

PA Eastern Star Happenings



ISSUE 29 | SPRING 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 my time serving as your Magazine Editor comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for allowing me the privilege of sharing your stories, memories, accomplishments, and events throughout the year. It has truly been an honor to help showcase the light, love, and dedication that shines so brightly within our Order.

I am especially grateful to our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for their support and leadership during my time as editor. Your kindness and confidence meant more to me than words can express.

To all of our chapters and members who faithfully submitted articles, photographs, announcements, and special memories – thank you. Your contributions made each issue meaningful and helped preserve the wonderful history and fellowship of PA OES.

Our magazine depends on the participation of our members, and with more than 20 pages to fill each issue, your submissions are truly needed and appreciated. We all love seeing pictures from chapter events, special gatherings, celebrations, and community activities. Those shared memories help keep our membership connected across the state and allow us to celebrate the wonderful work happening in our chapters.

I know our incoming editor, Stephanie, will do a wonderful job, and I know you will continue to give her the same support and friendship you so generously gave to me.

Serving as your editor has been a blessing I will always cherish. Thank you for the memories, the friendships, and the opportunity to serve.

With love and gratitude,

Michelle

Michelle Riggi-Smith



PA EASTERN STAR HAPPENINGS

Issue 29 SPRING 2026

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A Place to Call Home and Serve

Nina and Alan Kerner always knew they wanted to move to a retirement community in the northeast. While living on Long Island, New York, all their lives, they had always enjoyed spending their leisure time in Pennsylvania. Both having Masonic backgrounds, they also knew Masonic Village was the right place.

They moved to Masonic Village at Dallas in 2023 for its beauty and carefree living, as well as the many opportunities for Nina to continue volunteering.

“This was a lovely place to begin our retirement years,” Nina said. “It has truly become home. When we first arrived, I knew that I wanted to get involved in various activities, so I could meet people within the community and find out more about my new surroundings. We have made new friends and have been welcomed into this community with open arms.”

Soon after she arrived, Nina volunteered as co-chair of the Social Committee at Masonic Village and was also elected to the Executive Committee for a two-year term. She served as vice president in 2024 and president in 2025, with her term concluding the end of November.

“It is important to volunteer in the community if you can because it makes you feel so good to help others, to make them smile and offer a part of yourself to help another person,” she said. “I truly believe that it is indeed better to give than to receive.”

Nina enjoys public speaking and has served as emcee twice for Masonic Village’s annual community Veterans Day program and community Christmas party. She is also an officer with the Dallas Chapter No. 396, Order of the Eastern Star (OES).



“We serve our community by helping with blood drives, feeding the homeless and donating food and many other items to local families and our veteran groups,” she said of her OES chapter.

Nina was inspired to join OES more than six years ago, thanks to Alan, who is a 50-year Mason and OES member, as well as the fact that the couple owns a company, Happy Glass, which supplies OES emblematic regalia and jewelry.

They travel to many Eastern Star

Grand Chapter jurisdictions in the United States.

“I have had the good fortune to sit with many sisters and brothers who I would never have had the opportunity to meet unless I was a member,” Nina said. “It is a wonderful fraternal organization of women and men that fosters brotherly love through charity and helping the community.”

Volunteering isn’t a new interest for Nina, rather a renewed one. During her career in the insurance industry and as a member of the Insurance Professionals of Long Island, she helped raise several thousand dollars over the years for local charities, such as breast cancer research, Special Olympics, a domestic violence safe home and Toys for Tots.

“We can all make a difference in this world, no matter how big or small the gesture,” Nina said. “Random acts of kindness are so special. Saying ‘good morning’ to a stranger with a smile, checking on a neighbor, helping someone in any small way – it all matters.”

For more information on volunteer opportunities at Masonic Village, visit www.masonicvillages.org/volunteer/.

MESSAGES FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON & WORTHY GRAND PATRON

M. JOYCE CAMLIN & DENNIS J. DEVINE

Our journey is almost at an end, and what a wonderful journey it has been.

We have carried God's light along our paths as we traveled throughout this state and been greeted by our OES family with smiles and hugs along the way.

We have enjoyed witnessing many stated meetings and been honored to confer degrees at three chapters, Freeland, Orwigsburg and Albion; and what good times we shared at the many fun events - especially the Regional MS events. I will be forever grateful for your generous donations to the "Focus Light on MS" project that is so dear to my heart.

