

# PA Eastern Star Happenings



ISSUE 28 | WINTER 2026

No one can dim the *light* that shines from *within*.

- Maya Angelou

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Proverbs 119:105

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers

As we turn the pages of this issue, I want to take a moment to thank all of our members who shared their stories with us. Your experiences, your projects, and your moments of service bring our organization to life and inspire others across Pennsylvania. Every story—big or small—shows the heart of the Order of the Eastern Star and reminds us of the impact we can make when we work together.

We are always looking for more stories to feature in the magazine. Whether it's a chapter service project, a special event, a personal milestone, or a creative endeavor, we want to hear from you! Sharing your experiences not only highlights the wonderful work being done in our chapters, but it also connects us all in meaningful ways. Please take a few moments to send your stories, photos, and reflections—we promise they will be appreciated by our readership and celebrated in print.

As winter slowly loosens its grip and the promise of spring draws near, we're reminded of renewal, growth, and hope. Here's a little poem to welcome the changing season:

### *Almost Spring*

The snow drifts linger, soft and white,  
Yet crocuses peek with quiet delight.  
A robin calls, a breeze so mild,  
Winter fades, and nature's wild.  
Soon the sun will warm the air,  
And flowers bloom with colors rare.  
Almost spring, a gentle thing,  
A whispered promise that life will sing.

Thank you again to everyone who shares their stories. Let's continue to celebrate the work, the joy, and the spirit of our chapters together—one story at a time.

Fraternally,

*Michelle*

Michelle Riggi-Smith



## PA EASTERN STAR HAPPENINGS

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# A Special Kind of Care



With the comfort and safety of residents and peace of mind for family members as guiding principles, Masonic Village at Elizabethtown offers three memory support neighborhoods for those with Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias.

**As a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Pennsylvania, you and your eligible family members have priority for admission at the Masonic Village for memory support services.**

The neighborhoods are specially designed for residents in various stages of dementia, with staff trained to provide dignified, loving care. A safe and supportive environment protects those at risk for wandering.

Ron Shubert moved into one of the memory support neighborhoods in November. After temporarily living in another nursing facility, his wife, Sandy, couldn't wait for him to come to Masonic Village.

*"It's excellent," she said. "I love the staff. They are just wonderful with all the residents and treat them with such compassion and respect."*

Each neighborhood includes a recreational area, spacious dining and kitchen area and family rooms for residents to gather. Each private room includes a bed, nightstand and lamp, recliner, dresser, closet and

flat-screen TV. Additional furnishings and personal items from home may be brought as space allows. "Ron's room is lovely," Sandy said. "It's always kept nice and clean and has everything he needs. Overall, the campus is so beautiful."

Daily rates cover three meals, housekeeping, on-campus transportation, spiritual services, leisure activities, basic cable, telephone, internet and more.

Our interdisciplinary team offers a structured daily routine, a variety of therapeutic programs and activities designed to provide enjoyment and socialization.

Regular activities include: baking/cooking, ceramics, community outings, community service projects, crafts, creative arts, education, entertainment, gardening, intergenerational programs, music, pet visits, socials, visitations and special events.

Our Spiritual Care team provides worship services, prayer groups, counseling, teaching, Bible studies, small group services and individual visitation. Music therapy services address each individual's physical, emotional, social, cognitive and spiritual needs.

"I love that there are so many activities," Sandy said. "Even for those who can't walk or communicate. I love watching the residents respond to things like music and movement. Their eyes really light up."

Sandy also appreciates Masonic Village's caregiver support group, which covers educational topics, as well as allows participants to share their personal experiences.

*"It was a big adjustment for me," she said, "but I got through it. Now I'm comfortable knowing that Ron is where he needs to be to receive the best skilled nursing care."*

**For more information on memory support care at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, contact 717-361-4552 or [MVEadmissions@masonicvillages.org](mailto:MVEadmissions@masonicvillages.org)**

# MESSAGES FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON & WORTHY GRAND PATRON

## M. JOYCE CAMLIN & DENNIS J. DEVINE

What wonderful Fall and Winter seasons we have had traveling throughout the state visiting with our beloved Sisters and Brothers. We have enjoyed the many fun events, luncheons, picnics and, of course, the Stated Meetings where we were able to witness the beautiful ritual work exhibited by our Sisters and Brothers.

We were so happy to see the wonderful response from our members in attendance at the three sectional Caring and Sharing events and the Regional Focus Light on MS events. After a short hiatus in January, the MS events will begin again in earnest. We look forward to seeing you all and enjoying time with everyone.

Our special time this Fall was spent at the three sectional Veterans Dinners where we honored the military veterans of our Order. Each dinner held its own unique ambiance,

and we were so honored to be able to pin our brothers and sisters with a small token of our deep appreciation for their service to our country, and to witness some of them receiving their once-in-a-lifetime Quilt of Valor.

At the writing of this missive, the Puppy Bowl is scheduled for this weekend where we get to have a lot of fun while raising funds to support the service dogs. And not too far distant will be the time to honor our Golden Stars, those members who have supported our Order for 50 years. I have a few more years to go, but I am really looking forward to honoring our special members.

The Grand Officers enjoyed initiating new members in Freeland and Orwigsburg Chapters and are scheduled to initiate again at Albion Chapter in the West in April. Many of our chapters have held initiations and are welcoming new sisters and brothers; and it appears that quite

a few are coming in under non-affiliated status. Keep those petitions coming!!!!

It has been a pleasure traveling the state and spending time with you all. The dayLIGHT is finally getting longer again so we can enjoy more time being together.

REMINDER: It's time to register for the "Be a Light to the World" Grand Chapter Session 2026 in York, PA. Please see your Deputy Grand Matron for the registration forms and register early. And remember, the Session starts on Friday this year, with elections on Saturday, so plan accordingly.

Remember to share God's LIGHT wherever you go.



Sisters and Brothers how quickly time is passing. Feels like just yesterday we were at Grand Chapter and WOW! The holidays are over and it is a New Year! We have had a busy schedule traveling to all points of our state visiting our Sisters and Brothers in their Chapters, attending MS events, Caring and Sharing events. Participating with the Grand Family in the conferring of Degrees and is always a wonderful experience. I hope our new members will continue their journey and get involved in their Chapter. We had a fantastic trip to Ireland and then attended the Quad State meeting in West Virginia. I also had the opportunity to represent The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern Star at the December 2025 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Participating at Veterans Luncheons and Dinners and to give them the long overdue THANK YOU they truly deserved was an Honor that I will always remember.

A big thanks to all who have been making up Kits for Kids. The project is having a wonderful response, and I am sure it is making a difference.

