



PA Eastern Star Happenings



Issue 22 | Fall 2023



Our Sisters and Brothers across the state have celebrated our season of Caring and Sharing with bingos, scarecrow auctions, raffles, and more to support our own members in times of need through the Fraternal Committee!



Worthy Grand Matron Joyce Plonka and Worthy Grand Patron Bob Trimble kicked off their year with the Heels & Wheels Testimonial



Bob's Bash honoring the fifth anniversary of PGP Bob Penoyer's service as the Most Worthy Grand Patron



Our upcoming General Grand Chapter Appointments, including PGM Rhonda Johnson as Worthy Grand Adah

PA Eastern Star Happenings

Issue 22 | Fall 2023
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Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania
Order of the Eastern Star

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so much for all of the SPARKLING stories that you have submitted for this issue! It truly is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together.

If you are interested in submitting an article for the next issue, please use one of the following methods by the deadline of **January 20**.

Email: PAOESMagazine@gmail.com

Phone: 724-771-6590

Online Submission:
<https://bit.ly/PAOESMAG>

Or scan the QR code with a smart phone or tablet!



I can't wait to keep hearing all of the wonderful ways that our members are SPARKLING for OES this year!

Katie Lasswell Vitale,
PA OES Magazine Editor 2023-2024

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

In order to continue the free distribution of the PA OES Magazine, one issue per household will now be delivered.

If you would prefer to only access an online version of the magazine available on PAOES.org, please request to stop receiving a physical copy by mail by reaching out to the Grand Secretary.

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Email: GS@paoes.org

Mail: 105 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

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

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The reception that we have received on our travels around the Commonwealth has been fantastic! We have attended picnics, banquets, stated meetings, honor days, and West Virginia's Grand Chapter. The love, smiles, hugs, and seeing our members SPARKLE have been amazing. What a heartwarming experience it is to stand in front of Sisters and Brothers and see smiles on everyone's faces. Thank you one and all!

Our Grand Family and various committees have been very busy these past four months. We held Men's Seminars, Caring and Sharing events to raise money for our Fraternal Fund, and Golden Star lunches honoring our 50-year members across the state. It was a great privilege to initiate 11 Sisters and Brothers into our order. Initiations were held at Doylestown #327, Monessen #205, and at a special meeting of Grand Chapter held at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center with Brother Jeffrey M. Wonderling, Right Worshipful Grand Master, conferring degrees. We are very thankful to Brother Jeff for his support and for fostering a wonderful relationship between our Grand Chapter and the Grand Lodge!

Organ concerts held at Palm Lutheran Church and at the Grand Lodge of PA have raised over \$5,000.00 for our Special Projects: Dyslexia Centers and Shriners Hospitals for Children. **The next organ concert will be a Christmas Concert held at the New Castle Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 3:30PM.** Casual attire, no admission charge, and anyone is welcome.

Another SPARKLING adventure that we are looking forward to is our Kentucky Bourbon Trail trip. Join us April 16—20 for amazing tastings, tours, and travel with your Sisters and Brothers! Visit www.PAOES.org for more information.

We are encouraging people to share their SPARKLE, which is defined as: **S** Spreading **P**atience, **A**ppreciation, **R**espect, **K**indness, **L**ove, and **E**nthusiasm! Remember to be the SPARKLE in someone's life. You never know how a hug, phone call, or a compliment will affect someone's life.

As the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching, may each of you have a joyous and festive holiday. May each one of us remember those who are less fortunate by putting some extra SPARKLE into their lives and making the holiday season one they'll never forget.

Remember, "A heart is judged not by how much you love, but by how much you're loved by others"- L. Frank Baum, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

In SPARKLING Star Love,
Joyce Plonka, WGM & Bob Trimble, WGP



Super SPARKLER Spotlight

"One person can make a difference and everyone should try." ~ John. F. Kennedy

We are honoring spectacular SPARKLING members who have made a difference in Eastern Star. This spotlight is on Carolyn Alexander of Stoneboro Chapter #110. Carolyn has served as WM 13 times and held numerous AGCCM positions. She was a member of PGM Beverly Small's club board and her Grand Esther. Currently, she is the Grand Representative to Bolivia. Carolyn has signed countless petitions, and those new members are active and signing more petitions. Thank you, Carolyn, for your dedicated service to our beautiful order!





What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

As part of a presentation on Alzheimer's disease, residents played different brain games, since keeping your brain engaged through things like crossword puzzles, word searches, etc., is good for overall brain health. They also learned how artificial intelligence is being used and evolving, as well as some internet security tips, thanks to Patricia Lapczynski, associate professor of math and computer science at Misericordia University.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN



For the annual Fall Fest, resident craft and hobby groups sold their wares, including crafts, handcarved items, angel pins, quilts and ceramics. Residents and staff enjoyed ice cream, fries, hot dogs and Masonic Village Farm Market apples. Glenn Miller, the Big One-Man Band, performed an outdoor concert.



Residents celebrated "Be Kind to Humankind Week," from Aug. 25-31, with different activities to foster kindness on campus. They crafted items that provide a physical takeaway and reminder to practice kindness and even handed out 1,500 smiley face cookies!

MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

Residents participated in a resident craft show, displaying their collections of unique items, one-of-a-kind crafts and more. There were watercolor paintings, hand-made jewelry, model planes and collages on view.



They also spent the summer and early fall enjoying Philadelphia water ice; "a taste of Italy" with a wine, cheese and charcuterie tasting event; and an Oktoberfest featuring German cuisine.

Staff and residents coordinated a Fall Market Place on Oct. 27 and 28, with linens, food, jewelry, crafts, clothing and more for sale.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

Residents experimented with different artistic techniques during the second "Art in the Air" event at the Art Studio. Art stations featured various projects that residents could complete and take home to display or give to a family member or friend.



Summer months were also filled with "Martinis on the Patio," where residents sipped delicious drinks and enjoyed music from a local jazz and blues trio, and trips to local spots, including the Biblical Botanical Garden of Rodef Shalom.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

Residents celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, with some sweet treats and reflection on what the coming year will hold.



They also showcased their creativity over the summer by making good use of seashells collected at the shore. They glued them to pieces of wood that could be hung on the wall or a doorknob.

Our 2023-24 Deputy Grand Matrons



Deputy Region 1A: Ellen Rezek

Ellen joined Jesse C. Spangler Chapter in 1974, which later became a part of Jephthah Chapter #73. She then transferred her membership to Golden Crown Chapter #44, and made her journey to the East shortly thereafter. She has served as WM for 2 terms. Ellen has been the AGCCM for the Masonic Village in Sewickley twice, and served as the Regional Deputy to the VA Hospital in Erie in 2022. Ellen is very close with her family, and greatly appreciates the love and support that they provide for her.

Ellen is pleased to continue to serve her region as Deputy this year. The cherished friendships she has made over her fifty years as a member of OES are why she SPARKLES.

Deputy Region 1B: Sara-Rae (Sally) Young

In 1980, Sally was most fortunate to be initiated with her daughter into OES. Through the years, she has happily served as an officer in her chapters, Sharpsville #237, Sharon #242, and Farrell #156. She also had the privilege to serve as several appointments and the Grand Representative to Utah.

Sally is excited to serve as a DGM. Because WGM Sister Joyce is a member of her region, Sally is helping her chapters all SPARKLE, shine, and explode with enthusiasm this year.

Deputy Region 2: Lois Pierce

Lois was a member of Franklin Assembly #19, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and she served as Mother Advisor. She was initiated into Nursery Chapter #25 OES in 1969, serving as WM and Secretary. The chapter transferred en masse to Morris Chapter #14, where she is currently Secretary. A 54-year member, Lois also served as Grand Representative to Virginia.

Lois reminds her members to keep the SPARKLE in your life by keeping a smile on your face and encouraging others to be happy.

Deputy Region 3: Rae Ann Zwick

In 1983, Rae Ann joined Shenango Chapter #333, then served as WM in 91-92 and 96-97. She also was WM for New Castle Chapter #105 in 11-12. This year, is serving Ellwood City #212 as WM for the second time. In addition, she is a Past Worthy Advisor for New Castle Assembly #1.

Rae Ann and her husband Kenny have been happily married for 19 years. They are blessed with 4 children, many grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and numerous fur babies.

As an Activities Director, her job is to add some SPARKLE and shine to the everyday experiences of the residents where she works. Rae Ann absolutely loves her job, the staff, and the residents. Rae Ann is excited to share this year with Sister Joyce, Brother Bob, and her Sisters and Brothers in Region 3.

Deputy Region 4: Cheryl Eichner

Cheryl is a member of Monessen Chapter #205 and a plural member of William E Gelston Chapter #435. She was initiated into Scottdale Chapter #383, where she served as WM twice. She has held many offices, and is Marshal in Monessen. She had the privilege to serve as Grand Marshal for PGM Diana Michael, and most recently was Western Chair of Caring and Sharing. She has held many appointments, including Decorations Chair 119th Sessions and a DDGM.

Cheryl is a psychiatric Registered Nurse working in Home Care. Her partner, Denny Korba, is a member of Monessen Chapter and Tri County Lodge No. 252. They love opening their home to travelling Sisters and Brothers. Cheryl enjoys antiquing, flea markets, sewing, and spending time with her dog, Tobi.

Cheryl brings SPARKLE to everyone by being humble and kind.

Deputy Region 5A: Lorena Watson

Lorena was initiated into Irwin Chapter #400 in 2000. She had to move away in 2001 due to her husband serving the military, but returned in 2014 as an active member. She served as WM in 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 due to the pandemic.

Her mother and both grandmothers were very active in Eastern Star. She initiated her daughter into Irwin Chapter at her Official Visit in 2019. Lorena has been married for 24 years and has 3 Children.

Lorena plans on bringing SPARKLE to our everyday lives by sharing smiles and kindness in every way possible.

Deputy Region 5B: Oma Beck

Oma was initiated into Apollo Chapter #125 in 1990. Since joining, she has served as many positions in her chapter, including 4 terms as WM and 8 years as Secretary. She enjoys serving as Installing Chaplain and substituting in other chapters wherever they need her.

Oma has been an AGCCM 3 times, and the Grand Representative to Kentucky. She is dedicated and proud to serve and SPARKLE for the Order of Eastern Star as long as she is physically and mentally able.