We enjoyed visiting with our members at the four Masonic Village facilities, and were so pleased to honor our Sisters and Brothers who gave of their time and service to our country at our three Sectional Veterans Dinners.

It has truly been my honor and pleasure to serve our beautiful Order as your Worthy Grand Matron this year; and I hope I have served you well. Farewell.

Sharing God's Light From Within,

M. Joyce Camlin, Worthy Grand Matron



How quickly time passes! Years ago, I was told as you get older, time slows down.

Believe me just the opposite is true! Seems like just a few weeks ago we were gathered at Grand Chapter and were being installed. Soon afterward we began our travels representing you Sisters, Brothers, and Grand Chapter throughout the state and in other jurisdictions. We attended many events throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

Over the course of this year we have been honored to attend and take part in many events. Starting with a Family picnic with Job's Daughters, then attending the Rainbow Grand Assembly, followed by Deborah Grand Chapter, DeMolay Event, Unity Day at Knoebels, (my team won the coveted Unity Day OES Mini Golf Championship Trophy) we attended many Chapter picnics and meetings. In addition, we attended Honor Days,

Caring and Sharing, Golden Star Presentations, Regional MS events. All three Sections Western, Central, and Eastern held an event Honoring OES Veterans for their service.

We traveled to Ireland with 46 Sisters, Brothers, and friends and experienced the charm of Ireland. We, along with representatives from WV, VA, MD, and PA, attended the Train Luncheon and Dinner Show in Elkins, WV. What an honor it has been to Confer Degrees in the Western, Central, and Eastern Sections of our state and to assist in the Barbara E. Adams Excellence Awards testing. We also traveled with 44 Sisters, Brothers, and friends to Historic Williamsburg, VA, and visited many historical sites.

Finally, Maryland Grand Chapter was well represented by your Grand Officers. There are a few events left before Grand Chapter, and this will bring us full circle to the end of

our journey; and to the beginning of a new corps of Grand Officers to represent you.

Thank you for your participation in the Kits for Kids Project.

It has been a privilege to serve and represent you throughout my journey.

May your Trouble be less, and your Blessing be more, and nothing but Happiness come through your door.

Dennis
Dennis J. Devine, WGP
Of the Grand Chapter
Of Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern
Star, Inc.



EAST PENN CHAPTER A DERBY TEA PARTY - GRAND FAMILY



LAUREL CHAPTER #63 DINNER - GRAND FAMILY



WGM HOMECOMING



131st Sessions, Secretary - Amanda Lewis

Hello PA OES! My name is Amanda Lewis, and I am excited to serve our great organization as AGCCM – 131st Sessions Committee – Secretary. Here's a little about me and the many things that keep me busy!

I graduated from Franklin Area School District in 2012 and earned my Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts with a concentration in TV/Video Production and a minor in Documentary Studies from Robert Morris University in 2016. While attending RMU, I was active in Kappa Kappa Psi, served as Treasurer for two years, participated in the Robert Morris Show Band, and helped support the marching, pep, concert, and jazz bands. I also represented the university at many official events as a member of the Drum and Fife Corps. In 2019, I earned my Master's degree in Criminal Justice Forensic Psychology from Liberty University and am currently pursuing a Master of Education in Social Studies (Grades 6-12).

After college, I returned home to Franklin to support my family and care for my grandparents. I worked at Bob Evans before joining Community Ambulance Service, where I now serve as a full-time EMT. I earned my EMT certification in 2020 and am just one test away from completing my Paramedic Certification through Penn State University.

Service to others has always been important to me. In addition to my EMT work, I volunteer with Sandycreek Township Volunteer Fire Department, serve as Auditor for Sandycreek Township, substitute within the Franklin Area School District, assist with the Franklin High School Black Knight Marching Band, and serve as the Sr. High Winter Cheerleading Head Coach.

My Masonic journey began at age 18 when I joined Morris Chapter #14. I was honored to be installed as Worthy Matron in May 2025 and previously

served as a two-time Past Matron. I have also served Grand Chapter in several capacities, including AGCCM – Charity Committee Western Sectional Chairman, AGCCM – Caring and Sharing Region 2, General Page, and AGCCM – Fabulous Firecracker. I currently serve as Board Chairman of Franklin Assembly #19, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, and am a Past Grand Worthy Associate Advisor for the State of Pennsylvania.



