggs add to the joy of celebrating Easter. Easter was always a time to dress up and go to sunrise service at church. We would have a blessed service and then a wonderful breakfast there with our church family. Then, Sunday School and church service, then home to dinner and fun with egg hunts and plenty of candy. So much fun. Easter was my Dad's favorite holiday. Many great memories were made. Our family continues this today. I love to hide the eggs. It seems we need to count them or make a map of them these days as Mike and I forget where we hide them! It can be a crazy day with grandkids and great-grandkids still expecting us to hide eggs, even if they are adults, too funny. But of course, we must never forget Christ's story and the true reason of the Easter season.

This journey has been one of great reward. You, the members, have been so supportive of me. Many events, inspections, receptions, anniversaries, and fund raising have filled the year with great fellowship and kindness and much joy. As we continue this amazing journey to Grand Chapter, I thank each of you for your support. The Grand Family, the Deputies, and spouses all have been the best. My love for you continues.

We are finishing the last of the inspections and receptions throughout the state and moving to the last inspection on April 26th at the Seymour Lodge. I hope everyone will join us for the final inspection in the State. We will have a Dixieland River Boat Cruise on April 27th, the next day, to raise money for our "Supporting Our Youth" project. I know it will be a fun time for a great cause. Our youth is our future. Please come and join us. I think we have a few seats for the WGM and WGP Bus trip to Washington, D.C. There is still a chance to sign up for the trip. Let me know and we can get you a seat.

Keep striving for new members. Hopefully with the change of qualifications to join our Eastern Star we can gain some new members. If you need information about these changes, please ask questions and we will be happy to help. Each Chapter should have received the new petition for membership with the changes made by General Grand Chapter. Keep working in your chapters and holding offices and keep our Eastern Star shining bright.

God bless you all and continued safe travels as we complete the year. Many plans are being made for the Grand Chapter session. It will be a full weekend with many visitors from other states, including the Most Worthy Grand Matron and the Most Worthy Grand Patron. Plan to join us at the 150th Grand Chapter Session. Lots of special things are planned.

Star Love and Hugs,
Karen Hazelman
Worthy Grand Matron

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

As you read this article, I sincerely hope everyone is well and have enjoyed our time off. We should be well rested and ready to begin our travels again.

We are fast approaching June and the 150th Session Anniversary of Indiana Grand Chapter. It is a very busy time preparing for this special Session. Worthy Grand Matron Karen and I have so much to do to get ready for this special Session. So much to do and so little time!

Can you imagine how our Sisters and Brothers traveled to get to their Chapter meetings and Inspections or to Grand Chapter? Compared to today's standards it doesn't seem like horse and buggies and railroads would have made for an easy trip! I am so thankful for cell phones, good highways and the automobiles we have today. But with all the modern conveniences our Eastern Star continues to decline. The dedication to our organization is not what it was in the past. We have so many opportunities to support our Order, but it seems to continue to decline. Members do not make the effort to attend meetings or encourage new members. We all need to try harder to build our Star to its full potential. Let's all try a little harder!

We are promoting our projects as we get to the end of our term. We have worked to support our youth this year and will continue to do so with a Riverboat Cruise on April 27th and a bus trip to Washington D.C. May 5-9. We hope for good weather for both trips. These will be fun trips with good food, music, and fellowship with our members. I am looking forward to the Washington D.C. trip as the Worthy Grand Matron and I will have the honor of laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There is still time to sign up for these trips. The proceeds will be divided equally between our Rainbow, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay. We ask that you support these organizations. We thank our project Chairmen for their work organizing these trips. A lot of time and work have been put into both trips. We want to thank Connie Nierste and Mike Roach for doing all they did to make these trips possible. We ask you to continue to support our Labs for Liberty project, ESTARL, the heart and cancer funds, and our special joint project, Curtains for Nettie.

I encourage all to attend the Grand Chapter Session in June. We are celebrating a milestone in our history, and it will be a memorable time with lots of guests from other jurisdictions. Let's show our Hoosier Hospitality to all in attendance.

As I conclude, as always, my prayer for each of you is for good health and safe travels. May God bless all of you and your families.

family



Denver Gray
Worthy Grand Patron



CALLING ALL GOLFERS

Denver's Caddies Annual

"Puttin For Pups"

Service Dog Project Fundraiser

Saturday, May 17th, 2025

St. Anne's Golf Course
360 E. County Road 350 N.
North Vernon, Indiana 47265

\$200.00 Per Team
(4 Golfers per team)

(This includes breakfast, lunch, prizes, & games.)

Top 5 Teams Payout!

Hole Sponsorship's Available \$100.00

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Tee Off: 9:00 a.m.

Registration is Due by May 9th.

To: Terrie Barber

3050 W. Co. Rd. 200 S., North Vernon, Indiana 47265
Phone: 812-592-0647 email: barberj720@aol.com

Team Name: _____

Golfer 1: _____

Golfer 2: _____

Golfer 3: _____

Golfer 4: _____

Thank You!!!