Deputy Region 6: Lisa Clinger

Lisa is a 23-year member of Phoenix Chapter #15, serving as WM for the fifth time. She has held several offices and appointments, and assists other Region 6 chapters.

Lisa is currently employed by the state and counting down to retirement. She and her husband have three children. They are currently enjoying spoiling their newest granddaughter. Her passions are reading, crafting, traveling to new places, and meeting new friends while spreading smiles and sparkles.

Serving on WGM Joyce Plonka's Sparkle Board with WGP Robert Trimble was an amazing experience for Lisa. This coming year, her personal SPARKLE project is the Raider Closet. This project is run through the Cameron County High School and provides items needed for underprivileged school students.

Deputy Region 7A: Noreen Gault

Noreen is Electa at Altoona Chapter #290, previously serving as WM for Tyrone Chapter #288 in 1996-97 and 2005-06. She is also WM of her plural chapter Hollidaysburg #471. Over her 49 years as a PA OES member, she has held several appointments, including Grand Representative to North Dakota. Noreen is looking forward to being one of Joyce's SUPER SPARKLERS for this year.

Noreen worked for PPG Industries for 34 years until PGW took over and she worked for them for 8 more years. She is Protestant, and lives in Tyrone with her brother, Joe. She enjoys going bowling, crossword puzzles, and substituting for other OES chapters when needed. She SPARKLES when she is able to help others in their journey and make a difference in someone's life.

Deputy Region 7B: Nancy Rodkey

Nancy is a proud member of Meyersdale Chapter #548. she has served in many offices, including several terms as WM. She currently serves as Associate Matron. She has held several Grand Chapter Appointments, including DDGM in 1999.

After earning her bachelor's degree from Westminster College, she worked for the US Postal Service for 34 years. She married the late Robert Rodkey, another Postal working and Air Force veteran. During her career, she was entrusted with the Erie District Combined Federal Campaign, a charitable endeavor. Retirement after 25 years as Postmaster finds Nancy, with her dog Ruffess, continuing to work for the Benscreek Lutheran Church. She plans to continue her service to OES, SPARKLING and shining with her gems of Sisters and Brothers.

Deputy Region 8A: Michelle Byers

Michelle has been a member of Perry Chapter #459 for 15 years. She has served her Chapter as many positions, and as WM for the third time this year. She had the pleasure of serving on the Ties That Bind Club Board and serving as Grand Warder with Orpha Kemmler, PGM. She is also currently serving as the Treasurer for M. Joyce Camlin's Lamplighters Club Board and is a member of Marcia Holland's Lucky Leaping Frogs Club Board. She has served Grand Chapter in various capacities such as Page, Assistant Grand Warder, AGCCM, Teller, a member of decorating committees and, most recently, Grand Representative of Georgia.

Michelle and Mike have been married for 16 years, and she has three stepchildren and five grandchildren. She spends her days working for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as a Manager in the Information Technology department.

Michelle plans on bringing SPARKLE to our everyday lives by encouraging others and taking the time to recognize the little things that mean so much!

Deputy Region 8B: Catherine A. Hoke

Cathy is a 24-year member of The Glen Chapter #425. She has held many offices, and served as WM in 09-10 and 17-18. She was Grand Ruth in 16-17 and continues her term as DGM. Her appointments include Caring and Sharing, Central Chairman, Masonic Villages, Central Chairman Charity, 120th Sessions Housing, Caravan for Cancer, 127th Session Committee General Chair, and Grand Page.

She worked for Penn National Insurance Company for 18 years as Commercial Lines Underwriting Manager, working in insurance for 44 years until her retirement in 2020.

Cathy's family consists of her late mother Rose who was Grand Ruth in 04-05, her late father George, her sister Mona, her nephew Jeremy and his wife Jackie, and her great-nieces Lilly and Ella. She enjoys traveling, crafts and bowling.

Being a member of OES has made Cathy a better person. She believes her family and friends bring SPARKLE to her life every day, and hopes that her friendship brings them some SPARKLE and laughs as well.

Deputy Region 9: Vicki L. Benscoter

Vicki was initiated into Eastern Star in 1980 in Dallas Chapter #396. She transferred to Shick-Shawnee Chapter #190, and has served as WM 3 times. She is married to Jacob Benscoter, and they have 2 daughters, Denise and Tanya, and 5 grandchildren. They enjoy camping in their motor home, and traveling with their Welsh corgi, Sadie. She worked as the Manager for Hunlock Township for 36 years.

Vicki has enjoyed her time in Eastern Star, and looks forward to SPARKLING for OES for many more years.

Deputy Region 10A: Saralee B. Tollinger

Saralee is an active 60-year member of Robert Fulton Chapter #446. She served twice as WM, and held many other offices, including a current Trustee. She has served Grand Chapter in many positions including Personal Page, 98th Sessions, DDGM 80-81, Finance Committee, Grand Representative of Alberta and Washington, Co-Chair 117th Sessions, Grand Banquet Chair, and several others. A major highlight of her time was serving as Grand Adah for PGM Betty L. MacAdam.

Saralee lives on and manages her family farm in Southern Lancaster County. She serves as a Deacon for Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church. She previously served as Judge of Election for her township.