With the support of my mom and grandmother—both majority members of PA Rainbow and active in PA OES—I have been blessed to meet members from around the world and see firsthand the positive difference our organization makes every day.

131st Sessions, Treasurer - Laura B. Gidas

Laura is the fourth generation of her family to belong to Eastern Star and is a proud majority Rainbow girl. She is a 25-year member of Norwood Herrington Chapter #356 and served as Worthy Matron of her chapter in 2007-2008. Laura has served Grand Chapter in multiple appointments, including General Chairman of several committees and most recently as Personal Secretary to the Worthy Grand

Matron. Laura is honored to serve the Grand Chapter as the Treasurer of the 131st Session Committee.

When Laura is not at Eastern Star, she can be found driving her two sons around or sitting on the sidelines of a soccer game. Laura is a licensed mortgage loan officer and attorney. She loves that for the past five years she has had the opportunity to work

every day with her mom at HMA Mortgage. In her free time, Laura loves to read, cook and spend time at the Jersey Shore!



131st Sessions, Decorations - Gretchen D. Songster



Gretchen D. Songster is a 51-year member of Eulalia Chapter OES and will be installed as WM for the 7th time in May 2025. She has served in all the chairs except Chaplin, Secretary, and Treasurer. She was DGM of Region 6 for Cheryl D. Wilson, PGM and Bradley A. Lewis, A Grand Representative to IN presented by

Anna H. Miller, PGM. She served on the 125th Sessions committee as Chair of Daily Luncheons under Orpha G. Kemmler, PGM.

Gretchen's great grandmother, Eva D. Thompson, started Eulalia Chapter in 1913 and served as its first WM for 2 years. Her mother, Evelyn V. Goodenough, started the local Rainbow chapter and was Mother Advisor for many years. Gretchen is a past Worthy Advisor and was awarded the Grand Cross of Color.

She has been a PA Realtor since 2008 and has a BA from Elmira College in Business Administration. Prior to going into real estate, she was employed by CCMH and Adelphia.

She and her husband, Jerry, have two children. Jessica, who is a Gas and Real Estate attorney in PA, and a son, Jonathan, who is a Bureau Chief for the Idaho Department of Lands. They enjoy spending time with them, their spouses, and their 3 grandchildren. They also enjoy their yearly trips to Florida and Coeur d'Alene, ID.

131st Sessions, Honors/Protocol - Edie A. Thomas

Edie is a member of Grace E. Barthold Chapter #216, Olyphant, PA, Region 11C. She has served her chapter in many offices through the years, including Worthy Matron twice and serves as her chapter secretary.

Edie served as Deputy Grand Matron for Sister Anna Miller, served on the 121st Sessions Committee for Sister HelenBeth G. Vilcek, as Eastern Chairman of Golden Stars for Sister Diana N. Michael, as Grand Adah for Sister Sandra K. Berkey and as Grand Representative of North Dakota in Pennsylvania. Edie is currently the

PAGO Secretary. She is a member of the United Baptist Church in Taylor where she has served as a Sunday school teacher and is the church secretary and financial secretary.

Edie and her husband Jeff have two children - Nicole Peters (a member of Grace E. Barthold Chapter) and Corey Thomas. Nicole and her husband, Greg live in Lancaster with their two daughters, Grace and Gwyndolyn. Corey and his wife, Amanda live in Alexandria, Virginia with their son, Redford and daughter Josephine.

Edie was a member of Scranton Assembly #86, Order of Rainbow for Girls where she received the Grand Cross of Color.

Edie enjoys traveling and spending precious time with her family. She likes to read and when time allows, she enjoys counted cross stitch and sewing.



131st Sessions, Hospitality - Susie E. Hulshizer

I was blessed with a Sessions Committee appointment from Joyce as Chairperson of Hospitality. I am looking forward to another new journey in my Eastern Star life. I'm also very excited to be working alongside an exciting group of new and old friends as we strive to "Be a Light to the World". My interests are reading, going out with friends, spending time with family and watching my 4 grandchildren become kind, caring, and responsible young adults. Last but not least is sharing my life with Gilbert, the love of my life, of 54 years who still makes me laugh!



131st Sessions, Paraphernalia - Jennifer L. Yesavage

Jen is an 18-year member of Hershey #509 Region 8B. She transferred en mass when Palmyra Chapter closed in 2014. She served as WM in 2012 and 2023 and has held several grand appointments. She was previously on the 123rd Sessions Committee.