Now that the days are getting longer and we have the nice weather coming our way (eventually) lets look forward to spring and all the opportunities it brings to reconnect, renew our goals, and continue our service together. Let us remember to embrace the spirit of fellowship and extend a warm welcome to all – especially to those who may need encouragement or a helping hand. May this New Year be filled with hope, happiness, and growth of our beloved Order.

Thank you all for your Love and Support.

May your troubles be Less and your blessings be more and

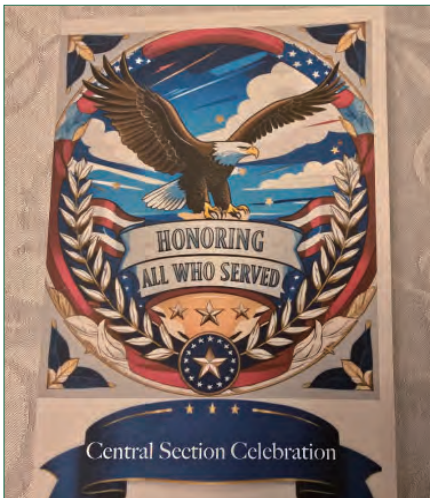
Nothing but Happiness come through your door!

With Star Love and Appreciation,

Dennis J. Devine  
Worthy Grand Patron



# VETERAN'S DAY DINNERS



**Deputy Grand Matron, 1A - Leslie A. Desin**

My name is Leslie A. Desin, PM and I am a 40+ year member of Albion Chapter #22, located in Albion, Pennsylvania. During my years in Albion, I have served in many different stations and many committees. I was the Worthy Matron in 2018-19 and 2021-22. I am honored to serve PA OES as the Deputy Grand Matron for Region 1-A. I am looking forward to visiting the

chapters in our region and seeing our Sisters and Brothers exemplify their work. I am a 23 year veteran as a school bus driver for Buckeye Local School District in Ashtabula, Ohio. I am the mother of 3 beautiful grown children and enjoy traveling to many OES events with my mom and sister, who are both Past Matrons of Albion

Chapter #22. For my term as Deputy Grand Matron Region 1-A 2025-26: Symbol: the Bee; Motto: "BEE the Change" Scripture Esther 4:14



**Deputy Grand Matron, 1B - Dara L. Hagofsky**



Hi there! My name is Dara Hagofsky and I have the pleasure of serving region 1B for a second year as DGM. I am honored to have such a supportive

region and chapter as I navigate my second year as DGM and secretary of Stoneboro #110. When I'm not wearing my deputy or secretary hat, I have 2 amazing girls (5 and 1) to keep me busy and enjoy spending time with them. I hope someday I can share the Order with them just as I get to share the Order with my mom now. I am forever

grateful to share the blessings of Eastern Star with my family and friends who are now family because of Eastern Star. It is truly a special experience to be a part of such a wonderful organization. When I have a little time to myself, I like to crochet or work on a diamond art picture.

**Deputy Grand Matron, 3 - Margaret A. Griego**

"I'm a member of Norwood Herrington #356 and am thrilled to be the Deputy Grand Matron for Region 3 for the 2025-2026 year! I have been active with my chapter since joining in 2014. I'm excited to continue this by being in an active role in our thriving

region. Outside of OES I am an active volunteer with Rainbow for Girls and work as an auditor for governmental and not-for-profit organizations. I have two cats and a husband, who are the best part of my life."



**Deputy Grand Matron, 4 - Katherine E. McGuire**

Sister Katherine "Katie" McGuire is excited to be Deputy Grand Matron for Region 4 this year. Since joining Clairton Chapter #316 in 2007, she has served as Worthy Matron three times:



2011-2012, 2015-2016, and 2023-2024. She is currently serving her second year as Treasurer. She is proud to be a third generation member of Eastern Star. Katie has also served the Grand Chapter as Deputy Grand Matron (2013-2014), Grand Page twice (2009, 2012), and several AGCCMs including serving the 129th Session Committee as Pages Chairman (2023-2024). Katie is a graduate of Slippery Rock

University and is employed with S&T Bank, as Verafin System Administrator, managing the Bank's anti-money laundering and fraud application. Katie has been happily married since 2016 to her wonderful and supportive husband, Brian. Together they live in Verona with their seven-year-old daughter, Jordyn. Weekends not spent at OES events, they are usually shuttling Jordyn to various dance competitions.

**Deputy Grand Matron, 5A - Janice A. Decker**

Janice was initiated into Fort Ligonier Chapter #349 in 1971 where she served as Worthy Matron, Marshal, Adah, Ruth, Martha and Treasurer. The chapter transferred en masse to Latrobe Chapter #221 in 2014. Janice has served as Worthy Matron three

times and is currently Treasurer. She has served on several Grand Chapter Appointments including Grand Representative of Oklahoma. A 54 year member of Eastern Star she is proud to serve as Deputy Grand Matron for Sister Joyce.

Janice enjoys traveling and doing crafts.



### Deputy Grand Matron, 7A - Melva J. Worley



Melva was initiated into the Lewistown Chapter #283 Order of the Eastern Star in 2010. Since then, she has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership within the organization.

Melva has served as Worthy Matron four times and has twice held the position of Central Chair for Masonic Villages. She is a plural member of the State College Chapter #388, where she serves as Martha.

An excellent crafter with a heart of gold, Melva is known for her creativity and kindness. Every Friday night, she hosts “play dates” with her senior friends, where they enjoy board games

late into the night. Her famous hat collection was a highlight at the State College Chapter’s 100th-anniversary banquet last spring.

Melva’s commitment to OES and her community is truly inspiring. Her warmth, creativity, and leadership make her an invaluable member of the organization.

### Deputy Grand Matron, 8B - Janette M. Harms

Janette “Jan” Harms originally joined White Rose Chapter #360 36 years ago, encouraged by members who were also part of her Job’s Daughters Bethel Council, along with several other 18-year-olds who joined at the same time.

Jan quickly became active within the Chapter, serving in several appointed offices before serving 2 terms as Worthy Matron. She later transferred to Columbia Chapter, where she served as WM. Jan is a member of Hershey Chapter #509 and a plural member of The Glen Chapter #425 in Region 8B, where she currently serves as Organist. She has served as a Personal Page, a Grand Rep,

and a member of the 127th Session Committee. Many may recognize Jan through her work with Job’s Daughters Int’l, where she has served at the local, state, and international levels, including Chairman of the Board of Trustees. She also oversaw the Certified Adult Training Program for several years.

Jan serves as the Event Manager for Masonic Village. She also dedicates her time as Secretary on the Board of Governors for the Central PA Dyslexia Center and serves as Assistant Executive Secretary for PA DeMolay. Jan is the wife of Douglas Harms and aunt to several nieces and nephews. She also holds a deeply special place in

her heart for her daughter in Heaven.