Saralee believes she can bring SPARKLE to everyday life by being kind and caring, and extending her hand of friendship and a smile.

Deputy Region 10B: Diane M. DeVine

Diane joined Triangle Chapter #483 in 09. Due to her work, she was unable to be active immediately, but then she started to volunteer, and became a line officer. She is currently serving her second term as WM. Her fun emblem, Sock Monkey, travels with her and has become a creative way of fundraising for her chapter. She served as AGCCM for Golden Stars, Caring & Sharing and 128th Session Committee - Grand Banquet.

Diane is engaged to Steven Forry, and has two sons, Aaron & Ryan. Her favorite nickname is "Gee Gee" to her three Grand-dogs. She is employed by KISx Card where she processes and pays image claims. Her hobbies include collecting salt & pepper shakers, sewing, quilting, and anything she can create with her Cricut Machine.

"When you're stressed, take a step back, inhale and laugh. Remember who you are and why you're here. You're never given anything in this world that you can't handle. Be strong and flexible, love yourself and others." This quote helps Diane SPARKLE and Shine for OES!

Deputy Region 11A/B: Paula Geary

Paula is a proud 12-year member of Tunkhannock Chapter #74. She is honored to be serving as WM for this year with her husband, Ken Geary, and her WP. Her daughter, Sami Munson, and mother-in-law, Judith Geary, are also members of Tunkhannock #74.

Paula and Ken have been married for 15 years and have four children. Paula works for Bank of America. She is currently obtaining her Master's Degree in Leadership and Negotiations. She is the Mother Advisor of Sunshine Assembly for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Paula has had many exciting opportunities to serve in Eastern Star and cannot wait to see what is next on her journey. She has met so many amazing people throughout her adventures. She encourages her Sisters and Brothers to remember: "Stars don't shine because they want to be seen. They shine because they are stars." ~ Alexander Den Heijer

Deputy Region 11C: Jean Waters

Jean has been a member of Laurel Chapter #67 for 33 years. She has held many offices, served as WM twice and as Secretary for four years, and she just entered the line again this year. She also had the honor to serve as Assistant Grand Warder, several different appointments, and is continuing her term as Deputy.

Jean and Mike just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in August, and they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. She retired after 40 years as an RN in 2021. Besides spending time in the flower garden, Jean is a Habilitation Worker with Community Vocational Service working with her son, who has Autism. With this work, you never know what's in store on a daily basis.

Jean hopes to bring SPARKLE to her Sisters and Brothers by encouraging everyone to be the one to make a difference and spreading kindness to everyone you meet.

Deputy Region 12A: Elisabeth K. Ford

Liz Ford has been a member of Harmony #58 for 20 years. She has served her chapter as WM once and her favorite office is Conductress. At Grand Chapter, she has had the pleasure of serving as a Page and an Appointed Grand Chapter Committee Member. She is also currently delighted to be on the Forever Sparkle Club Board.

When she is not SPARKLING with OES or working as a loan servicing specialist, she spends time with her husband, Matt, and their six-year-old son, Harrison.

Deputy Region 12B: Karen J. Snyder

Eastern Star is a family tradition in Karen's life. Her grandmother, her sister and herself have been active members in Rose Croix Chapter #235, as well as her aunt Betty L. MacAdam, PGM 83-84.

Karen has served as WM 4 times, was a Grand Representative, and has held several Grand Chapter Appointments. She is looking forward to this new challenge with a smile on her face that SPARKLES as she spreads her love of OES.

Deputy Region 13A: Sandra J. Buckley

Sandra became a member of Golden Rule Chapter #390 in 04, then transferred en masse to Reading Chapter #251 in 2012. She served as WM in Reading Chapter 19-21 due to the pandemic, and is currently the Associate Matron. She had the honor of serving as the

Charity appointment for her region for PGM Linda Watson in 21-22. She is continuing her term as Deputy, and is happy to substitute for any 13A chapters when needed. She earned the Barbara E. Adams Ritualistic Excellence Award in 21-22 and 22-23.

Sandra retired after 32 years in education. She has been married for 24 years to Gary Mullen, a Past Patron and a retired Special Agent for Norfolk Southern Railroad. Their family consists of 5 children, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson. Her free time is shared with family, friends, and camping.

She encourages all members to use each day to be kind, to make another's eyes SPARKLE, and to warm a heart, by giving a compliment or contacting a shut-in with a call or a card to make their day.

Deputy Region 13B: Sabrina L. Brobst

Sabrina is a member of Orwigsburg Chapter #424. She has been a member for over 25 years, and has held the many offices, including WM in 04-05, 06-07, 10-11. She has served Grand Chapter through many Committees, Fraternal Correspondent, DGM, Grand Representative, and Grand Martha.

Sabrina is the Office Coordinator for a Home Health Agency, and her husband John, is the Director of Public Safety/Emergency Management for the Lehigh Valley Health Network. Their family has 1 son, Derick, his wife, Alicia, 2 grandchildren, Graham and Lorelai.

Her hobbies are reading, knitting, camping, and spending time with family and friends. She enjoys having a good time and laughing. She brings SPARKLE to everyday life by making the people she meets smile!

