#### PA EASTERN STAR HAPPENINGS

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## IN THIS ISSUE: HOLIDAY

LOTS OF CHAPTER & REGIONAL NEWS

GREETINGS

### FROM YOUR EDITOR

**Dear Sisters and Brothers** 

Your Editorial staff continue to strive to make each issue of PA Eastern Star Happenings better than the last and we do appreciate your patience as we continue to work out the kinks in our new program. We hope that the overall quality of our publication has increased.

In taking account the feedback we received on the last issue, we're devoting more space to articles this issue to allow for easier reading and more viewable pictures. Next issue we'll ensure that Sessions and Committees will have a spotlight to honor those members.

Fraternally,

Stacy

Note: If you are receiving this magazine in error or no longer wish to receive this publication, please directly contact the Grand Secretary through the Grand Chapter Office.

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#### PA EASTERN STAR HAPPENINGS

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WORTHY GRAND PATRON J. David McKibbon

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On the Cover: An Eastern Star funeral shadow box , currently on display at the Museum of Masonic Culture at the Trenton Masonic Temple, Trenton, NJ.

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## MESSAGE FROM WORTHY GRAND MATRON

WOW, It is December already! Where have the days gone? Brother David and I cannot believe that our year is half over. It is going way too fast!

We recently enjoyed the "When a Bell Rings" Club Luncheon. When a bell rings, brings to mind one of my favorite Christmas movies, "It's A Wonderful Life". We are no different than the people of Bedford Falls and George Bailey. The people that were helped by the Savings and Loan Company came to George's aide when he needed it most. George believed he that he was alone at this troubling time. Actually, he was the richest man in Bedford Falls because he had spread the Warmth of the Season throughout his life. Our dear, Brothers Don and George, provided the most wonderful and creative entertainment for our pleasure, as they brought Burt and Ernie to the Christmas Luncheon.



At this time of the year everyone enjoys watching meaningful Christmas movies from an era gone by such as The Bishop's Wife, Christmas Carol, Bells of St. Mary's, Miracle on 34th Street, White Christmas, and Frosty the Snowman. These are only a few of the many holiday movies made over the years. The central theme of these movies is caring for others.

Eastern Star members care for others by supporting the many different projects the WGM and WGP selects each year. You share the Warmth of the Season with those individuals in need. It ranges from monetary gifts to something as simple as a hug when we walk into a meeting or itinerary event or a phone call to say hello missed you at our meeting. We, as Eastern Star members, depend on sharing time and visiting with our fellow sisters and brothers throughout the year. We truly care what is happening in the lives of our sisters and brothers and take time to share the Warmth of the Season with them. Let us continue to Share the Warmth of the Season in all our endeavors.

Brother David, myself and our Grand Family have attended many stated meetings, Regional fun events and a church service and have thoroughly enjoyed talking with YOU our Eastern Star Family! We are looking forward to continuing our visit with y our Chapters and the Deputy Grand Matrons Fun Events. You have all shined brightly for PA OES. Please continue to "Shine for Star" and share the "Warmth of the Season".

Wishing You a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous, Happy and Healthy New Year from the Grand Officers!



A couple came to Bethlehem Expecting child, they searched the inn To find a place for You were coming soon There was no room for them to stay So in a manger filled with hay God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night To see this baby wrapped in light A host of angels led them all to You It was just as the angels said You'll find Him in a manger bed Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east To Bethlehem, the wisemen three Came many miles and journeyed long for You And to the place at which You were Their frankincense and gold and myrrh They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah Hallelujah

> We are wishing you and yours A Very Merry Christmas And A Joyous and Happy New Year!!

Warmth of the Season! Grand Family, Board of Directors, J&L Committee, Session Committee Linda Dimino,WGM and David McKibben, WGP

# MESSAGE FROM WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023 to all of my Sisters and Brothers!

It's hard to believe that the first six months of my term as Worthy Grand Patron is almost over. Where has the time gone? The Christmas season is now upon us and 2023 will soon be here. I have met so many OES sisters and brothers and made so many new friends as I have traveled the OES trail attending our itinerary events. The courtesies extended to me whether it be at a chapter stated meeting, an Honor Day, a Club Luncheon, a chapter Anniversary banquet or a fun event have been heartwarming and awesome and shows that OES love, kindness and hope still abound in our organization.



The Regional Karing for Kids events have been exciting and fantastic to attend. Each Deputy Grand Matron was creative in planning a unique theme for their fundraising event. The WGM and I thank each Deputy Grand Matron for their hard work, as each event raised funds for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Central PA Down Syndrome Awareness Group. There are still Karing for Kids events remaining in the coming months so I hope you will come out and support them.

On September 25, I attended the Western Golden Stars Luncheon and due to the absence of the WGM because of COVID related issues had the privilege and honor to assist Barbara E. Adams, PGM in pinning twenty-one Golden Star sisters in attendance with their 50-Year service Pin. What a milestone achieved by each of these sisters. Each Golden Star sister had their picture taken with Barbara and me as a memento of the event.

The Worthy Grand Matron and I along with a packed bus of sisters, brothers and friends did experience an awesome four days discovering the Hudson Valley from October 11-14. We had dinner at the Culinary Institute of America, visited West Point Military Academy, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Museum, Franklin D. Roosevelt's Home, the FDR Museum; Valkill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home after FDR'S death; St. James Church and the Old Dutch Church Graveyard in Sleepy Hollow.

I certainly am looking forward to the remaining months of my term as Linda and I continue our itinerary events of Grand Family visits, Honor Days, Karing for Kids events, a Golden Stars Luncheon, a Paddleboat cruise of the Pacific Northwest, and the WGP and WGM Homecomings. I hope many of you can join the Grand Family at these events as we fellowship together. Continue to work hard towards the goals of our committees as by doing so you are a guiding light, a beacon of inspiration, kindness and hope for our beloved Order and our communities!