Two very small words, but they hold a wealth of meaning and gratitude. I will never be able to repay so many of you who worked so diligently on my behalf as I aspired to bring General Grand Chapter back to Indiana where it was initially formed. You wore my button, you purchased and wore my shirts, carried my tote bag, wore my shoe pin, you encouraged me, you traveled with me and you inspired me. Words will never be able to fully relay what all of this has meant to me. Sister Diana Surfus, PGM, who worked tirelessly to see that there were two motor coaches available FREE OF CHARGE for our delegation to make the trip to Myrtle Beach, she worked to be sure that our delegation was housed in the headquarters hotel and filled 50 rooms with our Sisters and Brothers. She hosted the most amazing hospitality suite ever seen and received rave reviews from members throughout the world. She set up the most inviting booth in the vendor area for me to be able to greet and talk with members from all over the world. We received so many wonderful compliments on how welcoming our booth was, as well as those volunteers who worked it. I would definitely leave someone out if I tried to name everyone who worked behind the scenes at Myrtle Beach to pull it all together. Just know, that I appreciated each and every act that was performed on my behalf.

And, WOW did you make your presence known in the General Grand Chapter room. It was breathtaking to see all of you assembled in one area and standing when I was nominated, as well as when I was elected. And installation...I cannot even begin to describe the feeling of looking out there and seeing the absolute sea of Indiana State flags and all of you standing. Indiana definitely got their attention. There were 12 Past Grand Matrons, 9 Past Grand Patrons and 9 spouses with us, as well as 13 Grand Officers and 6 spouses, along with 4 District Deputies and 1 spouse. We also had 3 widows of Past Grands that made the trip. And literally, subordinate members from every District in the state!!! THANK YOU INDIANA!!!!

Someone else who I must thank and give much-much credit to is Brother William Shoulders, who served as Worthy Grand Chaplain. He supported me 1000% throughout this journey and introduced me to many people in my travels. He and Sister Lynn were and continue to be not only great friends, but great supporters.

Lastly, thank you to Brother Carl Hinshaw, also a very dear friend. Early last year when I was asked who would present my Indiana State Flag were I to be elected, he was the first person who came to mind and he very graciously said yes. I was so very proud to stand with our Indiana flag at Installation. And, thank you Carl, for the almost weekly updates as to how many days it was before we went to Myrtle Beach. You're the best and you are going to be a great WGP!!

Special thanks to Sisters Jan Surber, Nancy Frost and Michelle Hetrick for accepting the task of putting together my welcome home honor night at Grand Chapter this year. You ladies are truly special!

Finally, my Sisters and Brothers, thank you to each and every one of you, whether you were at Myrtle Beach or back home cheering from afar, you are the reason I did this. You are truly the best of the best. Since returning home, I have received so many cards, texts, emails and messages of congratulations and offers of support. I treasure each and every one of those and believe me, there will BE plenty of work to go around and I am more than confident that Indiana will continue to WOW the General Grand Chapter.

Stay tuned for big announcements; I think you will be excited!!!!

Very humbly,
Susie Roach, RWAGC

My General Grand Experience (by Renee Andrews – PDD #21)

Over 100 Indiana Members started out very early on a crisp October morning for what would be the trip of a lifetime to attend the General Grand Chapter in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Our route had been greatly changed at the last minute due to Hurricane Helene. The first members climbed on the buses from the Shrine Lodge in Fort Wayne at a time of day most people don't see. We then traveled to Fisher's Masonic Lodge where most of our intrepid travelers boarded the buses. We picked up the rest of our travelers at Jeffersonville Lodge and were on our way. We traveled through West Virginia, and the weather and scenery were beautiful. The trip was long, but we had good company to spend the time with. We arrived at the Marriott Convention Center at around 1:00 a.m. and were met by several other Hoosiers, who had come by alternate means, and our wonderful Chairman for the buses, Sister Diana Surface.

The next morning was an orientation type morning as we picked up our credentials and checked out the vendor area, the hotel itself, and the convention area. Sister Diana had also set up an area in the vendor area for our candidate, Sister Susie Roach, to be able to meet and greet voting delegates from around the world. This booth was very professional looking, but still had Hoosier Hospitality. It was staffed by our Indiana Members, who made sure people knew Indiana was in the house and had a person in the running for the General Grand Line. Sister Diana had also overseen the Hoosier Hospitality Suite, which was quite popular with Indiana members as well as many people from other jurisdictions. The Suite was staffed by volunteers and was open nearly the entire time we were there. We had numerous return visitors after finding out we were a fun group to hang out with. As we mingled with the other attendees, we made sure to show our pride and support for Sister Susie. I personally got to talk to people from most of the Canadian Provinces, Hawaii, South America, and the Philippines. It was wonderful to see no matter where in the world you were from, the Order of the Eastern Star gave us all a common ground to discuss numerous different points of view.

The following days were filled with

attending chapter sessions, visiting local attractions, shopping, and of course, trying out new places to eat. One of the interesting places we visited was Broadway at the Beach, which was a collection of restaurants, small businesses and attractions. One of which was the Sky Wheel, which was a two story Merry-Go-Around. The view from the top was fabulous. Everyone we met was nice and the total vibe was welcoming. I really think I could do the "Snowbird" thing here.

The hotel and its staff did a fantastic job taking care of us. There were a few glitches in staffing, but with the number of people staying, it should have been expected. There were a couple of mobile food stands, which did extraordinary business. One being a sandwich and drink tent, right beside an ice cream truck, that was open every day during the busy noon rush. There was also a smoothie stand that had excellent healthy choices, along with some non-healthy, but really good, oversized muffins. There was also a professional photography company who made the rounds to get photographs of all the activities, even the individual state banquets.

Speaking of the Indiana banquet, we had over 110 people present for this triennium dinner. It is believed this was the largest collection of Indiana members ever. It was a wonderful evening spent with friends.