Deputy Region 14A: Kristyn T. Kaari

Kristyn is a member of Priscilla Chapter #64. She joined in 2010, after moving back to PA with Eric, her husband of 23 years. She has served as Eastern Chairman of the Service Dogs and First Responders committees, as a Grand Page, and a Soloist at Grand Chapter.

Kristyn is a Certified Fraud Examiner and completed her MBA through Villanova University in 2013. During the pandemic, Kristyn took up trail running, enjoying the nature and competition with fellow runners. For the first time, she will be attempting the ultra-marathon distance. She and Eric have also started towards a goal of hiking several sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Kristyn considers her membership in OES an essential and SPARKLING part of her life, and believes the lessons of our beautiful Order have taught her continued perseverance in every challenge she approaches.

Deputy Region 14B: Jill Matteucci Gombosi

Jill was initiated in New Jersey, was active in New York while consulting there, and she currently serves as Secretary of Doylestown Chapter #327. Her travels have taken her to South Africa, Japan, Panama, United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada, and numerous Caribbean Islands including two visits to Cuba.

Jill has an MBA and BS in Commerce, and is a Certified Project Management Professional. She is a Bucks County Election Official. Jill volunteers with the LuLu Shriners and the Scottish Rite Lehigh Valley Dyslexia Center. She is a member of the Bucks County Historical Society, the Bucks County Audubon Society, and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

An accomplished musician in organ, piano, flute, and voice, Jill lives in Buckingham on an 18th century Colonial Bucks County farm. Jill sings in her Episcopalian church choir as well as the OES Grand Choir. She is married to Emil with 1 son, Miles, both of whom are members of Doylestown Lodge No. 245. They have a cat, Tux, and duck, Ollie.

Invoking the Beatles, Jill reminds us to Come Together to make our Order SPARKLE.

Deputy Region 15: Jennifer S. Hoopes

Jennifer is a 33-year member of OES in Fraternal Chapter #249, originally joining in NJ. She is also a majority Rainbow Girl. She is a mom of 14-year old twins, Garrett and Rachel, and has been married to her husband Gary for 30 years.

She works full time as an emergency room nurse, and she served in the US Navy for 4 years as a Hospital Corpsman. She enjoys beekeeping, gardening, and raising chickens.

Jennifer plans to bring SPARKLE into her everyday life by focusing on being positive and engaged with those around her.



The Best Move

Ruth Fennimore and her husband, Bob, moved to Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill in March 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the couple settled in a one-bedroom apartment, Bob, who is 89, moved to health care more than a year ago. Ruth, who is 86, did not feel she could take care of him anymore on her own.

“He would try to get out of bed and fall,” she said. “He also suffers from dementia, and it was progressing. The amazing nurses would come and help him up and take his blood pressure. Finally, they said he needed to go to health care, and they were right. That’s the best place for him now.”

Before coming to Masonic Village, Ruth and Bob lived in a five-bedroom home in East Norriton. Ruth was looking for a place where she didn’t have to do any maintenance and could focus on Bob’s needs.

“It was the best move I ever made,” she said. “I have a meal. I have help if I need it. If I need to speak to someone about an issue, they come right away. I’m on the same floor as the health care living room. It has worked out very well.”

Bob had a tough time adjusting to health care at first, because he was very independent. But the nurses and aides were wonderful about helping him through the transition, Ruth said.

“He has a private room now, which helps a lot,” she said. “There are several aides who really like him and tend to him, and he responds to that, which is great.”

Ruth and Bob have been married 57 years. They first met when Bob was stationed in Massachusetts as an Army security guard. Ruth used to visit the base with her co-workers to go dancing with the men. That’s how they found each other.

Ruth visits Bob every afternoon before she eats lunch and then in the evening after dinner, when she puts him to bed.

Bob enjoys participating in health care activities. He recently painted a picture that “floored” Ruth because she didn’t know he could paint. He plays bingo and trivia, often answering questions even Ruth doesn’t know the answer to.



Bob and Ruth both come from a long line of Masons and members of Eastern Star. Bob is a longtime member of a lodge in Massachusetts, where the couple lived for decades. Eventually, he transferred to Pennsylvania for work, and continued paying dues, but never joined a lodge here. He joined the Shriners and other Masonic organizations. Ruth became active with the Order of the Eastern Star in 1975, eventually becoming Worthy Matron of Radiant Chapter No. 96 in East Norriton. Bob was elected as Associate Patron. He was also very active in a barbershop quartet for 50 years.

“If we all lived by the teachings of the Masonic Order, we’d be in a much better place,” Ruth said. “I try to instill in my children to be good to people, to care about each other and to live your life in a good way.”

Ruth and Bob have two daughters and two sons. The couple have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, with one on the way.

Ruth has enjoyed her time at Masonic Village. She recently met two women who are also Eastern Star members, which made her happy, as they were able to reminisce.

“I would definitely recommend Masonic Village to other people,” she said. “They do very nice things here.”

Learn more by visiting MasonicVillages.org or calling your preferred Masonic Village location:

Masonic Village at Dallas: 570-466-5658
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: 717-473-0614
Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill: 484-535-3119
Masonic Village at Sewickley: 724-242-5099



Celebrating Our Golden Stars



This year Harrisburg Chapter #552 has 11 new Golden Stars! 3 of our Golden Stars were honored at the

Central Golden Star Luncheon with Chapter members to celebrate them.