## THE ELECTED GRAND LINES OFFICERS ARE ON THE LOOKOUT

# FOR A NEW MAGAZINE NAME



# **EMAIL US!**

Please forward name suggestions along with the reason you chose that name in an email to paoesmagazine@gmail.com by April 1, 2023

## 2022-2023 DEPUTY GRAND MATRONS



ELLEN M. REZEK 1 A CAROLYN M. ALEXANDER 1BJOAN M. KRIEBEL 2 GRACE M. MCCLESTER 3 DEBRA L. KOBOSKY 4 DIANA M. HLAVSA 5 A 5 B KATHRYN E. HAWKINS 6 DEBORAH J. MILLER 7 A NICOLE D HURLBUTT DEBRA J. KINNEY 7 B CARMEN A. FERBER 8 A CATHY A. HOKE 8 B

> VICKI L. BENSCOTER 9 DAWN M. MCCOY 10 DEBORAH A. STEVENS 10BNANCY E. SHARER 11 A RHONDA L. MORRISON 11B 11C JEAN M. WATERS MARTHA A. BAIRD 12A12BTRUANN R. BERGER SANDRA J. BUCKLEY 13A 14A KRISTYN T. KAARI EVON B. MOYLE 14B JENNIFER S. HOOPES 15



State College Chapter #388 participated in the Centre County Grange Fair Parade on August 25, 2022.

This was the Order of the Eastern Star State College Chapter's second year participating in the Centre County Grange Fair Parade and a great many recognized the support we provide for the Service Dogs as we passed through the parade route.

Submitted by Tara Mondock, State College chapter No. 388





On August 27, 2022, Joyce E.Plonka, Associate Grand Matron was honored by Mercer Chapter 180 and Region 1B. The theme was a Penn State White Out and the guests were given Pom Poms to wave as the AGM entered and at the meeting as greetings were given. All 180 plus attendees were given a football tail gate lunch and an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Items were donated for the Veterans at the Butler Veterans Hospital along with the collection at the meeting. We also had a great solo of "Sweet Caroline" sung by PGP George Camlin and everyone joined in as George led the Chorus.

Submitted by Cheryl Mansour



On July 27, 2022 the Order of the Eastern Star celebrated the life of one of its own. Sister Audrey Zeiss has been a member of Juanita Chapter #8 in Clarks Green Region 11C for 75 years. A few of the members and officers of that chapter presented her with gifts and a certificate marking the occasion. Sister Audrey is also observing her 100th birthday on Tuesday, November 8th 2022. Sister Audrey is not an unusual person for her age because her brother and her husband both lived over the age of 100. Sister Audrey now resides at the Abington Manor in Clarks Summit. Pictured are: Seated her daughter in law Madelaine Zeiss and Sister Audrey Standing is Sister Carolyn Leola, PM, Sister Carol Rodgers, Sister Pamela Ziesemer, PM, Sister Elizabeth Osborn, Worthy Matron, Sister Diana Brown, PM Sister Jean Waters, Deputy Grand Matron of Region 11C and Sister Pamela Richardson.

Submitted by Carolyn leola Juanita Chapter No. 8



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When your loved one is nearing end of life, you only want the small things:

To be together as a family. To love and hold one another. To have the privacy to laugh, cry or grieve together.

Evergreen, a new neighborhood in the Masonic Health Care Center at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, allows these important things to be the focus for families.

Declining admissions due to the pandemic provided an opportunity to re-imagine how end-of-life services are provided in the Masonic Health Care Center, which offers nursing and memory support care.

Staff proposed a concept for an end-of-life area specifically designed for residents needing comfort care. The Ben Franklin 3 neighborhood was converted into the Evergreen neighborhood, providing personalized, convenient advanced care and monitoring.

"In this one area, we'll have a collaboration between our team, our physician team and also Masonic Village Hospice or another hospice provider that is selected," said Matt Mayo, assistant executive director/health care administrator. "We'll work together toward one goal for the resident and for the families."

Evergreen includes:

- 16 private, spacious rooms featuring amenities for visiting family, such as a pull-out couch, live plants, a television and a refrigerator. Each room has an Amazon Echo Show device donated by Amazon and set up by Aiva Health, which enables video calls, music options and messaging from staff.
- Private rooms for families to grieve and meet with staff counselors
- Multiple rooms for visitors and gatherings, including a living room, a screened-in patio, a library with resources and an office for working remotely
- A chapel for prayer and spiritual needs; residents from the Rooster Woodshop handcrafted an alter and lectern, and residents from the Piecemakers made a quilt to use for the Walk of Honor when a veteran passes away



"As a medical provider, I find it's very important to include families from the very beginning of the end-oflife journey," Dr. Ann DeShong, medical director, said.

"As part of that process, we'd like to create a space that is welcoming and open to the conversations we'll be having during the moments that are challenging for families as they face this difficult time."

The name Evergreen was selected for its significant Masonic connection.

"In every Masonic funeral, we hold up a sprig of evergreen and state, 'This evergreen is a symbol of eternity and eternal life,'" Pastor Preston Van Deursen, now-retired director of spiritual care, said. "I thought what a wonderful name to call an end-of-life care area that provides hope and a positive image of eternal life. This isn't the end. It is only the next step."

Opened in October, Evergreen was made possible thanks to generous donors. Thomas Shott made a gift in memory of his wife, Dolores, who was a patient in the hospice program when she passed away in 2018. Donors James and Virginia McCall contributed in memory of James' mother, Julia McCall, and his niece, Jennifer McCall.