The day of the election arrived and to say the tension was high would be an understatement. We had several people, me included, running large text circles with people who were not able to be with us. I personally had 15 people to whom I was texting events in real time. The General Grand Chapter does not have electronic voting, so the business session moved a little slower than what we are now doing. Any close votes would have to go to paper ballots, and some Jurisdictions would have persons voting several ballots. The three candidates for

My General Grand Experience (cont.)

Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress were introduced and the voting ensued. My little text group was pacing the floors back here in Indiana, while I was trying not to jump out of my seat. The first ballot was collected and after what seemed forever (but surprisingly not that long, for the counting of over 1,000 ballots), our own Sister Susie Roach was elected on that first ballot!

There was more business conducted, but as non-voting delegates, most of us moved on to the celebration portion of the evening. The Hospitality Room was awash with numerous people from all over the world, who came to join Indiana in our celebration.

Installation was held on Thursday (Halloween) evening, and our Sister Susie was escorted by a very proud Brother Mike and led by our Grand Marshal, Brother Carl Hinshaw, whom Sister Susie had asked to be her flag bearer and present our Indiana state flag. It was exciting to see the absolute sea of smaller Indiana state flags as our newly elected Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress was introduced and installed.

Then it was time to pack our bags and get back on the bus. The trip home seemed to be twice as long as the trip down, as most trips seem to be. After dropping off members in Jeffersonville and Fishers, the remainder of the crew arrived back at the Fort Wayne Shrine Building at approximately 1:00 a.m.

As for this year, as we continue to celebrate Sister Susie's election, Indiana will be welcoming the Most Worthy Grand Matron and her Corps of Officers to Indiana this June and we will be holding an Honor Night for the RWAGC. Hopefully, we will be able to start things out with a great showing of our

membership. Remember, we will have some amendments this year that are a direct result of resolutions approved by General Grand Chapter. One of those will be the major change to the requirements for membership to the Order. Starting now, new petitions have been created and if you have a female who wants to be a member of the Order, but does not have a Masonic relationship, all they will need is a letter of recommendation from a brother **and** a sister filed with the petition. This is exciting news for our Order, as most of us have at one time or another said, "She would be a great member, but unfortunately she doesn't have a Masonic affiliation."

In review, we had an absolutely fabulous time, and Myrtle Beach welcomed us with great warmth and hospitality. Indiana truly made a lasting impression on the General Grand Chapter world with their numbers, their support, enthusiasm and hospitality. The next three General Grand Chapter Trienniums are being planned with 2027 to be held in Arizona, 2030 to be held in Pennsylvania, and 2033 to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. I would love to see as many of our Indiana members present as possible for that 2033 General Grand Chapter session, as that will see the installation of our Sister Susie as Most Worthy Grand Matron (AKA the Worthy Matron of the World). Then in 2036, we will be welcoming the Order of the Eastern Star back "Home" to Indiana where General Grand Chapter was first founded. It will be an amazing time (a lot of work) in welcoming the world to Indiana, but I know that Indiana members will step up and be spectacular examples of the meaning of Hoosier Hospitality. **Get on board, strap in and prepare for a great ride!!**

"Wrapping Little Buns!"

The officers of Fishers Chapter #446 contributed 69 pounds of diapers to the "Come to Me" Food Pantry at Fishers United Methodist Church. This has been an almost yearly service project that we have conducted at our January meeting celebrating the "Baby" New Year. As Sheri Fulkerson, our Worthy Matron, remarked, "This has wrapped a lot of little buns in need!"



General Grand Chapter Banquet

The banquet of “Stars Around the World” was a very highly attended banquet with over 950 members attending. This banquet was honoring the MWGM, MWGP, and General Grand Chapter Officers, with open seating. What an honor to have been sitting with Sister Christine R. Burton, MWGM of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, Brother John M. Hanning, MWGP of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and their spouses, David and Isabel. Also seated at our table were Sister Helen Lentz, PGM of North Carolina, and Sister Pam Mosier, WM at Plainfield. Brother Charles Hendricks, PP in D#10, was a Grand Representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland in Indiana from May of 2022 to May of 2024. When Sister Pam brought up Brother Charles’ name, Sister Christine, MWGM, and Brother John, MWGP, shared that they had communicated via email, having had wonderful conversations between them.

Sister Christine, MWGM, and Brother John, MWGP, wanted to meet Brother William Shoulders, Worthy Grand Chaplain of the General Grand Chapter and PGP in Indiana. We were able to get Brother William Shoulders over to meet and greet along with getting a picture with him.

Sister Christine, MWGM, and Brother John, MWGP, had also asked if they could meet Sister Karen Hazelman, WGM of Indiana Grand Chapter and Brother Denver Gray, WGP of the Indiana Grand Chapter. Sister Karen, WGM, and Brother Denver, WGP, were “rounded up” for a picture and time to talk with the MWGM and MWGP of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland and their spouses.



David Burton; Christine Burton, MWGM of Scotland; John Hanning, MWGP of Scotland; Isabel Hanning, Grand Representative of Indiana in Scotland; William Shoulders, WGC



Denver Gray, WGP; Karen Hazelman, WGM; David Burton; Christine Burton MWGM of Scotland; John Hanning, MWGP of Scotland; Isabel Hanning, Grand Representative of Indiana in Scotland

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR STAR-LITE?

You have received this issue, but will you get the next one? Check your expiration date on the back page to the left of your address. If it says your last issue is April 2025, then you need to renew now! Fill out the form on the next to the last page and include your check made out to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES and mail to Nancy Pratt, 3597 N. Old U.S. 31, Rochester, IN 46975.