19 shining Golden Stars came together to be honored at the Sparkling Stars of Gold Luncheon, Eastern Section. Almost 120 members and friends were there to help them celebrate this wonderful milestone in their Eastern Star life.

Each Golden Star was personally greeted by our WGM Joyce and WGP Bob, and each shared their favorite offices that they held during their many years of service. Included in the Golden Stars is our Grand Ruth, Carol Ruffner, who responded for the Golden Stars.



Members of State College Chapter #388 brought the Golden Star Ceremony to Sister Edna Bicehouse. Her husband of 58 years, Brother Wayne Bicehouse, pinned her while three sisters shared a tribute for her time as our Star Point Martha.



From WM Tara Mondock, "I'm glad we did this - it meant a lot to us and to her family but such a privilege as the Worthy Matron to honor her. I'm glad we didn't miss this. It matters because she matters to us. And she's so blessed with a loving husband. After 58 years together, he still delivers her flowers every week."

Robert Fulton Chapter #446 was honored to welcome 3 of our members as Golden Stars this year. Our chapter was well represented at the Central Section Golden Stars Lunch with our own Linda Shoemaker as the Golden Stars Central Section Chair.



Our Chapters are getting **BENCHED!**



As part of the 2022-2023 "Looking to the Stars" recycling committee challenge, The Glen Chapter #425 collected 500 pounds of stretchable plastic to recycle. Led by chapter representative Linda Crabb and member Lorna Gray-Wiley, the members met their goal and received a Trex bench.

The bench was assembled by a member and her husband, and an engraved plaque was attached. The Chapter donated the bench to Lykens Boro Park, the town in which they meet and fundraise via bake sales for the Concerts in the Park. Many members were at the concert when the bench was dedicated and donated.

Conewago Chapter #532 has been busy making and delivering 100 port pillows for individuals needing infusions, as well as walker and wheelchair tote bags. We send Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Thinking of You cards to our friends in retirement homes and to our local veterans, along with clothing items and necessities. And now we have a bench!

We worked with TREX, a company which manufactures outdoor furniture using recycled plastic bags. Conewago had a goal of collecting 500 lbs. of plastic bags for a bench and putting it in a prominent place in our town. We quickly collected over 11,000 lbs. of plastic bags!

One piece of furniture can be earned per program, and excess cannot be carried over to another year, but we are proud to have removed the extra 10,500+ pounds of plastic from our environment! Our members give this project "Star approval" and recommend other Chapters get in on this great program. Interested Chapters can contact our project coordinator, Sister Sharon Swaby.

OES Service Dogs Projects Across the State

It was a packed house at the kickoff for our new Star year in Grantville at the Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD) Training Center on July 7. Celebrating our 20+ year partnership with Susquehanna Service Dogs, OES members and the public enjoyed a tour of the state-of-the-art facility and educational sessions. Monte, Kemmler, PGP, GGCA for Service Dogs, launched the Dollars for Dogs Challenge, earning a \$150 donation at the event. We challenge members to consider donating any paper bills with the "D" in the serial number. Proceeds should be given to your Chapter Secretary, who will issue a check to send to your region's AGCCM.



On August 21, PA OES members joined State College Chapter #388 at a public information session of nearly 200 people at the Centre County Grange Fair. The session focused on sharing what it takes to breed, whelp, train, and partner a dog with a human, including demonstrations of trained tasks that directly mitigate a disability. Three days later, AGP Mike Byers and PGP Bradley Lewis enjoyed their first Grange Fair Parade. They were joined by Betsy Lykens, PM and her family, SSD Meyer and his handler/trainer Valerie Whyman, and Tara Mondock, AGCCM General Chair for Service Dogs.

During Penn State's Homecoming week, the PA OES Service Dogs Committee partnered with the Penn State Office of Veterans Programs to host a welcome reception before the Homecoming Parade on October 13. Student puppy raisers who are part of the Roar for More Club and veteran students met SSD Podrick and learned about his training. We then made our way to the Penn State Homecoming Parade lineup, which included members of State College Chapter #388 and our families along with student raisers and their dogs.



Region 5A held their first Walk-A-Thon for Service Dogs on October 15 at Greensburg's Hempfield Park. Some members brought their dogs and walked them on the trail along with friends and family. The walkers and helpers were so excited to see Sheila and her Service Dog, Larry. Those that walked and helped received a badge for their participation. We raised over \$2,000 at this event!

The Star Points have joined the Service Dog Committee to help raise awareness and funds for Service Dogs and are leading the "Star Point Challenge." Support your favorite star point by donating, either by reaching out to a Grand Officer or by sending donations with the Star Point noted on your check. Please make checks payable to the Grand Chapter of PA OES and mail them to Tara Mondock: 1469 Chaumont Avenue, State College, PA 16801. The Star Point that has raised the most will be announced at the Service Dog Extravaganza: 2023 Puppy Bowl in Elizabethtown on February 3, 2024.

Members are encouraged to follow the PAOES Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PAOESServiceDogs> for more updates and to share pictures of Chapter's projects and successes, using the hashtag #PAOESServiceDogs in your posts.