Masonic Village Hospice has been providing services to Masonic Village residents and individuals in residential homes, nursing homes, retirement communities and skilled facilities throughout Lancaster, Dauphin, Lebanon and Eastern York counties since 2009. Residents of Evergreen may utilize Masonic Village Hospice or the hospice provider of their choice.

If you would like to help patients and families create special and lasting memories in a comfortable, supportive, homelike environment, you may make a gift online by visiting masonicvillages.org/donate-now. For more information on other ways to give, call 800-599-6454 or email giving@masonicvillages.org.

• A children's space with toys, books and games



Region 7B - Karnival 4 Kids was held on October 30th, 2022 between 1:00 – 4:00 PM at the Somerset Masonic Lodge in Somerset, PA

The following were Regional Facilitators.

Regional Coordinator 7B DGM Debra J. Kinney, PM, Conductress Trinity #138

AGCCM Central Sabrina Caton, WM

Bedford Springs #41 Coordinator Marian 'Michele' Berger, Ruth Meyersdale #548 Coordinator Nancy Rodkey, PM, Conductress Trinity #138 Coordinator Amy L. Winters, Electa

When this event was 'assigned' to our Region - it is SAFE to say that collectively we sighed – as we had ZERO experience in the Karnival Department. However, Region 7B is quite resourceful and we kept their eyes, ears and minds 'open' for anything that could be used in a Karnival.

Our members hit yard sales, auctions, clearance events and some of them cleared out their closets. Who knew we had 'dragons' in our midst?

What is truly remarkable is that to enable the 'children' to have the best experience possible; members willingly left their 'egos' at home and donned crazy costumes, filled the hall with decorations, banners, balloons, streamers, gossamer, flocking, netting, pillows, blankets, scarves, prizes, & tents! Yes, tents. Wonder filled the eyes and hearts of the young & old alike as the doors opened to mystify all who took part in our fabulous affair.

The Karnival was a multiple organization event with the three OES Chapters in 7B and the Somerset Masonic Lodge #358 participating by overseeing the Chinese Auction. Their portion netted \$326.00. Thank you Somerset Masonic Lodge!

It is impossible to ignore that we entertained with the following booths; Alligator, Dragon, Unicorn, Fishing Pond, Fortune Teller, Crystal Witch, Basketball Toss, Bean Bag Toss, Duck Pond, Nuts 4 Sale, Chinese Raffle, Letters to Santa, Kotton Kandy, Snow Kones, Corn Hole, Touch-It-If-You-Dare, Professional Clowns, Professional Magician, Professional Photographer, Kostume Kontest, Center Ring Master with Skits, Door Prizes (over 30) and Guess How Many Table (over 16 bottles).

Even the food for the event tried to stay in the "K" family. We had...Kielbasa & Kraut, Koffee, Kup Kakes, Kones, Kotton Kandy, Kookies, Kobblers, Kool drinks, and Kandy.



The Worthy Grand Patron, J. David McKibben along with his wife, Karen A. McKibben, Grand Ruth and the Personal Secretary to the Worthy Grand Matron, Donna J. McGrow attended. The WGP served as General Master of Ceremonies and was also interviewed by local Television Station WJAC TV 6 (I posted this interview on the 7B & OES PA web pages). The Grand Family also acted as Judges for the Kostume Kontest.

The week prior to the event our local newspaper, the Somerset Daily American ran a FRONT-PAGE story on our event!

This significant publicity led to a FABULOUS turn out at the door. We estimate over 200 people came through.

An event of this magnitude and significant change to the norm - is a major adjustment to all who participated. We must say our heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who stepped out of their comfort zone and conceived, planned, organized, collected, baked. served. decorated. cleaned. donated performed. time. goods or expertise, purchased tickets, attended or ANY & ALL of the above! Many folks gave unselfishly; including financially, physically, mentally, emotionally, privately and publicly. To those with a generous heart - we genuinely THANK YOU for being a part of OUR success in SERVICE. In 7B we know that our good work does not happen without every single one of YOU!

Happily, we report that the final total was over \$2,100 for the Karing for Kids Project! Bless you all.

Submitted by Debra J. Kinney, PM, DGM Region 7B











Bedford Springs Chapter #41 held its annual Rest Stop Refreshment Stand on I-70 just outside Breezewood, Pennsylvania on Labor Day weekend. The requirements to host by the state are rather stringent; all booths must be 'manned' essentially from dawn till dusk, come rain or shine, and the booth may offer nothing store bought as a food item (Rest Areas use Vending Machines).

Bedford Chapter has this event down to a fine symphony of movements. Sister Maxine Barton, PM coordinates schedule of workers the and 'homemade donations of baked goods, soups, drinks and hot foods' with the finesse of a maestro. She lives 'just over the hill on a farm' near the Rest Area and made 4 soups herself for the event!

For myself and Brother Calvin Shifflett, it was our first year as Plural members with Bedford and we dutifully took a shift on Saturday. Sister Max, gave Calvin & I a quick tutorial on 'how to work' the booth and keep food flowing, coffee made and the 'ants & bees' at bay.

We met many weary travelers whose eyes lit with delight as they saw the plethora of delectable baked goods and mouthwatering homemade soups served with a smile – all for FREE (with a shake of our donation can). We witnessed their weariness turn from amazement to joy as they shared bits and pieces of their lives and in some cases - relationships to STAR. Many expressed inquisitiveness about who we are and what we do. It proved to be a fabulous opportunity to share Star Light and serve those in need while we fulfilled our obligations of service while at the same time it MET the financial need of the Chapter. Because many of those tired folks we fed - not only opened their hearts to us - they opened their wallets in appreciation of our kindness.

During the four-day holiday weekend, Bedford Springs made over \$4,000!

I find that when doing Gods work; the rewards are found both in the act of giving as well as the labor itself. Calvin & I felt blessed just having served that day with Max, Mary Ann & Tom Ling and their daughter, Sister Nicole Morrow.