Thank you! We couldn't continue without your support!

RoseMary Augsburger Honored

On January 16, 2025, several members of Lynhurst Chapter #505, as well as LeVon Holmes, PGM, gathered at Woodland Terrace Senior Living facility to honor Sister RoseMary Augsburger. Carl Hinshaw, Grand Marshal, introduced individuals to assist him in the ceremony: Mary Hutson, Past Grand Esther; and Stella England, Secretary of Lynhurst. Stella read the proclamation giving Carl Hinshaw an appointment as Special Deputy to present the 75-Year Diamond Award to RoseMary by Karen L. Hazelman, Worthy Grand Matron.

Carl asked Mary to bring RoseMary forward for this presentation. Carl presented the ceremony and read the history of RoseMary's years in Eastern Star, then asked Mary to present RoseMary with her pin. After receiving her pin, Carl asked all present to stand and give RoseMary Grand Honors after which we gave her a round of applause. RoseMary was asked if she had any favorite memories from her years in Eastern Star. She said there were too many to single out a few.

Pictured are members in attendance that enjoyed fellowship and refreshments: Carl Hinshaw, Susan Marsh, Mary Hutson, RoseMary Augsburger, Heidi Buckingham, Stella England, daughter Terrie Hubele, Sandi Ellis, Guy Dennis, and Fred Buckingham. Also in attendance was Don Hubele, RoseMary's son-in-law.



50-Year Award for Luann Isom

Sister Luann Isom was awarded her 50-year pin on November 19, 2024 at the inspection for Columbia, Hymera, Newberry, and Sullivan chapters in District #7 at Linton Masonic Lodge in Linton, Indiana. The award was presented by Worthy Grand Matron Karen Hazelman and pinned by Sister Karen and Brother Allen Easterday. The Easterday's were the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron when Sister Luann was initiated on November 14, 1974 in Stanford, so it was nice they got to be the ones to pin her. Also standing up with her was Brother Denver Gray, Worthy Grand Patron.

Sister Luann was Worthy Matron for the first time in 1982, and has been Worthy Matron 7 times total. She was the District Deputy for D#7 in 2011-2012 and still serves her chapter every year. She is currently the Associate Matron for Stanford Chapter. She has also served on the Service Dog Project and is currently the chairperson for the Cancer Fund.





Alicia Corn, Grand Adah

Greetings Everyone! This has been a wonderful year serving as your Grand Adah. I have really enjoyed traveling the state, renewing friendships, and meeting new people wherever I have been.

I was born October 16th to Jennette and Dennie Sumwalt and I am the middle child with an older brother and a younger sister. We grew up on a small farm outside Farmland, Indiana where I attended school at Monroe Central. I was active in basketball, academic teams, and band. Summers were very busy with 4-H projects and marching band. I am thankful for those years spent at the sewing machine and in the kitchen since it came in handy later in life.

I attended Ball State University and earned my Bachelor degree in Geology. While I was there, I met my husband BJ and we married after a year of dating. I also became a Girl Scout leader during that time after heading up my county's Day Camp for a few years. Before I graduated, I started working for Kohl's Department Store as a cashier. Then after I graduated, I decided I did not want the headache of Indy traffic daily and decided to work at Kohl's full time as a department supervisor. I did that for several years in different departments before moving up to a key carrier that oversaw those departments under a manager. The last 3 years, I have been less stressed working as the Store Support Lead doing schedules, hiring, and payroll.

I joined the Farmland Eastern Star under my grandfather Charles Huber, who was a member of the Whitney Lodge. That was a very special night because both my grandparents, Allie Mae & Charlie Huber were in the East and my parents were both serving as officers. Since then, my sister has also joined and I have initiated my niece while I was in the East. My first office was Esther, but I have since held a variety of offices through the years; longest as Secretary and Worthy Matron. I am also a plural member of the Winchester Chapter. Serving as District Chairman for Cancer, ESTARL, and the Service Dog Project are just a few things I have done through the years, also. I served as a District Deputy for Sister Diana Surfus and Brother Les Simonton in the Journey of Love Grand Family in 2018 and 2019. I was a Page for Sister Angela Hensell and Brother Jim Rogers in the Let Freedom Ring Grand Session. Sister Cynthia Willyard and Brother Harold Rowe appointed me as Grand Representative of Idaho in Indiana.

Psi Iota Xi Sorority is a philanthropic sorority that focuses on art, music, and literature. And we give back in our community to our elementary and high school through a variety of activities and projects that we do. I have belonged to the local chapter for several years and I am the treasurer in that group.

I am thankful to Karen and Denver for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position and be a part of this Grand Family. We are having Fun this year. I know my family is proud of my appointment and my husband is watching over my journey from heaven as the journey continues.





Elaine Sample, Grand Ruth

My name is Elaine Sample. I am a member of Fountain Chapter #204 in District #16 in the small town of Kingman. I am serving as Secretary.

I was born to John and Carmen Boord in 1953. I have one brother, one sister and many nieces and nephews. I attended Southeast Fountain High School in Veedersburg, Indiana. That is where I met my husband, Gary Sample. We both graduated from there. We were married in July 1972. We have been blessed with three daughters, one son, ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and hopefully more in the near future. Gary was raised a Mason in 1980. Gary's mother asked us to join Eastern Star so we were initiated into Yeddo Chapter #313. Unfortunately, Yeddo Chapter closed and consolidated with Fountain Chapter #204. I have had an office every year of the 44 years that I have been a member.