Jan joined OES because others showed her care and compassion at times when she needed it most. She continues to find joy and purpose in her life, because OES continues to be charitable and of service to those in need.



### Deputy Grand Matron, 9 - Karen S. Kutruff

My name is Karen Kutruff, the new DGM for Region 9, and belong to Lewisburg Chapter #394. After marrying into a



Masonic family, I was initiated into Coalport Chapter #427 in 1981 at the urging of my sister-in-law, who was serving as WM at the time and I haven’t looked back since.

Over the years, I have served as Electa and have been WM four times—once in my original chapter and three times at Lewisburg. It has been my privilege to serve as an AGCCM multiple times, as well as a Grand Page. I also served as Mother Advisor and Grand Deputy for Rainbow for over 25 years.

I am married to my high school sweetheart, Patrick, for 50 years. We have three beautiful daughters and have 7 grandchildren. I am retired from working as a medical assistant

and now spend time volunteering at a pregnancy resource center as well as my local food pantry, and am active in our church.

I absolutely LOVE to bake and share with others, and in my spare time I enjoy reading.

I am looking forward to serving PA OES as a DGM for Sister Joyce and Brother Dennis this year.

Seeking God’s Amazing Grace

### Deputy Grand Matron, 10A - Kathleen L. Jackson

Kathy is a 30-year member and a three-time past matron. She was initiated into Donegal Chapter #422 and with their closure has moved permanently into her plural chapter of Robert Fulton #446. Kathy has also had the pleasure of most recently serving as the Grand Rep of Wisconsin in PA. She is also a past Jobie. Kathy currently resides in Quarryville

PA with her husband Tim, who is also a member of OES. They have a grown up “brady bunch” family consisting of her daughter Lexi, son Matthew and 3 bonus sons, Wyatt, Caleb and Connor. She has been in the energy profession for 25 years and is currently a Safety Manager for a home heating company. Kathy collects anything and everything bumble bee related. She

has always been a lover of music covering a wide range of genres and has attended 22 concerts over the past 3 years.



### Deputy Grand Matron, 10B - Jennifer F. Miller

My name is Jennifer F. Miller, PM, and I am a member of Conewago Chapter #532. I was very fortunate to have a customer who noticed I was collecting used stamps in a basket on my



desk. I explained that I was collecting them for another customer, who then donated them to OES. During that conversation, I shared how my aunt had always wanted me to join once I was old enough, but she had passed away before I turned 18. The customer looked at me across my desk and said, "You know you can still join." I signed the petition and became a member of the Order.

It has been a busy ten years since that conversation. I am retired from Verizon and currently serve as the Local Tax Collector for Reading Township in Adams County. Something many people may not know about me is that I am also a retired professional clown.

### Deputy Grand Matron, 12B - Melanie M. Pysher

Melanie was initiated in Shutanka Chapter #202, where she served as Worthy Matron 4 times, then joined Calypso Chapter #163. She was presented her 25 year pin last March, while serving her fifth term as WM. She is also a member of New Temple Chapter #298 and recently



Monroe Chapter #99. She is currently Associate Conductress in Calypso and star point Martha in Monroe. She has served Grand Chapter on many occasions. The Divine Service and Worship Service 2019-2021, an Assistant Grand Warder, Page, and chairman of a few AGCCM committees. She is a long-time board member of Easton Assembly #38, IORG, and is very proud of all our girls. There have been 3 Grand Worthy Advisors in Easton Assembly in the past 14 years, with Jeanette Remaly as

the current GWA. Melanie loves spending time with her recently retired husband and family. She is very proud of her 3 children, and has 5 grandchildren who keep her busy. When she isn't taking care of her grandchildren, she is working at the local greenhouse. She loves gardening, hiking, traveling, caning chairs, quilting, sewing, and taking time out to be with family, neighbors, and friends. "A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside."

### Deputy Grand Matron, 13A - Bonnie L. Yurvati

In the fall of 1978, at the age of 19, I was escorted into the Chapter room of Blue Mountain #443, and my life changed direction. I was so inspired by the words and lessons witnessed that evening that come spring of 1980 I found myself beginning my journey to the East. By the time I became a Past Matron, I was engaged and ready to begin a new segment of my life. Fast forward through many happy times, including the birth of my now adult

daughter, but also painful losses: my husband to leukemia, both my parents, my career, and my childhood best friend. I was physically and emotionally at my worst. But then after so many doors closing, I saw a window opening through our beautiful Order. I agreed to be the Worthy Matron for East Penn Chapter #336 in 2022-23 and again for 2023-24. The decision gave me back the spark that I thought I had lost forever. My empathy and the values gained

through Eastern Star allow me to spread kindness wherever I may be. I am thrilled beyond words to be the new Deputy Grand Matron of Region 13A.



### Deputy Grand Matron, 13B - Fern E. Houser

I started my Fraternal journey in Rainbow and then became a member of Orwigsburg Chapter #424 and have been for 45 years. I have held the offices of Electa, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron, and Worthy Matron 1988-89, 2016-17. I've been the Secretary since 2010. I have served as an AGCCM for several committees, Deputy Grand Matron, Grand Page, Personal Page, Assistant Grand Warder and Grand

Representative. I work part time as an Office Coordinator for St. Luke's Physical Therapy. My husband, Rodney, is retired and we reside in Orwigsburg with our 2 cats, Pearl and Onyx. We have a son, Jeremy, his wife, Rebecca and a 3-year-old granddaughter, Adilyn. They live in North Carolina and we visit every chance we get. I enjoy reading, traveling, camping, bicycling and spending time with

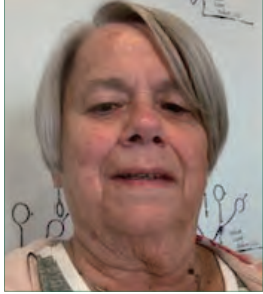
our family and friends. I volunteer along with my husband as a puppy sitter for Susquehanna Service Dogs and am looking to become a puppy raiser for them in the future.



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### Deputy Grand Matron, 14A - Darlene J. Gardner

My mother-in-law asked me to join OES in 1974. I knew nothing about the organization, but to please her I said yes. I joined Freeland Chapter #323



and am so glad I did. I am a 50-year member this year. I enjoy attending meetings and making friends with many new and interesting people from across the state.

I have served my chapter as Worthy

Matron in 1980-81, 2009-10, 2012-13 and 2023-24. I have served in all positions except for Chaplain, Ruth, Warder and Sentinel, and have served Grand Chapter as an AGCCM for many committees and a page several times.