Submitted by Debra J. Kinney DGM Region 7B



The 3rd Annual 7B (Trinity #138, Bedford Springs #41, Meyersdale #548) Christmas Party was hosted by Trinity Chapter #138 on December 2, 2022 at the Somerset Masonic Lodge in conjunction with the Somerset Blue Lodge # 358, and fourteen members of the Somerset County Shrine Club. The party was provided at NO COST and was open to members and their families - bringing an attendance of over sixty!



Trinity Chapter #138 provided baked ham & turkey, noodles, accouterments and place settings. Guests brought homemade covered dishes to share in the Christmas Spirit. Thanks were given, plates filled, appetites satisfied, and spirits raised as carols were sung heralding in the merry season.

Children present squealed with delight and joy when jingling sleigh bells announced the arrival of Santa Claus. (Played by the Acting Worshipful Master Andrew Hixon.) Santa sat on his throne and listened to 'wishes' as he gifted the children each a small gift bag. Master of Ceremonies was Brother John Collins (Trinity 138) providing gaiety and joy filled fellowship for our fraternal organizations.

Christmas Carols were played by Sister Nancy Rodkey, PM of Meyersdale Chapter #548 with the multitude joining in the sing along!

Poinsettia plants used as table decorations were given as 'door prizes' and to members who were ill and unable to attend.

Dinner was so excellent – that there was just a 'smidge' of ham and turkey leftover. But, in an act of giving, Trinity Officers have offered to 'cook' the meal for the Mason's December meeting next week and will use these bits and pieces to create dishes for them to savor. It's the little things we do in life...that makes Christmas spirit live year-round.

Submitted by Debra J. Kinney DGM Region 7B



# What's Happening at Masonic Villages

#### MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

It was a merry time of year for residents during the holidays. They held their annual cookie exchange and donated some as an expression of gratitude to the Dallas Police Department. Residents also



packaged and delivered gift bags to The Meadows to hand out to residents in the nursing and rehab center.

Residents and members of Dallas Chapter No. 396, Order of the Eastern Star, picked up trash along local roadways as part of their regular effort to keep Dallas roads litter-free.

#### MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN

A testament to staff dedication, the Masonic Health Care Center received five stars in all categories measured by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). A deficiency-free Department of Health survey in 2022 contributed in part to this rating, as well as high scores in quality measures and nursing staffing categories.



Residents and staff participated in Wreaths Across America, laying wreaths at the graves of resident veterans buried in the Masonic Village Cemetery and interred in the Sell Chapel Columbarium.

#### MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

Residents recently learned how to start their own "gratitude journals," which can be helpful when dealing with anxiety and depression, bringing thoughts of peace and gratitude.



Each resident received their own journal to write down something good that happens every day to stay positive.

Staff members enjoyed a bake sale organized by the residents, with goodies including pumpkin bread, banana bread, cookies and cakes. They also purchased tickets for a raffle of gift baskets.

#### MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

Masonic Village at Sewickley was named "Best of the Best" in the "Nursing Home," "Personal Care" and "Retirement Community" categories by TribLive readers during their annual poll.

Festive finery and selfies with Santa were all part of the annual "Cocktails with Santa" party. The jolly elf also visited with kids from the child care center on campus

With art creation stations, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and art for sale, the third annual art festival in November provided opportunities for creative expression and to do a little early holiday



shopping amidst resident artwork.

#### MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

Each month, the "Resident Recipe" activity features a resident cooking up their favorite dish. In December, everyone enjoyed a pot of resident Anita Miller's sweet and sour cabbage soup.

Residents also take part in a monthly art class. In December, they created poinsettia paintings to decorate their home.





Latrobe Chapter #221 Region 5A has just completed a year of "UP". Our Worthy Matrons, Jodee, theme for the year was taken from the Disney Pixar movie "UP!" In the movie, Russell was a young Wilderness Explorer helping Carl and earning his own Wilderness Explorer badges. To inspire our officers and members to do more activities within the Chapter we became OES Wilderness Explorers. Each badge representing something a Chapter needs from its members.

At the beginning of the movie, Ellie gives Carl a Grape Soda bottle cap pin and said "We're in a club now!" So Jodee gave each of us a Grape Soda bottle cap pin, because we were all part of her club. Ready to earn our badges.

A few of the ways we could earn badges were to: get new members, take an office, serve on a lunch committee, memorize your speech, attend School of Instruction, go to a Grand Chapter function, go to the festival for the Masonic Village, work on a committee and much more...

Here are our Happy Explorers with their sash and badges. Don't we look good? - Remember "Adventure is out there"!

Submitted by Martha Hunter Latrobe Chapter No. 221



A \$1600 check was presented to Janet McAllister, Veteran's Resource Coordinator, and Vito P. Ruggiero, Commandant of the Gino Merli Veterans Center from Deborah Cerynik, Valiant Warriors Veterans Outreach for Region 11 of the Order Of The Eastern Star, Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. Representatives were present from Regions 11A Towanda Chapter #76 and Leraysville Chapter #498;

Region 11B Gill Chapter #12, Tunkhannock Chapter #74 and Prosperity Chapter #83;

and Region 11C Martha Washington Chapter#3, Juanita Chapter #8, Laurel Chapter#67, Grace E. Bartholde Chapter #216 and Harriet Green Chapter #198. This donation will be used for Christmas programs at the Center.

Pictured from left to right:

John Frank, Norma Frank, Carolyn Leola, Sandy Lindemuth, Romayne Gillette, Leith Napolitano, June Black, Diana Bloxham, Ed Bloxham, Barbara Jean Jones, Wendy Phillips, Deborah Cerynik, Vito P. Ruggiero, Commandant, and Janet McAllister, Volunteer Resource Coordinator for the Gino Merli Veterans Center

Submitted by: Wendy Phillips PM Prosperity Chapter No. 83



The members of Conewago Chapter #532 have been busy working at helping our community.