In 1998, Gary and I decided to buy the Yeddo General Store. Our grandchildren loved to come and visit us at the store because we fed them all kinds of snacks and goodies. We sold the store after 10 years because we wanted to spend

more time attending the grandchildren's sports and events.

Sadly, we lost Gary in March of 2011. His father passed away the next year. So, my mother-in-law Velma and I became widows a year apart. I decided not to go back to work because God placed it in my heart to take care of my mother-in-law. We helped each other until she passed away in December, 2023.

My pin is a golden sheaf of barley. On top is my chapter #204 and my District #16. Below that is a butterfly, which is for my mother whom I'm blessed to still have living. She enjoys butterflies a lot. Under that is the word Hope.

I was asked to be a "Messenger of Hope" DD#16 for Jennifer "Nicholson" Maggart, PGM, and Robert De Rolf, PGP in 2019-2020 for the Legacy of Hope Grand Family. Then because of the Covid pandemic, we stayed together as a Grand Family in 2020-2021. On the bottom of my pin are African violets, in memory of my mother-in-law, who was a 73-year member of Eastern Star and raised African violets for 60 years.

I was also blessed to be "Pretty Penguin" DD#16 for Tina Vredenburgh, PGM, and Larry Frost, PGP, in 2015-2016 in the "Dare to Dream" Grand Family. My blessings also came as a Page for Elizabeth Lashley, PGM, and Darrell Arthur, PGP. I was appointed as a Grand Representative of Colorado in Indiana by Jill Rice, PGM, and the late Ron Mendenhall, PGP, in 2017.

I'm so honored and humbled that Karen Hazelman, WGM, and Denver Gray, WGP, asked me to represent Grand Ruth in this wonderful "Dreams of Fun in the Sun" Grand Family. I want to thank you both very much because I am enjoying every special moment of it! I love being a member of OES and having so many amazing Sisters and Brothers. I am trying my best in portraying Grand Ruth's faithfulness and kindness to everyone. I always want to keep God first in my life.



Dori Cooper, Grand Esther

I was born May 3, 1960, to Richard and Roberta Conner, in Cambridge, Nebraska. I am the eldest of 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys. I lived the first 12 years of my life on a farm in rural southwest Nebraska. I graduated high school in McCook, Nebraska in 1978.

I met my husband Starling through a mutual friend of my parents, in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. For those that don't know, Starling is an avid Florida State Fan. I being from Nebraska, am a Cornhusker. These two teams were slated to meet the next day. This created a debated discussion on who would win! Needless to say, the Nebraska Cornhuskers won.

We lived the next 3 years in Fresno, California where we were married on July 22, 1987. We then relocated to the San Francisco Bay area, living there for 6 years. This is where our son Starling was born, March 1990. In 1996 we moved to Avon, Indiana. Today, we still reside in our same home. I worked for PRN Pharmacy for 25 years, wearing many different hats during my time there. I was able to retire in 2022.

My Masonic affiliation is through my husband Starling. We joined Plainfield Chapter in 2015 together. I then joined Mooresville Chapter in 2017. I have held an office for each of these chapters, since joining.

My pin is in the shape of the Statue of Liberty. I was Lady Liberty DD # 6 for Angela Hensell and Jim Rogers, in the Let Freedom Ring Family. On the right-hand side there are 6 stars, representing District 6. On the left-hand side there are 10 stars, representing District 10. On the upper left-hand side, there is a Yorkshire Terrier which represents my dogs, Bridgette and Bentley. At the top is the Cross, the Cross where Jesus was slain and died for our sins.

My Sisters and Brothers, each one of us should be God's servant or God's Esther by taking our stand on Courage, standing up for what is right and standing against what is wrong. Our reward is the Unseen crown, the crown of Loyalty, Love & Devotion to those nearest and dearest to us. So, the beautiful story of Esther lives on in the hearts of all. May we always carry these words in our hearts: Others, Lord, yes others – Let this my motto be – Help me to live for others that I may live like Thee.

I am having a wonderful time this year, serving in the "Dreams of Fun in the Sun" Grand Family for Sister Karen Hazelman, WGM, and Brother Denver Gray, WGP, as Grand Esther. I would like to thank them both for asking me. I am looking forward to the rest of this year on my journeys throughout the great state of Indiana.





Amy Ogrentz, Grand Martha

Wow! What a fantastic year this has been so far! First, I would like to thank Sister Karen, WGM, and Brother Denver, WGP, for affording me the privilege of following in the footsteps of many gracious and dignified ladies, who have served our beautiful order as Grand Martha. Next, I would like to thank all the wonderful members with whom I have renewed or made new friendships during this time and for all the kind words, fabulous hospitality, and all courtesies. They are most appreciated!

I am the eldest child of 4 siblings born to Donald and Nina Thompson. My brother, Larry lives in Arizona, while our younger brother and baby sister live with our parents in Heaven. I had a typical Baby Boomer upbringing with many extra-curricular activities. I graduated from Griffith High School and went on to Ball State University where I majored and graduated with a BS degree in Elementary Education. But truly, if you wanted to find me, you needed to look in the Ball Gymnasium, where I was either teaching, rehearsing, or performing with our touring folk dance troupe, OR in our dormitory study hall where there was a continual double bid euchre tournament.