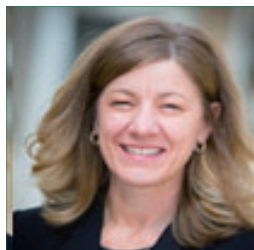


She currently works for the American Heart Association as a Senior Business Operations Coordinator, supporting the fundraising events in South Central PA. She also works for Hershey Entertainment & Resorts at the Giant Center in Hershey and is the Township Secretary for her local township.

She is married to Paul and has 3 dogs - Harley, Scooter & Cami. Her mom Evvie Kohl is a Golden Star and Past Matron in Hershey Chapter.

Jen loves all things orange and unicorns.

131st Sessions, Technology - Tara L. Mondock



Tara Mondock is an accomplished leader and dedicated member of the Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern Star (PA OES). She is serving on

sessions for the first time as the 131st Sessions Committee Technology Chairman after completing two consecutive terms as General Chairman of the Service Dogs Committee in 2023-2025.

Tara is known by many in the Order as “the Dog Lady”. Passionate about PAOES and the mission of service dogs, Tara is proud of celebrating PA OES’s 21-year partnership with Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD) by

naming the first litter “SSD Eastern Star” (SSD Star, SSD Ruth, SSD Esther, SSD Martha, SSD Naomi, SSD Tiler). She also expanded the organization’s relationship with Canine Partners for Life (CPL), an ADI-certified breeding partner with SSD and named two more dogs, Robert (after founder Robert Morris, Robert Penoyer, PMWGP, and Robert Trimble, PGP) and Marshal (in honor of Joyce Plonka, PGM and Marcia Holland, former Grand Marshal). These efforts have brought joy and independence to their human partners and one of the proud legacies we leave behind in the name of PA OES!

Tara has held various roles within her chapter, including Worthy Matron, Electa, Service Dog appointment, Appointed Grand Chapter Committee Member for Region 7A, General Page,

and Personal Grand Page for Sister Linda Watson, PGM. Professionally, she is the Associate Director for Penn State Extension at the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, where she manages relationships with county and state government and key partners to share Extension’s resources and programs statewide.

A proud Pennsylvania State Grange member, Tara is also involved with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church. She resides in Lemont, PA, with her husband Marty, a Past Master of State College Lodge No. 700 and Past Patron in State College Chapter #388. They have a son, Tyler, also a Mason, and twin daughters, Maya and Marissa, all proud graduates of Penn State (WE ARE!)

131st Sessions, Thursday Night Entertainment - Lisa A. May

Lisa A. May, has been a member of Martha V Paul #404 for 12 years. She has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Lisa has been working in healthcare for well over 30 years and has spent the last 20 years working at a drug and alcohol rehab facility. She has served as Worthy Matron 3 times, chaplain, and most recently marshall, and has been able to serve as a page and personal page to George Camlin when he was Associate Grand Patron. The past 2 years she had the honor of working on per diem and registration at Grand Chapter. Her journey within

her chapter and has allowed her to serve on several committees: GEorgEs GEMS and currently Joyces Jewels. It has been Lisa’s honor and pleasure to serve with an amazing group of people who do wonderful acts of kindness for so many. She is most blessed and thankful for the friendships that she has made. with the guidance of Sister Mary Haas, PWM and Sisters Cynthia McDaniels, PM, Mary Fiddler, PM, Karen Muldrew, PM and Peggy Barnett, PM. Without these ladies, her service within OES would be meaningless. Their friendships are treasured beyond

measure and held close to her heart. She looks forward to an amazing year working on the 131st Sessions Committee.



131st Sessions, Vendors and Safety - Jan C. Galbreath

Jan has been married for 22 years to her husband and best friend, Christopher. She has 3 children, Crystal (mom to Carter 12), Christopher (William 11, Elizabeth 9, and Matthew 7), daughter-in-law, Alexandra, and her youngest Cayla. A member of Norwood Herrington Chapter #356, Region 3, served as Worthy Matron from 2019-

2021. Jan has also served the Grand Chapter as AGCCM Service Dogs (23-24), and Western Golden Stars (24-25). Jan currently works full time as the Client Care Coordinator for Comfort Keepers, Pittsburgh NW and currently volunteers as a PA Special Olympics coach.