Sister Margie Linebaugh has been knitting scarves to donate to JJ's Toys sponsored by the Hanover Area Council of Churches for needy children.

Sister Addie Hess has been sewing pocket aprons for walkers and wheelchairs. She has donated to the VA, Masonic Homes, Luthern and Brethren Homes.

Sister Vivian Hess has been sewing pillows for infusion patients so they can attach them to their seatbelts to relieve the pressure around the port. Wellspan Infusion Center in Hanover made the request for assistance.

Also, several members have helped cook and serve meals at the Hanover Council of Churches for the homeless. Sisters Jennifer Miller, Deb Stevens, Tori Sequin, Addie and Vivian Hess have all helped to support this project.

Submitted by Deb Stevens Deputy Grand Matron, 10B In 2017 when Mary Wells Chapter #452 in Wellsboro transferred in masse to Cowanesque Chapter #33 in Westfield, Mary Wells Past Matrons Club ceased to meet. The Club members missed this opportunity for social gatherings which had included not only the Past Matrons/Past Patrons but all Chapter members and spouses/guests.

On June 15, 2022, Sisters Beverly Brucklacher PM and Shirley Warren PM hosted the first Mary Wells Past Matrons Club luncheon in nearly five years. After so many years of inactivity they wanted to make this event accessible to as many Sisters and Brothers as possible.

The first luncheon was held at the Ossea Masonic Lodge in Wellsboro. The dining room is on the ground floor so our Sisters in wheelchairs could easily attend. The luncheon held at noon so no one needed to be concerned about driving after dark. The invitation to attend included those who had been members of Mary Wells Chapter (this included those who had joined us from Twilight Chapter, Tioga Chapter, and Galeton Chapter) as well as our new home chapter of Cowanesque. All those attending were encouraged to include a traveling companion (spouse, family member, friend, neighbor) so no one had to travel alone or be excluded because he/she not longer was driving. It was a dish-to-pass event with the meat, beverage, and table service provided so that the cost of event would not be a burden for anyone. It was a delightful event. Everyone had the opportunity to enjoy delicious food, share memories, and plan for the future.

On July 13, Beverly and Shirley again repeated the event. The only change was to move the event to the Tioga Masonic Lodge in Tioga. There were a few steps which made it more difficult for our wheelchair bound members to attend but the change of locations shortened the travel distance for others. Again there was a good number attending.

They hosted again at Ossea Lodge on August 24 and at Tioga Lodge on September 21. All of the events were held during the middle of the week so they did not conflict with family activities that are most often on the weekends.

Our Masonic brothers at both Lodges generously allowed us to use their facilities at no charge.

Because the winters in north central Pennsylvania can make traveling very difficult, the next luncheon is not scheduled until Spring when our members will be able to travel safely.

Submitted by Shirley Warren, PM Cowanesque Chapter #33

Martha Custis Chapter #342 members collected non perishable food items during the October and November meetings as part of the Our Helping Hands Service Project.

Each meeting we collected 40 items. The October items were donated to "My Nature's Bounty Food Pantry" located in Mercersburg, Pa. The November items were dropped at the Greencastle Police Department for their food drive benefiting the Greencastle Food Pantry.

Submitted by Lori Cooper, WM Martha Custis Chapter #342





# **Make Your Retirement a Priority**

Masonic Villages' Priority Wait Lists grow longer each day. Even if you're considering a move years from now, join the list at your preferred location today so we're ready when you are. This small step now can help you get the home of your choice in the future.

#### A Sweet Retirement

It was several years in the making, but Helen Cook and her husband, Herb, finally settled into their home at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown last year. As the couple glances out their sunroom window at the view from their cottage, they agree it was worth the wait.

For more than seven years, the Allentown natives knew they wanted to move to Masonic Village, just not yet.

They added their names to the Priority Wait List eight years ago, which allowed them to prepare for the move at their own speed, as well as wait for the cottage they really wanted. They received multiple calls from the Sales and Marketing team with available options before choosing the one with an idyllic vantage point from the backyard.

#### "That's the secret," Helen said. "If I had to share one piece of advice with people, getting your name on this list is the secret. Just give an estimate when you're ready to go."

Helen's other advice includes developing a good relationship and staying in contact with Sales and Marketing staff throughout the process. Anytime Helen or Herb had a question, staff were available to answer it, even after they moved to Masonic Village.

Not that their move was without challenges. They found getting rid of things to be a tremendous effort but were pleased to toss their landscaping equipment and snow blower. As soon as the Cooks knew they had their cottage, they started packing easy things and hired a moving company to assist. This made the process manageable and was well worth the expense.

Helen and Herb have been active with the Masonic fraternity for many years. Helen is a member of the New Temple Chapter No. 298, Order of the Eastern Star, and

Masonic Village at Dallas: 570-446-5658 Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: 717-473-0614



was secretary for C. DeForrest "Chuck" Trexler, a former Masonic Villages' board member and current resident of Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. Herb is a Mason and Shriner and belongs to other Masonic bodies as well. It wasn't just that Masonic Village was founded by Masons, and they have friends from the fraternity there — it was the continuing care retirement community's reputation which really sold them on a move.

"We always knew it was a first-class care facility," Herb said. "We wanted to limit any burden on our family, friends or fraternal brothers. We can stay here if our life deteriorates and don't have to move again. If one of us needs additional care in the health care center, we can easily visit each other. It makes a lot of sense."

The Cooks moved to Masonic Village in June 2021. Other selling points for them included the woodshop and the pet-friendly policy.