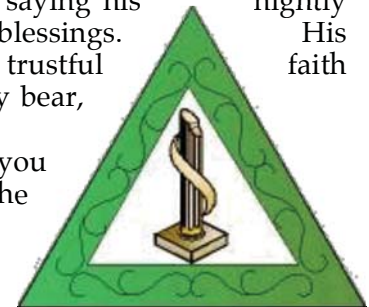
After graduation I spent a year in Elwood teaching 4th grade, but returned to the "Region" to find that teachers were a dime a dozen. I began working at Sears, Roebuck, & Co. selling mink and fox coats. It was during that time that I met and married Tom Gleason. Tom and I had a special Precious Moment who we named Tommy Matthew. Unfortunately, our Tommy had an incurable genetic disorder called Cystic Fibrosis. He passed away at 9 ½ years old. Our valley of sorrow took us down different paths and we did divorce. I continued to work for the School Town of Highland and went back to Purdue Northwest to receive my Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. After a few years, I met and married a Vietnam veteran named Rich Ogrentz. Rich and I had a Precious Moment of our own who we named Patrick. Patrick is my pride and joy and my rock as he was a great help with his father, who suffered from Parkinson's. Rich passed away in June of 2023. I taught for one more year and retired from the School Town of Highland in June 2024, with 40 years of service.

My Masonic affiliation is through my father, who joined Griffith Lodge #735 so I could become a Job's Daughter. I joined Eastern Star while home doing my student teaching. I have held the several star points, been WM twice, and am in my 28th year as secretary of our chapter. After my first time as WM, I was invited to be Pearl of Wisdom #19 for Sister Susie Roach and the late Brother Dwayne Taylor in the "Footprints in Time" Grand Family. During my second time as WM, Sister Shirley Moore and Brother Larry Crowder, gifted me with a Grand Representative appointment to Maryland. Anyone who truly knows me knows that IGRA is very near and dear to my heart and I was honored to serve the organization as president in 2011. Many years later I was invited to join the "Faith Moves Mountains" Grand Family with Sister Cindy Willyard and Brother Harold Rowe as Mountaineer #19. That has led to this fantastic year for which I will always be grateful!

My pin is inspired by the Precious Moment figurines of Sam Butcher and is dedicated to my two sons. It is a picture of a little boy kneeling at his bedside saying his prayers expressing his faith in God and thanking him for his many blessings. His jammies are green, reflecting nature's life and beauty and Martha's trustful and hope of immortality. Beside him is his faithful companion teddy bear, reminding us that there ever walks beside us an eternal friend. His faith

My friends, may you have the Serenity to accept the things you cannot change, the Courage to change the things you can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Thank you for your kind attention and may you always Believe!



Susie Alpha, Grand Electa

My name is Susie Alpha from the Crystal Chapter in District 17. I have lived in Monticello all my life being born the middle child of Dwight and Dorothy Vigus. I graduated from Twin Lakes High School and went on to beauty college in Kokomo. I've owned my own salon for 40 years and I just retired in December. I married Barry in 1983, and we were married almost 40 years when I lost him. Although we never had children, he gave me two wonderful step-children and eight grandchildren.

I'm a member of the Sitka Baptist Church where I am the treasurer and the worship leader. I love to quilt and belong to a couple little quilting groups, one of which makes quilts for veterans called Quilts of Valor. A little-known fact, I hold a purple belt in karate. Although that's been several years ago, I still have the belt, but my kicks are not what they used to be.

My Masonic heritage comes from my father who is a 67-year Past Master of Libanus Lodge in Monticello. He is 98 and still going strong. When I was 14, I decided to join Rainbow, but when I found out you had to ride a greased pig in a formal, I was out, so I waited until 1975 when I was initiated into Crystal Chapter. I soon became the Assistant Mother Advisor for the Rainbow Girls and received the Grand Cross of Color. (By the way, they don't make you ride a greased pig in a formal!) I have held eleven different offices in my chapter, four of the Star Points, but I was never Electa. So, how fitting that I was chosen to serve as your Grand Electa.

I was a Page for Diann Stienbarger and Jim Hollingsworth, a District Deputy for Pat Endsley and Greg Onken, a Grand Representative of Michigan for Betty Swisher and H. Fred Smith, and again a District Deputy for Gleda Brooks and Richard Lassiter.

My pin is in the shape of a quilt. It is a Friendship quilt with many patches. At the bottom is the clasped hands of friendship representing my years with the Rainbow Girls and for the many friends that I have met in this almost 50 years of being in this wonderful organization. In the center is 165 for my Crystal Chapter. At the top right is 17 for the smallest district in the state. At the bottom right is a basket for my Basket of Dreams Grand Family with Pat Endsley and Greg Onken in 2009. In the lower left-hand corner is a hummingbird for my Symphony of Faith and Love Grand Family with Gleda Brooks and Richard Lassiter in 2021. And in the top left-hand corner is a red heart for the love of Electa. You know Electa teaches us that we should love one another, but it's not our human nature to put what is best for others above ourselves. We must strive to share our love, but we can only give love when our hearts are full of God's love.

I have really enjoyed serving as your Grand Electa this year. I have traveled all over the state and met a lot of wonderful people. I want to thank Karen and Denver for giving me this opportunity.



LaFontaine Workshop

The LaFontaine Chapter #301, OES, made a donation to the Troyer Memorial Library in LaFontaine and the money was used for a Gift Workshop for Kids Project. The project allowed 21 children to make over 100 gifts for their parents, grandparents, teachers or other friends and family members. There were six stations where they made personalized key chains, a penguin pinecone Christmas ornament, an angel Christmas ornament, a refrigerator magnet, and peppermint sugar body scrub. They also made cards to go with each gift or to send to family or friends who don't live in the area. Their gifts were wrapped and a gift card attached. When they left each child had 6 gifts they made to put under the tree.