I have been married 29 years to my husband, Robert Gardner. Between us we have 4 children - 2 boys and 2 girls ,11 grandchildren - 9 boys and 2 girls. I work part time as a Preschool Teacher for Creative Moments Daycare, Gilbertsville. I worked for many years at Harleysville Insurance Company as a Customer Service Supervisor. My

hobbies are reading, bird watching, and spending time at the beach with family.

Eastern Star brings so much joy to my life by touching many people with the generosity we provide to those less fortunate than us. I hold the members of OES in my heart and cherish the many friends and forever family I have made along the way. My daughter has had some rough times the past two years and members of the Order have reached out to help her, not even knowing her. I am thrilled beyond words to be the new DGM of Region 14A.

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### Deputy Grand Matron, 14B - Deneen L. Ellis

Deneen has been a member of Signet Chapter #129 for 17 years. She served as Worthy Matron 2 times, as well as serving as Star Points Martha, Esther and currently serves as Chapter Secretary. Deneen is proud to be 4th generation Eastern Star. She gets to enjoy spending time with her mom Janet Paley, also a member of Signet Chapter. She has also served as Regional Representative for multiple Grand Chapter Committees as well as Grand Page.

Deneen and her husband Joseph, PP, met while working for PGW and have been married for 37 years. They



currently share their home with adopted English Bulldog, Wilbur, who was rescued from the streets of Philly. Deneen loves spending time with her family and friends throughout the year but in the summer, you can find her on a beach somewhere in the wildwoods, unless she is paddling with "Freedom", her Bucks County Dragon Boat team.

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### Deputy Grand Matron, 15 - Catherine S. Dazio

Catherine is a member of Fraternal Chapter #249, Region 15, in Coatesville, PA, and served as WM 3 times since her initiation in 2009. This is her second year as DGM and she is looking forward to another wonderful



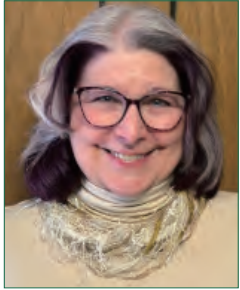
year serving her region. She has served as AGCCM including the 128th session, Service Dogs Eastern Section, etc., but the best part is working along side of terrific sisters and brothers as a team.

Catherine and her husband, Edward Dazio, reside in Downingtown, and will be married 35 years this June 21. They have both been in the barbering and hairstyling business for more than 50 years. Edward is a PP and Grand

Representative to Kansas where he served in the army. They are looking forward to visiting Kansas Grand Chapter in April 2026.

## General Chairman, Golden Stars - Karen L. Crown

Karen lives in Newark Valley, NY and has been married to her husband, Bob, for 36 years. She has worked for 26 years for Dr. Diane Downton, first as a nanny for her triplets and currently as the front desk/



receptionist at her dental office. Karen is a 39-year member of Gill Chapter No. 12 Region 11-B. She has served as Worthy Matron twice and has been Secretary for the past 34 years. Karen is very appreciative to Sister Joyce for the privilege of serving as General Chairman for Golden Stars. She is hoping that her love of entertaining, capturing memories with photographs, and playing the alto saxophone will

capture the light and love we share with all our Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers and especially our esteemed Golden Stars.

## General Chairman, Masonic Villages - Kathleen R. Dulcey

Kathy is a member of Eastern Star since May 1998. She has been Worthy Matron: 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, and again 2016-2017. She is presently a member of Harmony Chapter #58 of Wyoming, PA. Kathy served as an Assistant Grand Warder in 2004 and 2005. In 2005-2006, she was one of Sister Jo-Ann E. Lauderman's "Star Lighters", serving as District Deputy Grand Matron for District 21 which is presently Region 12A. The following year she was the Homes Committee appointment for her region. In June of 2008, she served on the decorating committee for the 114th Grand Chapter Session in York. Then she was asked to serve as Multiple Sclerosis, Eastern Pin Chairman, for Sister Mary Ann B. Naugle. The next year she was Region 12A's KIDS (Kindness Inspires Dreams of Success) appointment. This was followed by an appointment

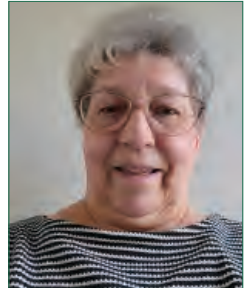
on the Charity Committee for 2011-2012. Kathy was a member of Sister Anna H. Miller's Club Board (The Sunbeams) and served as Grand Chaplain (2012-2013). She was then asked to be Region 12A - Golden Stars Representative for 2014-2015; and was then presented with the honor of being a Grand Representative to Manitoba in Pennsylvania. Then Souvenirs for 123rd Sessions Committee (2016-2017) for Diana Michael; Eastern Section Chairman for Caring and Sharing-(2018-2019); Regional Representative for Caring and Sharing in 2023-2024

She is the wife of James Dulcey and celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in May 2025. They have three sons: Andrew and fiancée, Melissa with new Grandson, Mars Alexander of Key West, FL; Stephen-Weatherly, PA, and Matthew and his

wife Jillian along with a Grandchildren- Malin, Elodie, and Luc who live in Delft, The Netherlands. James and Kathy own and operate Dulcey Electric, which is a contracting company which has been in business for the past 52 years, and is based in Weatherly, which is where they also live.

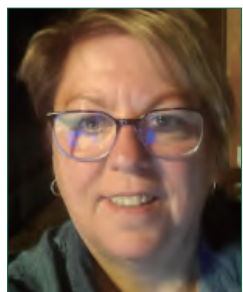
Her time is very busy now while preparing to enter retirement and conclude all businesses that are presently open.

Kathy's heart overflows with JOY when she is visiting with her grandchildren and OES friends.



## General Chairman, Service Dogs - Linda J. Jordan

I was initiated into Warren Chapter #56 in April 2007. The chapter merged with Youngsville Chapter # 478, Region 1A in 2009.



I have served as Worthy Matron in 2012, 2019, 2020 and 2021. I will be serving as Associate Matron in my chapter this year.

I served as a Grand Page in 2012, Deputy Grand Matron in 2015, and Assistant Grand Warder in 2017. I have served as AGCCM several

times: Masonic Villages 2014, Caring & Sharing 2017, Service Dogs 2018, Service Dogs-Western Chair 2023. Most recently, I served on the 130th Sessions Committee as Housing Chairman in 2024-2025.

I also served as Grand Adah for Orpha Kemmler & George Camlin in 2019-2021, and as Grand Representative to Illinois in Pennsylvania 2021-2023.

I reside in Tiona, PA, with my husband, Tim Jordan and his service dog, Jazmine. We have two children, Michael and Heather. Michael lives nearby with his wife, Michelle, and our two grandchildren Deanna & Nicholas. Heather lives in Phoenix, AZ.