"There's a good support system here," Helen said. "We feel like we have a sense a family. We take our dog for a walk to meet other people. In fact, we meet so many people, we can't always remember names."

If you'd like to plan for your future and are at least 55 years of age, you can submit an application for Masonic Village's Priority Wait List. (This application does not guarantee an accommodation, but indicates you're interested.) A deposit is required (the amount depends on the living option selected), which will be credited to your application deposit when you apply for a retirement living option.

#### Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill: 484-535-3119 Masonic Village at Sewickley: 724-242-5099

### Itinerary

#### FEBRUARY

Fri. 3 Region 3 Event Bunco With the Best "Love our Fun" Casual Attire Dinner 6:30 PM Games Following Dinner Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center 3570 Masonic Way Pittsburgh PA 15237 412-931-1996 Res. Made(By January 6, 2023) \$25.00 Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA, OES Inc Grace McClester, DGM 15475 Cricket Lane East Liverpool OH 43920 412-897-2095 gracmccl@comcast.net

Sat. 4 GC Honor Day "Just Keep Swimming" Luncheon 11:30 AM Special Meeting 1:30 PM Formal Attire Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center 3570 Masonic Way Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-931-1996 Res. Made(January 21, 2023) \$25.00 Checks Payable to: Norwood Herrington Chapter #356 Randa J. Triggs, PM 112 American Way Sewickley, PA 15143-3117 412-973-5499 rjtriggs@aol.com

Wed. 8 Gettysburg Chapter #392 (8A) Dinner 5:30 PM Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire Masonic Hall 9 Lincoln Square Gettysburg PA 17325 717-334-9196 Res. Made(By February 1, 2023) N/C Valerie Petty 206 Friendship Ln Gettysburg PA 17325 717-334-9196 rogerandvalerie@live.com

Thurs. 9 Donegal Chapter #422 (10A) WGM Choice Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Donegal Masonic Center 710 Anderson Ferry Rd Mount Joy PA 17552 Res. Made(By February 1, 2023) N/C Elaine M Whitman 7 S Market St Mount Joy PA 17552 717-653-4352

Fri. 10 Region 8B Event "Smiles for Kids" Dinner 5:30 PM Scottish Rite Consistory 2701 N Third St Harrisburg PA 17110 717-238-8867 Res. Made(By February 3, 2023) \$20.00 Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES Inc. Cathy Hoke DGM 3105 Park Rd Harrisburg PA 17111 717-558-8724 cahoke@pa.net

Sat. 11 Eastern Masonic Village Visitation Excellence Award Testing Business Attire Masonic Village @ Lafayette Hills Res. Made(By February 1, 2023) Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES Inc

Sat. 12 Sessions Budget & Guidelines Review

Mon. 13 Sunbury Chapter #266 (9) WGM Choice Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire Masonic Temple Building 220 Market St Sunbury PA 17801 570-758-2190 Res. Made(By February 1, 2023) N/C Marcia E Rebuck 1266 Cherry Town Rd Dornsife PA 17823 570-758-2190 JMTRadit@aol.com

Tues. 14 Bird Chapter #460 (13A) WGM Choice Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Birdsboro Masonic Temple 201 Washington St Birdsboro PA 19508 610-582-4479 Res. Made(By February 1, 2023) N/C Edwin J Merkel 1448 Timberline Dr Pottstown PA 19465 610-327-0393

Fri. 17 Region 14A and 14B Event Light Dinner 6:30 PM Let The Fun Begin 7:30 PM Casual Attire Norristown Lodge 2589 W Township Line Rd Norristown PA 19403 Res. Made (By February 3, 2023) \$20.00 Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES, Inc Kristyn T. Kaari 385 State St Pottstown PA 19464 908-910-4745 ktkaari@aol.com

Sat. 18 Region 11C Event "Carnival Fun' Picnic Lunch 11:30 AM Casual Attire Acacia Lodge F&AM 617 Union St Taylor PA 18517 570-562-3660 Res. Made(By February 10 2023) \$15.00 Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES, Inc Glenv's Edwards PO Box P Waymart PA 18472 570-488-6156 rockglen@socantel.net

Sat. 18 Long Range Planning 3:00 PM

Tues. 21 Signet Chapter #129 (14B) Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Masonic Village - Warminster 850 N Norristown Road Warminster PA 18974 215-672-2500 Res. Made(By February 3, 2023) N/C Deneen Ellis 8881 Alton St Philadelphia PA 18115 215-519-4558 deneenellis@comcast.net

Thurs. 23 Mifflin Chapter #260 (8A) Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Masonic Temple 9 S Main St Mifflintown PA 17059 Res. Made(By July 14, 2022) N/C Lance A Gilliland PO Box 297 Port Royal PA 17082-0297 717-527-2707

Sat. 25 AGC Honor Day "This Little Light of Mine" Luncheon 11:30 AM Social Hall Meeting 1:00 PM Chapter Room Formal Attire Washington Masonic Lodge 44 W Wheeling St Washington PA 15301 Res. Made(By February 15, 2023) \$26.00 Checks Pavable to: Martha V Paul Chapter #404 Cynthia E. McDaniel 60 Phillips Dr Washington PA 15301 724-747-8958 Mcdaniel4c@comcast.net

Tues. 28 Martha Custis Chapter #342 (8A) Pot Luck 5:45 (Invitation only) Stated Meeting, 7:00 PM Formal Attire Masonic Lodge 74 S 2nd St Chambersburg PA 17201 Res Made(By February 20, 2023) N/C Ellie Feldmeyer 1402 Social Island Rd Chambersburg PA 17202 717-263-0581 efeldm@innernet.net

#### MARCH

Tues. 2 Elizabethtown Chapter #407 (10A) Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire Masonic Village, Brossman Ballroom One Masonic Dr Elizabethtown PA 1722 717-367-1121 Res. Made(By March 1, 2023) N/C Susan A. Croumer PM 1217 James Buchanan Dr Elizabethtown PA 172202 717-361-5199 etownchapter407@mail.com