The workshop was a tremendous success, and the children had an unforgettable experience. Parents expressed their appreciation for this wonderful opportunity. One mother shared "My children returned home with the biggest smiles on their faces. They absolutely loved this event. I can't express enough how much we appreciated it – this experience helped the children feel independent and valued as they participated in the act of gift-giving this Christmas. Each gift was thoughtfully made and truly heartwarming. Thank you to everyone who made this possible." Another mother expressed her thanks "Thank you for organizing this event! The girls managed to keep everything a surprise until Christmas!"



Worthy Matron Wendy Black assisting at the table where the personalized key chains were made.



Spencerville Community Club

The Spencerville Eastern Star is proud to support the Spencerville Community Club. The Club is a vital resource for our small town, providing a safe and fun space for families and children.

The Community Club was built in 1966 after the original building was destroyed by fire. The community rallied together to raise funds for the new building, which has been serving the town ever since.



Liam Lauer, Santa, Ari Lauer

The Spencerville Eastern Star is committed to supporting the Community Club. This year, we donated to help repaint the building. We provided funds to support the Club's annual Halloween Party. Additional donations helped provide gifts for the annual Christmas Breakfast and Party with Santa.

We are proud to be a part of the Spencerville community and to support the Community Club. We believe that the Club is an important asset for our town, and we are committed to helping it thrive.

"Spencerville OES Elf"
Rachel Arendse



Spencerville Food Bank Program



The Spencerville Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #386 is dedicated to serving the community by providing food assistance to those in need. The Food Bank Program, initiated by Arden Dwyer approximately 20 years ago, has grown significantly.

Initially, the program supported a single food bank. However, recognizing the increasing demand for food assistance, the chapter extended its reach to include multiple food banks in local churches. In 2019, the program extended its support to the *Woodburn Christian Children's Home* in Woodburn, Indiana.

In 2020, the *Quiet Knight's Veterans Food Pantry* located in Waterloo, Indiana, and the *Hearten House Women's Shelter* in Auburn, Indiana were added to the program. Recognizing the importance of addressing addiction recovery, the *Serenity House Alcohol and Drug Abuse Residential Recovery Homes Program* was incorporated in 2021. Most recently, in 2022 *Images of Hope Ranch* of Auburn joined the Spencerville OES Food Bank Group.

Through this comprehensive program, the Spencerville Chapter strives to make a meaningful impact in our community on the lives of those facing food insecurity and other challenges. By collaborating with various organizations and by providing essential food supplies, the chapter demonstrates its commitment to alleviating hunger and promoting community well-being.



Spencerville OES Members Tina Krafft, Terri Rosenbury, Ari Lauer, Quiet Knight -Veteran's Food Bank Treasurer Chris Lamm.



Spencerville OES Member Becky Hoover, Serenity House Drug-Rehab Center Residents - Joy, Kristi, Carson, Dominique, Whitney, Nannette, and House manager Jessica Lopez.



Hearten House Program Coordinators Chelsa Loffer, Torri Wix, Spencerville OES Members Jim Rosenbury, Suzette Rodgers, Dawn Tilkins.



Guerson Hoover, Elliot Hoover, Ari Lauer. 2nd row - Spencerville OES Members Becky Hoover, Terri Rosenbury, Tina Krafft, Image of Hope Ranch CEO/ Founder Alisha Shanks, "Penny" (horse).



Receiving food bank gift WCH Board Member Joe Hines, Spencerville OES Members Suzette Rodgers, Dawn Tilkins, Jim Rosenbury.

“Christmas Wish List” Tots Program



The Spencerville Eastern Star is dedicated to helping the children of our community and school district. A program has been initiated to assist the 2 DeKalb Eastern School Community preschool programs. Our program’s purpose is to purchase items for the classrooms in these schools that their budgets may not cover. We have budgeted \$1000 in 2024 to help the Little Joes Preschool in St. Joe, IN, and Colburn Corners Preschool in Spencerville, IN.

This year our program purchased items for the children to play and learn with such as Kid’s View Masters, a Life Cycle Learning Marble Race Game, Outdoor Playground Equipment, such as a Teeter Totter, Radio Flyer Ziggle Bike, and Pogo Sticks. The items to assist the teachers include school art supplies such as 12 gallons of paint, art construction paper and markers.

One of the leading health issues for Preschool-age children is poor dental hygiene and cavities. To assist our children with this problem we are providing these preschools with a Popcorn Party and new toothbrush kits for each child at their Halloween parties. We will also provide school supplies including pencils, paper, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, and finger paints.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of children within our community. We believe this program will make a difference in our DeKalb county youth’s growth, development, and future. We would love to play a role in this process and assist the Preschools with some of the tools that will enhance their learning environments. This is our 7th year supporting this program.

May God Bless these children you have the opportunities to reach, and give you the resources to teach them



OES Member Dawn Tilkins presenting gifts/check to Dawn Steere Colburn Corners Teacher, Member Suzette Rodger.



Students Freya, Makenna, and Addilyn, with OES Member Dawn Tilkins, Suzette Rodgers, Little Joes Preschool Teacher Tianna.