Youth Spotlight

At their May installation, Morris Chapter #14 installed Carley Kiesel as a first-time WM, following first-time WM Amanda Lewis. As we looked around the room, we realized several generations of Rainbow Girls were SPARKLING on our Chapter floor. That's one great reason to support our Youth!

Tea Time

First-time WM Lori-Ashman Williams and her helpers planned a lovely High Tea for Harriet Greene Chapter #198, with lovely teaspoons as a favor. Lori's mother Carol Ashman and Grandmother Edna Davis are also PMs of Harriet Greene. We SPARKLED for a prospective member and had a great time!



Service and Fundraising Projects

On August 14, Martha Washington Chapter #3 held a very successful FUNdraiser at the Texas Roadhouse in Dixon City! The owner and his staff are wonderful and support many of our PAOES Chapters and other charities with fundraising events. From the left, Kimberly Gallantini, PM; Betsy Osborne, PM; Holly DeLeo, WM; Sandy Lindemuth; Anne Marie Dreater, PM; Jean Waters, DGM; Barbara Jean Jones, PM; and Enrico Gallantini, PP.



Rebecca (Becky) Gohn, AGCCM Masonic Villages for Region 10B, held a gathering at her home to sign cards and make door hangings for our Sisters and Brothers who are homebound and in nursing facilities.



12 members signed around 400 Birthday, Christmas, Thinking of You, and Get Well cards to be distributed to our shut in members. A fun time was had by all, and we are anxious to distribute our crafts.

Members of Perry Chapter #459 presented Karn's Grocery Store gift cards and winter socks to the Veteran's Housing Program in New Bloomfield, to be donated to the homeless and disabled veterans who are living there. Perry Chapter also donated 150 pair of socks to the Veteran's Hospital in Lebanon. Pictured are the Housing Case Manager of the Veteran's Housing Program, Gary Roeder, with Sisters Brenda Paden, Kathy Miller, and Debra Houck.



Chapter Updates and Fun Events

Robert Fulton Chapter #446 entertained the Grand Family and had a great indoor picnic to honor Grand Martha our very own Lisa Francart with WGM Joyce and our WGP Bob. It was a great time to relax together and share our Southern Lancaster County hospitality. Sister Lisa was presented with a framed glass pane of the Broken Column from the altar where she took her obligation years ago and the Broken Column emblem from the now closed Octoraro Chapter #463.



Doylestown Chapter #327 was honored to have the PA OES Grand Officers perform their first initiation for our 2 new members, Cynthia Arnold and Orestes Rios. We were thrilled to have 64 members attend - certainly a recent record!



WM Elizabeth Fetterolf welcomed and entertained all with her witty introductions, for which she is well known. Her 64-year Star Anniversary was recognized, and we were pleased to read a new petition. In true OES fashion, the evening closed with refreshments and fellowship.

Priscilla Chapter #64 had the pleasure to participate in Plymouth Township's National Night Out. We made display of QR codes linked to websites such as PAOES.org, Shriners Hospital, and Susquehanna Service Dogs which helped facilitate great conversations.

Several people were interested in learning about Star and the projects we are currently supporting—it was wonderful to receive such a warm welcome from the community!



Halloween Spooktacular Basket Party for Shriners Hospital

The Halloween Spooktacular was held at the Somerset Masonic Temple on October 28, 2023. The event was family friendly, and costumes were everywhere. Instead of an admission fee, we asked all who attended to donate a "New or Like New" stuffed animal for the children in Shriners Hospitals. We collected an entire box of 50!



The delicious meal of Salisbury steak, veggies, mashed potatoes, and oodles of home-baked treats was free. We had a DJ and lots of dancing - we knew Stars could boogie! Children decorated cookies for Halloween, and then enjoyed their creations!

Shiners Hospitals donated Teddy Bear blankets to use as door prizes, along with other items. We had over 100 baskets donated from area businesses including gift certificates from the Altoona Curve and many local restaurants. We also had a truly stunning handcrafted Rocking Airplane, for which we were offered \$1,000 before the party even started! Also featured were a handcrafted outdoor planter, a Rolling Dalmatian Ride-on Toy, a one-of-a-kind necklace designed by DC Goldsmithing, and a Mary Kay basket valued at \$400. There were kitchen appliances and cookware, clothing, food, toys - we can't even describe them all!



Chairpersons for this event were AP Chet Barron and his lovely wife, Sister Paula, Star point Adah, both from Trinity Chapter #138. They have been touched by the Shriners' cause to provide worldclass medical care to children at no charge, so they became increasingly involved in local events. Each year the events and their enthusiasm have grown, and this year it grew beyond their wildest dreams.



One fun item was the Lil' Future Mason Photo Op. Serendipity brought the blank plywood background of a child in a top hat caught attention of Sister Debra Kinney at an auction, who bought it and proceeded to sketch and paint him. Paula and Chet were so thrilled that Paula showed him to her Uncle, Luther Gibbons, a skilled woodworker who created a Lil' Future Star to match! He cut her out of plywood and two days later, she was sitting at the Temple beside her buddy ready for photos!