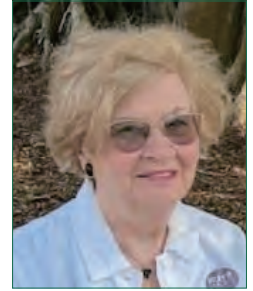
I joined OES because of the many Masonic friendships I gained throughout my childhood years as the daughter of a (68 year) Mason. We enjoy being able to travel and attend OES events and meetings together, not to mention all the wonderful bonds of friendship we have made across the state. We are proud Eastern Star members. It allows us the chance to give back to our local communities and make a difference in someone's life.

## General Chairman, Stamps for Wounded Veterans - Marianne P. Watters

Marianne is a member of Signet Chapter # 129 in Warminster, Pa. Her Eastern Star career began 63 years ago in Sincerity Chapter # 228, OES of NJ in Camden. She was Worthy Matron in 1970-71. She is currently a dual member with Athene Chapter # 201, OES of NJ, in Pennsauken and with Signet Chapter. Marianne's family includes a son, Andrew, a PGA golf professional, living in North Wales, Pa.; a daughter, Karen,

a CPA and Real Estate Fund Manager for a firm in King of Prussia, Pa.; and a granddaughter, Elizabeth, a junior at DePaul University, Chicago, in the School of Cinematography. Marianne was married to Lawrence Watters (deceased) and has lived in Blue Bell, Pa. for 51 years. She is an active participant at First Presbyterian Church of Ambler. Eastern Star has always been a part of her life with many family members,

numerous friends and a multitude of service activities.

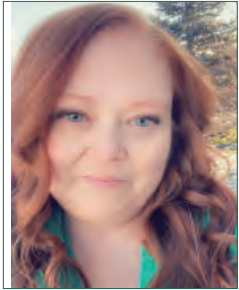


## General Chairman, Fraternal Relations & Community Service - Kimberly J. Amic

My name is Kimberly (Kim) Amic and I have been honored to have completed my first term as Worthy Matron of Sewickley Chapter #439. I have been a part of OES for over 5 years, but I am not a stranger to the Masonic Family way of life. I was a member of Coraopolis #52 (now closed) IORG where I served multiple times as Worthy Advisor and as a grand officer in multiple capacities. I still

have the gowns to prove it! I am also a past president of Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity, where I am now a lifetime member. I have worked for the federal government for 20+ years in multiple positions but that has not slowed down my activities. I am a recipient of the Robert Morris membership program award and proudly wear my pin and bars when visiting. I have served on two previous Appointed Grand Chapter committees and have enjoyed all the knowledge I have learned. I received the Companion of the Temple service award last May from the PA Grand Commandery which I was surprised

and delighted to receive. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, shopping and spending time with the people I love which includes my friends. I'm excited to be the General Chair of the Fraternal Relations and Community Service committee where I hope to expand on the inter-organizational relationships I have forged during my term in a successful clothing drive and over 1500 blessing bags! I am looking forward to carrying this spirit across the state into the next year and forward as we work together this year across our youth and other Masonic organizations while helping our community.



# What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

With CIP Rehabilitation being located conveniently in the Irem Clubhouse on campus, residents can take advantage of on-site services and education. During a recent program, a physical therapist with CIP highlighted the benefits of early intervention for older adults – what it is and why timing matters. Attendees appreciated the practical insights and left feeling empowered to take positive steps for their health and future well-being.



## MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN



Residents, staff and community volunteers carried on Wreaths Across America's tradition to "Remember, Honor and Teach" about America's veterans by placing holiday wreaths

on the graves of resident veterans buried on campus or interred in Sell Chapel's Columbarium on Dec. 13

As part of the Massing of the Colors flag display, Nov. 8 to 15, more than 70 volunteers, including residents, staff, local veterans and their families, helped plant more than 7,000 flags next to the Veterans Grove. The flags represented every U.S. service member who has died since 9/11.

Residents coordinated a "Beat Hunger Blitz" food drive for the Community Cupboard of Elizabethtown food pantry. It took two pickups and a box truck to deliver all the items to the food pantry!

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

To ring in 2026, residents enjoyed a performance by the Mummers on New Year's Eve. The quartet entertained with some of their favorite tunes, including

the Philadelphia Eagles' fight song.

To keep healthy in the colder months, residents enjoyed a tasting of whole wheat couscous salad with fresh herbs and green goddess dressing, thanks to Anthony Crespo, dietitian, and Gerry Gannon, chef. Anthony hopes to present a new "superfood," a food that is rich in nutrients and provides exceptional health benefits, on a monthly basis.



## MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

In honor of a century of stories and life, we celebrated 11 centenarians (and one almost centenarian) during a special party in November.

The residents were joined by their families and staff who enjoyed sharing memories and photos of the honorees.



St. Nick took some time out of his busy season to relax and have a few drinks with residents at the Pub during the community's annual "Cocktails with Santa" event. Residents also enjoyed a holiday party with kids from the on-site child care center.

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

"Glow" is the perfect name for the mini horse who has been visiting monthly. Special Equestrians PA volunteers help create these special memories.



Mary Beth Nalence, activities assistant, led residents in a drum circle, which is a great way to keep moving and "beat" the winter blues!

## CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

### PA Members Visit Ruth Chapter #19 in DE

On Monday, October 20, 2025, several members of Fraternal Chapter #249 and Signet Chapter #129 of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania were invited to visit Ruth Chapter #19 of the Grand Chapter of Delaware. We were presented by Sister Diane E. Boyer, Grand Representative of Alberta in Delaware, installed Conductress of Ruth Chapter. Sister Diane is a Dual member in Delaware as her primary Chapter is Fraternal #249 where she currently is installed as star point Esther.

Under the good of the order, the Fraternal Chapter Sisters, led by Sister

Diane, demonstrated the process of examining a visitor in the chapter room. In the Grand Chapter of Delaware, this demonstration is not usually performed inside the chapter room.

Everyone enjoyed visiting with our Delaware Sisters and Brothers during refreshment time.



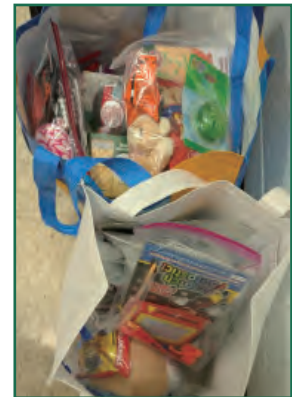
L-R: Virginia L. (Gee Gee) Plyler, GGCCM, Diane E. Boyer, Gr Rep of AB in DE, Catherine S. Dazio, DGM Region 15, Teri H. Seiter, PM, Diane E. Hicks, Gr Rep of AZ in PA, and Janine M. Stein, AGC

### Bird Chapter #460 Makes Kits for Kids

When Bird Chapter #460 learned of the Worthy Grand Patron's Kits For Kids outreach project this year, our members immediately got to work. By our October meeting, we had assembled 30 one-gallon

bags full of goodies for kids who might come into emergency and stressful situations that might involve local and state police action. Our first 30 Kits For Kids were then delivered to the Reading State

Police Barracks where the Public Information Officer, Trooper Ethan Brownback was very grateful and thankful for the donation. Our members are busy making more kits for local departments also.