Stellar Stars

Stellar Stars is a great way to honor or remember an individual or a group for a full year. The costs of Stellar Stars are: \$10 - \$24 for 1 Star; \$25 - \$49 for 2 Stars; \$50 - \$74 for 3 Stars; \$75 - \$99 for 4 Stars; and \$100 and up for 5 Stars.

These will run for 1 year after we receive the request. The short information you want printed about the individual or group can be mailed along with a check payable to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES with the notation: Stellar Stars, to:

**Nancy Pratt
3597 N. Old U.S. 31
Rochester, IN 46975**

Please consider honoring or remembering those special Eastern Star people in your family, chapter or district with a Stellar Star for everyone to see and know that they are special to you.



1 Star

2 Stars

45 Years!

Grand Caroler Grand Family
Anne Eastham, WGM
Harry E. Jackson, WGP

In Loving Memory of
Harold Crider 1925 – 2017
P.P. Griffith #583
Great Ritual Work
With Love, Judi Crider, P.D.

In Memory of
Beverly Barton & Lowell Carlisle
PGM & PGP 1984-1985
Sunshine Grand Family
From Ann Merritt, DD#21

In Memory of
Virgia Hendrick, PGM 1994-1995
Precious Memories Grand Family
From Ann Merritt, Grand Warder

OES Love in Remembrance
Barbara Terry, PGM
Beverly Barton, PGM
From Naomi Mitchell, PGM

3 Stars

I have three amazing children, Jennette I. Munoz-Colon, Hector L. Munoz-Colon, Danny R. Colon-Clark. I thank God every day for these three blessings.
Gladys Colon-Clark

4 Stars

In Loving memory
of my wonderful mother,
Martha Jocelyn Strader, 65 Year member
Secretary emeritus, Past District Deputy #11
Past Grand Martha
Love you forever.
Your daughter, Barbara Lanouette

5 Stars

In Loving Memory of
Joyce L. Small, PGM
50 Year member and charter member of
Ransford IMH Chapter #605
You are greatly missed.
With much love,
From all Ransford IMH members

In Memory of
Sister Virgia Hendrick, PGM
D#13 Past Deputies Association



WGM OFFICIAL CALENDAR

- Apr 26** Last Inspection, Seymour, D#4
May 3 Sylvan 125th Anniversary
May 5-9 Bus Trip to Washington, D.C.
May 17 Golf Outing Fund Raiser
Jun 12-15 Grand Chapter at Muncie

INSPECTIONS / LUNCHEONS

- Inspections - Baby Dedication 7:00 pm
 Award of Gold 7:10 pm, Inspection 7:20 pm
Apr 2 D#7 Inspection
Apr 3 D#8 Inspection
Apr 9 D#12 Inspection
Apr 10 D#11 Luncheon/Inspection
Apr 23 D#15 Inspection
Apr 26 D#4 Last Inspection, Seymour, GOE

RECEPTIONS

- Apr 5** **Grand Martha Amy Ogrentz**
 Crown Point First United
 Methodist Church
 352 S. Main St.
 Crown Point, IN 46307
 Social 2:00, Program 4:00
 Dinner to follow \$20 Checks
 payable to:
 Griffith Chapter #583
 RSVP by March 28 to:
 Cindy Skura
 10695 Peachtree Lane,
 St. John, IN 46374
 219-682-8924
Cindyskura23@yahoo.com
- Apr 12** **Grand Electa Susie Alpha**
 Monticello Christian Church
 105 Gordon,
 Monticello, IN 47960
 Social 2:00, Program 4:00
 Dinner to follow \$20
 Check payable to:
 Crystal Chapter #165
 RSVP by March 31 to:
 Elizabeth Chilcott
 Box 61, Burnettsville, IN 47926

FRIEND'S DAY/NIGHT

- Apr 10 D#10** Plainfield
Apr 11 D#1 Friendship
 6:30 CENTRAL TIME
Apr 14 D#16 West Lebanon 6:30pm

If you don't see all the information that you need, please contact your District Deputy or Nancy Pratt, Editor. Please be aware that on occasion a date and/or location will be changed and it will be too late to make the correction in the magazine. Thank you for your understanding!

Star-Lite

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Toys for Firefighters

Each year Stanford Chapter #533 donates toys to local children in need. This year in November, we partnered with Marshall Township Fire Department of Lawrence County and donated toys to their annual drive.

They dress up and take the fire truck out to the community around Christmas on special "Santa truck" runs where they find eager children waiting outside. The volunteer firefighters donate the toys and had ours to distribute as well! The toys are also used during the year when responding to emergencies involving children.

Pictured are Sharon Slaughter, Bobby Slaughter, and 3 of the local volunteer firefighters.



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ADVERTISEMENTS are for any business, individual, chapter, district, steering committee, etc., that would like to place an ad in *Star-Lite*. If a profit is to be made on an event, then it is advertising and needs to be paid for. DEADLINE is the same as any article.

COST per ad per issue:

1/12 page (Business card size) is \$10.00

1/6 page is \$20.00

1/4 page is \$30.00

1/3 page is \$40.00

1/2 page is \$60.00

Full page is \$100.00.

SUBMISSION: All items should be camera-ready. Please make checks payable to **Indiana Grand Chapter, OES**. Send copy and payment to: Nancy Pratt, Editor

WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Help keep *Star-Lite* interesting! Submit your news so all can see what you are doing. Check deadline dates if you want your news in a certain issue, especially items for the calendar. Please limit articles to 500 words. There is no charge to print pictures. Please remember to identify everyone in the pictures.

Send articles and pictures with self-addressed stamped envelope if you want them returned to:

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