Sat. 4 Central Village Visitation Excellence Award Testing The Masonic Village at Elizabethtown Res. Made(By March 1, 2023) Checks payable to: Grand Chapter of PA, OES, Inc. Sat. 4 BOD 3:00 Sun. 5 BOD

Tues. 7 Bloomsburg Chapter #279 (9) Dinner 6:00 PM Stated Meeting, 7:30 PM Formal Attire Oriental Masonic Lodge 2547 SR 487 Orangeville PA 17859 570-651-0460 Res Made(By February 15, 2023) N/C Sherri Magill 803 E Dewart St] Shamokin PA 17872 570-651-0460 Sherridunk@gmail.com Thurs. 9 Friendship Chapter #551 (15) Stated Meeting, 7:30 PM

Formal Attire Prospect Lodge 578 822 Lincoln Ave Prospect Park PA 19076 Res Made(By March 2, 2023) N/C Marie Moffet Secy 401 Turner Rd Media PA 19063 610-506-9630 moffett1@comcast.net

Fri. 10 Morning Light Chapter #312 (14B) "Encore" Note: Updated Location Light Dinner 6:30 PM Followed by a concert by the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County **Business Attire** Bray Masonic Lodge 1 South Penn St. Hatboro PA 19040 Res Made(By February 24, 2023) \$20.00 Checks Payable to: Morning Light Chapter #312 Andrea McCabe 1154 Limekiln Pk Prospectville PA 19002 215-390-8470 mccabeandreav@gmail.com

Sat. 11 AGM Club Luncheon "Puttin' on the Glitz" Luncheon 11:30 AM **Business Attire** Sunnybrook Ballroom 50 Sunnybrook Rd Pottstown PA 18464 484-300-4681 WILL BE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE CANS OF SOUP FOR THE FOOD BANK Res. Made(By February 10, 2023) \$27.00 NO RESERVATIONS AFTER FEB 10 Checks payable to: Grand Chapter of PA, OES, Inc. Lisa Francart 1783 New London Rd Landenburg PA 19350 610-255-5010 Lfrancart@juno.com

Sun 12 Central Golden Stars Luncheor Luncheon 1:30 PM NOTE: Change in CONTACT Information **Business Attire** Faith United Methodist Church 512 Hughes St Bellefonte PA 16823 Res. Made (By March 7, 2023) \$26.00 Checks Payable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES Inc Donna J. McGrow 413 Eisenhower Drive Carlisle PA 17013 717-329-6052 djmcgrow@gmail.com

Mon. 13 Altoona Chapter #290 (7A) Light Dinner 5:30 PM Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire GRAND OFFICERS DOING INITIATION Altoona Masonic Hall 600 Jackson Ave Altoona PA 16602 814-935-1445 Res. Made(By March 1, 2023) N/C Call or send reservation to: Carole M. Baker Sec 1101 Flamingo Dr Apt 3110 Altoona PA 16602 814-944-0953 C) 814-935-1445 cmbaker290@verizon.net

Thur. 16 Dallas #396 "Pig Nick" "Evening on the Farm" Fun and Games Dinner 6:00mPM Casual Attire Dallas Eastern Star Hall 15 Foster St Dallas PA 18612 Res. Made(By March 8, 2023) \$15.00 Checks Payable To: Dallas Chapter #396 Send to: Dianne Corby PM, Secretary 145 Transue Lane Monroe Twp PA 18612 570-675-4893 diannec@ptd.net

Fri. 17 Region 12B Event "Shamrock Pot Of Gold" Dinner 6:00 PM Casual Attire Porter-Chapman Masonic Temple 1103 Sixth St North Catasaqua PA 18032 Res Made (By March 10, 2023) \$20.00 Checks payable to: Grand Chapter of PA, OES, Inc. TruAnn R. Berger, DGM 4960 Shankweiler Rd Orefield PA 18069 610-428-6390 Gberger401@gmail.com

Sat. 18 Grand Masonic Temple's 150th Anniversary Res. Made(By March 11, 2023) Checks Payable to:

Sun 19 Fraternal Review

Sun. 26-Paddleboat Trip Mon. 3

#### APRIL

Mon 10 Anna M. Rote Memorial #491 (4) Dinner 6:00 M Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Pleasant Hills Masonic Hall 455 F Bruceton Rd Pittsburgh PA 15236 412-655-7492 Res. Made(By March 31, 2023) \$10.00 Checks Payable to: Anna M Rote Memorial #491 Lisa Fleming PM Sec 3508 Marge Dr Pittsburgh PA 15324 412-885-5517 oes491oes@aol.com

Tues. 11 Clarion Chapter #267 (2) Dinner 5:45 PM American Legion 530 Main St Clarion PA 16214 Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Masonic Building 517 Main St Clarion PA 16214 814-319-3597 Res. Made(By March 31, 2023) \$25.00 Checks Payable to: Clarion Chapter #267 Joan Kriebel 1309 Eastwood Dr Clarion PA 16214 814-319-3597 imkriebel@verizon.net

Sat. 15 WGP Homecoming Old Bellaire Chapter #375 (8A) "Let's Sham-Rock the House" Luncheon 11:30 AM Special Meeting 1:30 PM Formal Attire Carlisle Masonic Center 1236 Holly Pike Carlisle PA 17013 (717) 249-3826 Res. Made(By March 27, 2023) \$27.00 Checks Payable to: Old Bellaire Chapter #375 Debra Johnson, PM 81 Plum Tree Circle Newville, PA 17241 717-776-5605 C) 717-579 1588 debkwilt@comcast.net