### Youngsville Chapter #478 Extends Helping Hands to Children in Need

Members of Youngsville Chapter #478, Order of the Eastern Star, recently came together in the spirit of charity and compassion to support the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC).

As part of a chapter service project, members assembled and donated comfort care kits for children and teens served by the center. Three types of kits were prepared—menstrual care kits, hygiene kits, and comfort kits—each thoughtfully filled with practical and comforting items to meet immediate needs and provide reassurance during difficult moments.

The kits were presented to Sister Melissa McLean, Executive Director of the WCCAC and a member of Youngsville Chapter #478, along with Tiger, the center's facility dog. Tiger plays an important role in supporting

children who visit the center, offering calm companionship and comfort during forensic interviews and other services.

WCCAC works closely with law enforcement, child protective services, medical professionals, prosecutors, and mental health providers to coordinate the community response to child abuse investigations in Warren and Forest Counties. The center's mission is to reduce trauma for children while ensuring they receive compassionate care and support.

Youngsville Chapter #478, led by Worthy Matron Roben Blu and Worthy Patron Robert Hukill, was honored to contribute to this important mission. Stillwater Masonic Lodge #547 also

provided a monetary donation to help make the project possible.

To learn more about the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center, visit [www.warrencac.org](http://www.warrencac.org)

Pictured are members presenting the comfort-care kits to Sister Melissa McLean and Tiger.

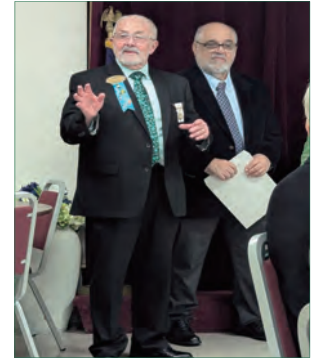


### Bird Chapter #460 Hosts Grand Family With A Church Service

In early December, Bird Chapter #460 hosted the Grand Family at St. John's UCC, our Worthy Matron's church in Gibraltar, Berks County. Our Worthy Matron, Charlotte Fidler is very active in her church, serving as the choir director and is used to working closely with her pastor in planning Sunday services. So, planning a special service for the

Grand Family's visit came naturally for her. It was a beautiful service with the Worthy Grand Matron's Bible being used, special music that included some of our chapter members, Bird Chapter members reading scriptures, Charlotte providing a children's sermon based on the values of OES, and the pastor who is a fellow Mason delivering an inspiring sermon. The

service was followed by a delicious meal, speeches, holiday "Name That Tune" game, and Christmas carol sing. Overall, it was a delightful Sunday of worship and fellowship between the members of St. John's UCC, Bird Chapter #460 members, and the Worthy Grand Family.



### Alzheimer's Awareness

Some exciting news for you in this second article from the Most Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project Committee: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared a plasma test for use in the primary care setting, specifically to rule out the presence of amyloid plaques— a core hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. The test is intended for use in adult patients, aged 55 years and older, presenting with signs or symptoms

of cognitive impairment. By providing an efficient, less-invasive method to assess the likelihood of the plaques, the test can help primary care physicians determine which patients do not require Alzheimer's-related follow-up tests, such as PET scans or cerebrospinal fluid analysis, and can significantly improve the diagnostic process by preventing unnecessary specialized testing for individuals whose cognitive issues stem from non-

Alzheimer's causes. This approach also empowers primary care clinicians to guide referrals more effectively, allowing specialists to focus on patients most likely to require advanced evaluation and care.

The vision of the Alzheimer's Association is "a world without all other dementia".

Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2021, DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE HAVE **DECREASED 2.1%**



WHILE DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE HAVE **INCREASED 141%**

IN 2024, ALZHEIMER'S AND OTHER DEMENTIAS WILL **COST THE NATION \$360 BILLION**

————— \$\$\$\$\$ —————

BY 2050, THESE COSTS COULD RISE TO NEARLY **\$1 TRILLION**

THESE CAREGIVERS PROVIDED MORE THAN **18 BILLION HOURS** VALUED AT NEARLY **\$347 BILLION**

## 51 Years as Chairman of the Laurel Festival Pet Parade

OES members come with many talents that they share with their Chapters and with their communities. Sister Verla Bryant is one such Sister. Verla has been a member of Eastern Star for 33 years and she has served as chairman of the Laurel Festival Pet Parade for 51 years. In 1974 while still a senior at the Wellsboro High School, she was approached to co-chair the Pet Parade. She graduated in June and co-chaired the parade the same month. In 1975, Verla was asked to be the chairman of the parade. She has been chairing it ever since. 2025 was her 51st year.

The annual Laurel Festival is an integral part of the Wellsboro community. To see the local children proudly show-off their beloved pets at

the parade brings a smile to your face and a flutter to your heart. Verla says, "I love the pet parade because I love the kids, the animals, and agriculture. Those three things are my passions." She has also shown those passions in her 10 years of teaching pre-school and then 28 years in the public school system. She has instructed such after school programs as Odyssey of the Mind, Earth Walkers and Industrial Arts programs. She has been a 4-H Round-Up Judge for over 20 years and an Advisory Board member. She continues to help with the Future Farmers of America Alumni.

Verla acknowledges that she could not have done it all without all those who have helped her through the years.

Verla and her husband, George, live on their 150 acre family farm.