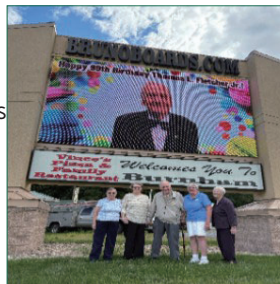


CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Oldest Member - Lewistown Chapter #283

This is Tom Fletcher, our oldest Eastern Star member in Lewistown Chapter #283. He recently had his 99th birthday and many of our sisters were there to get a quick pic with our Tom in front of the big screen in Burnham celebrating Tom's big birthday! The second picture is of Tom during a Memorial Day salute. Tom is a WWII veteran who entered into the Cadet Reserve Program while he was in high school. He served in the Army Air Corps at Davis Airfield, as well as AL brook and France Airfields in Panama. We also love Tom because he is our brother in the Order of Eastern Star,

Lewistown Chapter #283. Tom serves as our Warder and very seldom misses a meeting. He is always very sunny and greets us with his big wonderful smile. Thank you, Tom, for being our brother.



L-R: Kay Fleming,
Carol Heckendorn,
Tom Fletcher, Melva Worle,
and Pat Erhard

Tom n 2024

Elizabethtown #407 Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, Elizabethtown Chapter No. 407 celebrated its 100th anniversary in the Brossman Ballroom at Masonic Village. Sister Martha Aldinger-Wess, a 52-year member and her sister, Sister Marilyn Aldinger-Rekughler, attended the celebration. Martha and Marilyn are the daughters of Sister Miriam Aldinger, PM, of Chapter 407 and

R. Emmert Aldinger a past master of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge and a 33rd-degree Mason. Miriam and Emmert both worked at the Masonic Homes (Masonic Village). Miriam worked in the Activities Department at the Masonic Healthcare Center and Emmert was in charge of the 150 acre vegetable garden. They raised 3 children: Ralph a retired physician living in Atlanta, GA; Martha a

retired RN, former Director of Nursing at the Masonic Healthcare Center living in Harrisburg; and Marilyn a retired RN, former Unit Manager at the Masonic Healthcare Center living in Elizabethtown. The Aldinger Family lived in the home which is now the PA Eastern Star office located on the Masonic Village Campus.



Martha Wess



Martha & Emmert Aldinger



Marilyn & Martha

Priscilla Chapter Golden Stars Celebration

Priscilla #64 honored their newest Golden Stars on April 18th at Norristown Masonic Hall. Golden Stars, family, and friends celebrated with a luncheon. This was followed by a ceremony to present the 50-year pins and commemorative gifts to the honorees.



What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

Residents enjoyed a lively and interactive Cinco de Mayo celebration with CIP Rehabilitation (located on-site) that featured a balance and agility course designed to promote wellness and active living. The outdoor event featured fun physical challenges with a social atmosphere, as participants navigated stations focused on coordination, strength and mobility. Residents were treated to themed snacks and had the opportunity to win mini prizes.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN



The recent Boutique fashion show featured our very own residents from Masonic Village and the Bleiler Caring Cottage. Resident models styled pre-loved items from the on-campus

Boutique donated by the Masonic Village community and struck the perfect poses to show off their looks. Event proceeds went to the Masonic Youth Foundation to support their scholarship program, educational workshops and other initiatives.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

A special Resident Art Show showcased the creativity and talent within the community. The event featured beautiful artwork created by residents, including paintings, crafts and other unique pieces. Residents and staff enjoyed snacks and music while walking through the Atrium and celebrating the skills of our resident artists.

At the annual Spring Fling, personal care and skilled nursing residents relived their own "senior prom" experience with a catered dinner, festive decorations, dancing, photography and live music from the Jazz Crew

Big Band and Small Ensemble. Donned in gently used gowns and suits collected and donated by staff, family members and community groups, residents were pampered with hair, nail and makeup services by attentive staff for a night to remember.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

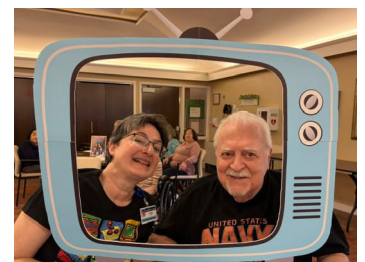
Residents stepped inside a mystery novel at the community's recent murder mystery event. Playing as passengers on a fictional cruise ship, they worked to catch the "killer." At the end of the night, awards were handed out in various categories, including to those who acted their roles best!