Mon. 17 Lewistown Chapter #283 (7A) Dinner 6:00 PM Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Lewistown Lodge #203 99 Masonic Dr Lewistown PA 17044 Res. Made(By April 3, 2023) N/C Evelyn Albano 1682 Bristol Ave Apt #204 State College PA 16801 254-640-7569

Tues. 18 Perry Chapter #459 (8A) Dinner 6:00 PM Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire Adams Masonic Temple 101 S Carlisle St New Bloomfield PA 17168 717-50-4424 Res. Made(By April 3, 2023) N/C Olive Stoops PM Sec PO Box 44 New Bloomfield PA 17068 717-582-2158 Wed. 19 Norwood Herrington #356 (3) Grand Esther Honor Night Stated Meeting 7:00 PM Formal Attire Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center 3579 Masonic Wav Pittsburgh PA 15237 Res. Made (By April 5, 2023) N/C Sandra Vogler Secretary 408 Front St Pittsburgh PA 15237 412-364-7417 voeglers@gmail.com Thurs. 20 Morris Chapter #14 (2) WGM Choice Stated Meeting 7:30 PM Formal Attire Oil City Masonic Hall 17 E First St Oil City PA 16301 814-676-1155 Res. Made(By April 13, 2023) N/C Lois M. Pierce PM Sec 112 Front St Franklin PA 16323 814-437-3653 C) 814-758-0505 Fri . 21 Shiloh Chapter #153 (1A) Grand Sentinel Honor Night Social 5:30 Banquet 6:00 PM Casual Attire Park United Methodist Church (Handicapped Accessible) 30 N Lake Street North East PA 16428 814-449-9584 Res. Made(By April 7, 2023) \$22.00 Checks Pavable to: Shiloh Chapter #153 OES Susan Britten PM 9722 Ginny Lane North East PA 16428 814-725-4078 Riksueb@aol.com Sat. 22 Western Villages Visitation Excellence Award Testing Res. Made(By April 10, 2023) Checks Pavable to: Grand Chapter of PA OES Inc Sun. 23 McCarthy/Graver 5th Reunion Receiving Line 11:30

Sun. 23 McCarthy/Graver 5th Reunic Receiving Line 11:30 Luncheon 12:00 Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center 3570 Masonic Way Pittsburgh PA 15237 412-931-1966 Res. Made(By April 10, 2023) \$27.00 Checks Payable to: Dawn M. McCoy (446) 30 West State Street Quarryville PA 17566 717-201-8003 secretaryoes446@gmail.com

Fri. 28 Cowanesque Chapter #33 (6) Grand Marshal Honor Day Picnic 6:00 PM Casual Attire Westfield United Methodist Church 158 Church St Westfield PA 16950 814-367-2285 Res. Made(By April 2, 2023) N/C Elizabeth Kulish 378 Fry Rd Sabinsville PA 16943 570-419-6406 ekulish@verizon.net Sat. 29 Eulalia Chapter #148 (6) Grand Electa Honor Night Picnic 12.00 PM Casual Attire Coudersport Consistory 111 East Second St Coudersport PA 16915 Tour of Eliot Ness Museum 300 N Main St Coudersport PA 16915 Res. Made(By April 10, 2023) N/C Reservations to: Gretchen Songster 301 S East St Coudersport PA 16915 716-307-3866 ggsongster@yahoo.com Sun. 30 Barbara E. Adams 50th Reunion "Who Wears the Star"

Luncheon 12:30 Best Western Premier Central 800 East Park Ave Harrisburg PA 17111 717-561-2800 Res. Made(By April 15, 2023) \$30.00 Checks Payable to: Mary Ann Rhode PM 4788 Route 419 Womelsdorf PA 19567 717-933-2783 C) 610-698-3720 marhode@comcast.net

MAY 2023 Sat. 6 WGM Homecoming "Season Finale" Luncheon 11:30 AM Special Meeting, 1:30 PM Formal Attire Acacia Lodge 617 Union Street Taylor PA 18517 570-823-6152 PLEASE NOTE: This is a different Location from previous years) Parking across the road at the Fire Station Attendance will be limited to 125 People Res. Made (By April 15, 2023) \$25.00 Checks Payable to: Gill Chapter #12 Karen L. Crown Secretary 3818 Bailey Hollow Rd Newark Valley NY 13811-3124 607-727-8858 crownie13@gmail.com

Please visit paoes.org for additional itinerary events and changes to schedule

# Where caring is a tradition

The MASONIC VILLAGE AT

WARMINSTER provides residents comfort, companionship and a life of dignity and security. The staff is dedicated to providing each resident a gratifying lifestyle while accommodating individual needs. Offering quality nursing care and personal care services, the mission of the Masonic Village at Warminster includes serving individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid upon admission, provided they have not made transfers of assets prohibited by Masonic Villages' admissions policies.

For a tour or for more information, call 215-672-2500, or email MVWadmissions@masonicvillages.org.

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Save the date for our Spring Fling, featuring food and a gift baskets raffle, with proceeds benefiting Masonic Village: Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### MASONIC VILLAGES' ADMISSIONS POLICY

Decisions concerning admissions, the provision of services and referrals of residents are not based upon race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age (where minimum age for admission is met), sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, limited English proficiency (LEP) or any other protected status. Regardless of your financial situation, you can afford to move to a Masonic Village! When you choose to live at the Masonic Villages, you are not required to turn over your assets; residents and their loved ones maintain complete control of them. Generous donations enable Masonic Villages to offer financial assistance to those who qualify. It is required that your financial resources are preserved for the cost of your care and services, and our staff will help you to identify all available financial assistance when needed. Fraternal care offerings vary by community. Contact the Admissions or Marketing Office at the Masonic Village of your preference for information on the living area desired. Visit www.masonicvillages.org.

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