One fabulous side effect of this event is that the Somerset community saw what the Somerset Masonic Temple does locally. This event shows that we are more than a beautiful building—we work in service to all mankind.

Total Raised from the event: \$5,300! Many thanks to the supporting Masonic Organizations: Somerset Lodge No. 358; Trinity Chapter #138, OES; Portage Royal Arch Chapter #195; Cambria Council #32 Royal & Select Master Masons; Oriental Commandery #61 Knights Templar; and Jaffa Shriners of the Shriners International.



Buddy Bench Project

Sister Sonja Alcon chose to support ABC Promise Partnership by Greentree Plastic, LLC, during her term as WM of Elizabethtown Chapter #407. The goal of the program is to collect plastic bottle caps and sort donations for acceptable grades of plastic to be turned in for a Buddy Bench, while working with local children to teach them about recycling, environmentalism, and kindness to other kids in need of a friend. The Chapter worked with the Bainbridge Elementary School and the Masonic Villages Children's Home to mentor children and sort the overwhelming amount of donated plastic throughout the pandemic. In the end, they collected 660 lbs. of the accepted plastic, and earned 3 benches! These were placed on the campuses of Bainbridge Elementary and the Children's Home. Sonja is grateful to her family, her Chapter, and all of the partners who made this project possible.



Happy Anniversary Neshaminy!

Neshaminy Chapter #374 celebrated their 100th anniversary as we honored all those wonderful members who came before to institute the chapter 100 years ago. The luncheon was attended by many chapter members, the current Grand Family, many Past Grands, the 14B DGM Jill Gambossi and visiting Deputies, Grand Representatives, EGCCMs, AGCCMs, and visitors from all over the state. It was a wonderful celebration of 100 years and the chapter is looking forward to another 100 years as we serve Grand Chapter and our community.



Introducing the M - E - D Express Committee!



Refer to C&L pages 75-76
Article VII, Sections 7.06 & 7.07

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Did you know it only takes a vote of the chapter and an amendment to change your meeting start time?

Did you know it only takes a vote of the chapter and an amendment to the chapter bylaws to change your meeting night/day?

Focusing on the Future

Play along with this **FACT or FICTION** game! Circle the answer you think is correct, then turn the page upside down to learn the answers. If you have any questions about this information, be sure to ask your Deputy Grand Matron.

- 1) When giving remarks at a meeting you must acknowledge everyone in the East first. **FACT or FICTION**
- 2) Officers shall sit with both feet together flat on the floor with hands in their laps. **FACT or FICTION**
- 3) If you turn down an appointment or say no to something you won't be asked in the future. **FACT or FICTION**
- 4) Jeans can be worn to events. **FACT or FICTION**

- 1) **FICTION!** When speaking under Good of the Order, it is only necessary to address the Worthy Matron - reference the Standard Floor Work, and look under Good of the Order # 14.
- 2) **FACT!** This is addressed in the Standard Floor Work under Decorum # 1.
- 3) **FICTION!** There are always opportunities available to serve, and it takes all of us to help make OES thrive!
- 4) **FICTION!** However, jeans can sometimes be worn to certain events when specified by your Worthy Matron or the Worthy Grand Matron.

What is Palliative Care?

To complement its current hospice services, provided to patients in the comfort of their homes throughout Lancaster, Dauphin, Lebanon and Eastern York, Masonic Village Hospice now offers a Palliative Care program for eligible individuals. Palliative care combines medical, pharmaceutical, dietetic, social work, spiritual and other integrative therapies to provide comfort and quality of life for patients and families when dealing with a life-limiting illness.

While palliative care does not replace active treatments of a disease, it offers beneficial support at any stage of an illness by focusing on symptom management, as well as a patient's physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being.

Both hospice and palliative care provide symptom relief for patients. Hospice is comfort care without curative intent, meaning a patient no longer has curative options or has chosen not to pursue treatment. Palliative care is comfort care with or without curative intent.

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Palliative care is helpful when a patient receives a new diagnosis or experiences a progression of a serious or terminal illness.

The program provides ongoing support for patients and families and is collaborative with a patient's primary care physician. The palliative care nurse practitioners can discuss with patients how to manage pain, fatigue, weight loss, depression and anxiety, among other symptoms. They can also help assess caregiver needs and a patient's home environment in preparation for continued care and services.

For more information about Palliative Care services, or to schedule an appointment, call 717-361-8449, or email mvhospice@masonicvillages.org.



Ann Colangelo, a resident at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, with Bethany Sampsell, lead nurse practitioner with Hospice



MASONIC VILLAGE FARM MARKET

- Home-grown apples - check our website for the Pick-Your-Own Apples schedule
- Apple cider, apple butter, preserves, pickles and salsa
- Pies, apple dumplings, cookies, cakes and breads from our bakery
- Order gift boxes for the holidays:
 - ~ Choose delicious fruit butters and preserves from catalog listings.
 - ~ We will select the best apple varieties available, unless otherwise specified.
 - ~ Jarred goods may be replaced with many of our other products. Prices may vary; call for details.
- Gift certificates also available

FALL HOURS:

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SATURDAY, 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SUNDAY, NOON - 4 P.M.

Find us on Facebook



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Located on the grounds of Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: 310 Eden View Road