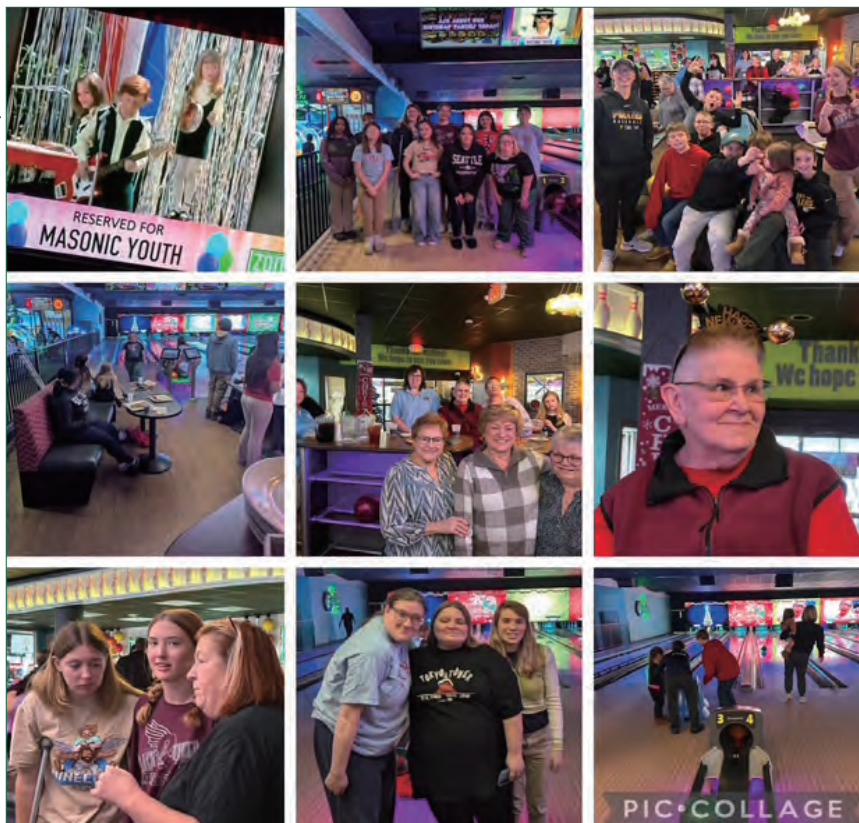
## Western Fraternal Relations and Community Outreach Event

Western Chairman, Karen Blum-Timchak, organized a joint social event for the Masonic youth organizations. DeMolay, Rainbow Girls and Job's daughters throughout the western section of the state were all invited to a bowling party on 1/2/2026 at Zone 28 in Harmarville.

The event was sponsored by Jephthah Chapter #73 and funded through donations from OES chapters and Masonic lodges. The donations were generous and covered shoe rentals, bowling for 2 hours and an unending buffet of pizza, breadsticks, salad and soft drinks, as well as coupon card for use in the arcade. Attendees included Rainbow girls, one DeMolay member, their adult advisors and parents, as well as Eastern Star members and their children.

It was a wonderful event full of lots of fun, laughs and endless snacks. A perfect activity for a cold afternoon.

The donations not used for payment for the event were split and sent to the state advisors of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay International, to be forwarded to their respective state charities.



## CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS 2024-2025

### Caring and Sharing BINGO 2025-2026

Does the word Bingo bring a smile to your face? It certainly does mine.

We have had three incredibly successful events across the Commonwealth, continuing the cherished tradition of 20 regular games and two special games featuring the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's initials. Joyce and Dennis sponsored a game in each section, and more than 70 Chapters joined in by sponsoring games as well.

One of the highlights again this year was the live auction—this year's lantern theme truly showcased the AMAZING creativity within our organization! From autumn and holiday designs to a flag and lamppost, hand-painted Ireland landmarks, Cinderella's carriage, butterflies, and more—your talents were on full display. Thank you for sharing them so generously.

We also introduced a few new ideas this year. The Early Registration \$100 prize drawing was held in all three sections, with over 500 people registering either by mailing checks to the Sectional Chairman or using Cheddar Up. This was incredibly helpful in planning room setups and food orders.

In addition, our Central Chairman, Nancy Morris, introduced table-of-eight packets. This allowed one person to pick up materials for the group, giving the remaining seven more time to enjoy the “extras”—and there were plenty! From 50/50 tickets and additional special games to baskets (WOW—more incredible talent) and, of course, snacks and time to reconnect with friends, there was something for everyone.

Be sure to mark your calendars for 2026 and plan to attend your Section—or all three!

A reminder that funds raised by this committee support our Fraternal Fund, which is ALWAYS available. For more information, visit [paoes.org](http://paoes.org) under Resources, Fraternal Committee for forms, instructions, and contact information.

We also hope you will join us at Grand Chapter in York, PA, June 26–29, 2026, to hear the grand totals!

To everyone who made a motion or voted “yes” in your Chapter meeting to support Caring and Sharing BINGO—THANK YOU! If you volunteered, contributed, or helped in any way—THANK YOU!

If you serve as your Chapter representative or as an AGCM for your Region—THANK YOU! And to Deb, Valerie, and Nancy (your Sectional Chairmen)—THANK YOU!

I may have played 66 games of Bingo without a win, but I truly feel like I gained the most. Each of you has helped our light shine brighter for OES—and for that, I am deeply grateful.

THANK YOU!!!

Angela D. DiPetta  
General Chairman



### PA Eastern Stars Celebrate Aruba Chapter #2 - 38th Anniversary

On Sunday November 16, 2025 Irene Brightbill, Harrisburg Chapter No. 552, Susan Spriggle, Perry Chapter No. 459, and Deanna Quay and Louise Metka, New Temple Chapter No. 298 were invited to attend the 38th Anniversary Luncheon for Aruba Chapter No. 2. The Worthy Matron, Dynia Abath-Muller, welcomed everyone to the luncheon and the Worthy Patron, Edwin Abath, gave a very interesting history of Eastern Star on the Island.

We learned that although this is the only Eastern Star Chapter on the island of Aruba, the chapter has the number 2 because during the period when Americans worked at the oil refinery on the island, the women formed an Eastern Star Chapter. Sadly, that chapter closed when the refinery closed. In recognition of that

inaugural chapter, the Aruba Chapter has been designated as number 2.

While the first chapter was comprised mostly of Americans, Aruba Chapter No. 2 is comprised of mostly Arubans. We enjoyed a lovely luncheon and fellowship with our Aruban Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers.



## The Glen Chapter #425 in full celebration!

Members of the Glen were blessed to be able to celebrate with Barbara Adams as she received her 75 year Order of the Eastern Star membership



pin on Friday, November 20, 2025.

The pin was presented to Barbara by her 'very dear childhood friend' and Glen Chapter member Dorothy

Dietrich, PM. The honors continued for Barbara to the December 18th Hershey Chapter #509 meeting. At this meeting attended by the Grand Family, Barbara was gifted with approximately 150 birthday cards to help her celebrate her 94th birthday that day!

Barbara joined the Order of the Eastern Star at the age of 16 and has served in many positions throughout her OES years including Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of PA and Past Matron of the Glen Chapter. Barbara is cherished by the Glen members for the guidance she provides, her loyalty to OES and most of all her friendship.

## Special Conferring of Degrees at William E. Gelston Chapter #435

What an exciting night at William E Gelston Chapter #435 located in Greensburg on Wednesday, December 17th! Seven ~ yes, 7 ~ new members were initiated. Earlier this Fall, 3 Plural members affiliated for a grand total

of 10 new members for Wm E Gelston this year...woohoo! Congratulations, Holly Jill Patterson WM, and William Cusick, WP, on this outstanding achievement! Please see picture captions for some interesting tidbits.

Beginning with Irene Caves (deceased), this remarkable lineage continues through her daughter, Jane A. Patterson, Warder, and her granddaughter, Holly Jill Patterson, Worthy Matron. Representing the fourth generation are Holly Jill's daughters, Jane A. Martin and Alicia Stitchick, and now, with the recent initiation of Whitney J. Bobish, Holly Jill's granddaughter, this family proudly celebrates five generations of dedication to the Order of the Eastern Star—WOW, indeed!(newly initiated member), making this 5 generations...WOW!



Jane, Carrie, Jenny, & Alicia ~ friends since 7th grade, Jobies together, and now OES Sisters forever!

## Ivanhoe's #28 - Oldest Member Honored

Ivanhoe # 28's oldest member in age and years of service to Eastern Star, Verna Dotterer, turned 100 on December 22, 2025. Sisters attended an Open House given by the family on Saturday, December 6 at Nittany Valley Volunteer Fire Co, Lamar, PA 17751. Rep. Stephanie Borowitz read a proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She

was honored at Ivanhoe's meeting on December 5 Verna has been a member for 74 years. She attends chapter meetings regularly. She served as Worthy Matron four times, and as District Deputy Grand Matron in 2000. She was Grand Sentinel in 1996 during Ann Berger's PGM and Pearley Cunningham's PGP term.



Jean Slatterbek PM, Alice Moser PM, Polly Chatterton PM, Amy Brooks PM

## Verna at One Hundred

By Kathy Mannello PM, Ivanhoe #28

A century's light shines bright today,  
Because your journey lights the way,  
Wife and mother, steadfast and true,  
A heart of gold in all you do.

Home Ec you taught, wisdom you shared,  
With gentle hands and love declared.  
In classrooms filled with skill and care,  
You taught your students – how to prepare.  
Devout in faith, your spirits strong,  
A melody of prayer you've song lifelong.

In Eastern Star, you are a guiding friend,  
Your kindness to all has shown no earthly end.

Tiny in stature, yet vast and so wise,  
Once even parachutes carried you through the skies,  
With laughter ringing, your humor so sweet,  
You make each moment feel complete.

One hundred years, a wondrous flight,  
Such a grand legacy of love and star light,  
Verna, today we celebrate you  
A century's grace, forever new.

## Harrisburg #522 Member Awarded Rob Morris Jewel

Harrisburg Chapter #552 Conductress, Sister Janeen R. Hawkins, earned the General Grand Chapter Rob Morris Jewel Award during this Triennium (2024-2027) by being a first line signer on three petitions. Worthy Grand Matron, Sister M. Joyce Camlin and Worthy

Grand Patron, Brother Dennis J. Devine had the pleasure of presenting and pinning the Rob Morris Jewel to Sister Janeen during Grand Chapter's visit to Harrisburg Chapter on November 6, 2025.



L-R: WGP, Brother Dennis J. Devine, Janeen R. Hawkins and Worthy Grand Matron, Sister M. Joyce Camlin

## Knoxville #328 - Blessing Bags

Winter is long, built on cold, snow, and ice—a season of playtime for children, but sometimes also a time of fear. For little ones, a scary event, a trip to an unknown place, or seeing strangers dressed in white can be frightening. Star members decided to help turn these scary moments into something a little more fun.

Maryrose Sacks invited members of Knoxville Chapter #328 for a work bee. Together, we transformed her kitchen into a “create a fun moment for little people” workshop. Some members filled bags,

others laid out small toys, coloring books, and read-for-fun books, and then carefully placed everything into cloth bags.

At lunchtime, members enjoyed platters of cheese, lunch meats, and chips. Breaks led to visiting, laughter, and Star members that as you know. A cold winter day was turned into an opportunity to help small hurting people and bring smiles to their faces!

A total of 40 goodie bags will be donated to five fire departments and three ambulance companies.

## Martha V. Paul - Kits for Kids

While many of us were hiding from the snow this January, a group of dedicated members from Martha V Paul Chapter Number 404 met to complete their “Kits for Kids” project. Our volunteers did a wonderful job of assembling these care packages for first

responders to use in difficult situations where children are involved. These care packages are able to provide small bags of games, action figures, puzzles and more to help distract children from stressful situations. Thank you for helping our first responders!



## \*Dancing Under the Stars – A Night to Remember!\* Regions 13A and 13B

PA OES Regional Event. September 13, 2025 – Reading Masonic Center On a beautiful evening at the Reading Masonic Center, approximately 70 PA OES members and guests gathered for the Dancing Under the Stars event—a regional fundraiser filled with music, food, and fun, all in support of a meaningful cause. The evening featured a delicious meal provided by Moyer’s Catering of Boyertown, PA, followed by lively entertainment from Hardock Live, whose musical

stylings kept attendees dancing the night away. Guests also enjoyed raffles, 50/50 drawings, and a warm sense of community. The event was organized by AGCCM Michele Haas and the dedicated Region 13 A&B Committee Members, bringing together supporters to raise funds

and awareness for Focus Light on MS. Thanks to everyone’s generosity and participation, the event successfully raised \$1,700 to support the fight against multiple sclerosis. Thank you to all who attended, supported, and helped make the night such a success!



## Jeptha Chapter #73 - Keepin’ it Reel

Friday, November 14, was the evening set aside for Jephthah Chapter # 73 to welcome and entertain WGM Sister Joyce, WGP Brother Denny and the Grand Family. The theme was an evening of Irish decorations, Irish blessing and Irish trivia greetings, and a scrumptious meal, topped off with a lively dance presentation by students from Bell’s School of Irish Dance.

It was a relaxed time filled with fun, food and fellowship. All 65 members and visitors in attendance had a “reely” great experience!



# Thank you

## for Making a Difference for Our Residents

GRAND CHAPTER OF PA OES INC  
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Harrisburg, PA

Thanks to a donation from the Grand Chapter of PA - Order of the Eastern Star, the Lafayette East memory support neighborhood of the Masonic Health Care Center at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown has a cozy new “book shelf.” The mural painted on a set of doors marries fashion and function. It adds beauty to the space, while also redirecting and calming residents who may be prone to wandering.

Muralist Alyssa McCoy, owner of ALM Custom Painting, has done several murals in the Masonic Health Care Center, and each one makes our residents’ home more comforting and inviting.

Also thanks to Freeland Chapter No. 323, Collegetown, for hosting a holiday bazaar at Masonic Village at Waminster. The event enabled residents to choose gifts for loved ones, while volunteers assisted them with the purchases.

We appreciate you making our residents’ holidays extra bright!



*Eastern Star members will appreciate some of the book titles incorporated into the mural.*