Residents had a "hand" in the ribbon cutting of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Arts Landing space, a new outdoor gathering spot in the heart of the city. Several months ago, artist Vanessa German visited the campus to trace the hands of residents nearing age 100 or older. The tracings were used as part of "Lifted," the sculpted benches art installation at Arts Landing, which honors those "whose lives and labor have shaped the city's spirit and infrastructure."

MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

Residents and staff got to be "on TV" during the community's retro TV show-themed party. Residents listened to live covers of classic sitcom themes, enjoyed snacks off TV trays and talked about their favorite episodes of old shows.



CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Grand Family Special Meeting

What a “Grand” Earth Day, Wednesday April, 22, 2026 as Albion Chapter #22 welcomed the Grand Family to do Conferring of Degrees. We were honored to have the Grand Family at this event!! New Sister Beverly was welcomed by many members of Eastern Star that also attended to watch the ritualistic work being performed by our Grand Family.



Bird Chapter and Masonic Lodge, Combined Safety Training

Learning basic CPR and first aid is a simple skill set that can have a life-changing impact on others. In early March, Bird Chapter #460, along with our fellow Brothers of Union Lodge #479, got together for a light dinner (prepared by our Brother Bill Herz) and safety training instructed by Sister Alice Uhrich. We learned that in emergencies, the first few minutes are often the most critical,

and having the knowledge of how to respond quickly can mean the difference between life and death. Sister Alice, being a retired school nurse, skillfully instructed us on CPR compressions, how to use the newly installed AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machines, Epi and other allergy pens, as well as other basic first aid for use in times of emergency. It was not only an

educational evening, but also a nice gathering with our fellow Masonic Brothers. We all are thankful to Sister Alice and Brother Bill for giving us the confidence to handle ourselves where we might need to save lives, reduce harm, and respond effectively in times of emergency. It was a small investment of time that can make a big difference when it matters most.



CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

STAMPS for the WOUNDED VETERANS

What happened to our stamps, postcards, stamp collections, and philatelic materials?

The items were sorted, boxed, and mailed to SFTW, "Stamps for the Wounded," our nonprofit organization partner. These articles provide "comfort, meaningful activity, and social connections which are very stimulating in a therapeutic context."

Our boxes when received by SFTW are "separated into bins by categories." This totally volunteer organization packs and then ships the "Veteran Boxes."

The Veterans receiving our donations are bedridden, in long term treatment, and convalescing patients. Each recipient receives his/her own box of materials approximately 4 times per year. Every box is different - "part of the fun for the Veterans is the exploration of what came in the box."

In a single year SFTW sends out about 590 boxes, amounting to around 3.25 tons of materials to our wounded and ill service personnel.

The postcards are used by the Veterans as a means of exchanging memories. If the postcards are unused, the Veterans use them for sending messages to family and friends.

One Veteran reported that "working with stamps helps them to focus and relieves the symptoms of PTSD."

In addition to learning about Philately (stamp collecting), many of the Veterans use the materials they receive for art projects:

- Creating their own greeting cards
- Making artistic designs and collages
- Designing Christmas ornaments
- Decorating picture frames - adding poems or pictures.

These projects are all made with the stamps that are donated. They can be

given as gifts, and shared with Memory Care patients and with school classes. These meaningful activities provide our Veterans with worthwhile contributions to and for others.

Thank you, Sisters and Brothers, for supporting this wonderful outreach - truly a service to our Veterans. An OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

With gratitude to Joyce and Dennis for introducing this new project to our membership.

In words from SFTW:

"Dear Members of the Order of the Eastern Star,
Thank you for ALL the materials.
Our Veterans will enjoy working with them.
Thanks from our Veterans!
Gratefully yours, SFTW."

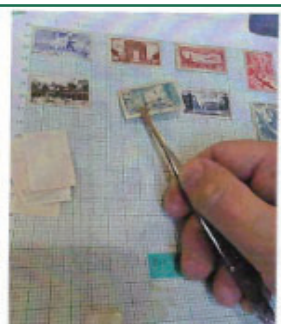
With Star Love,
Mrs. Marianne Durst Watters
General Chairman



Christmas ornaments made with stamps by one of our vets



Christmas ornaments made with stamps by one of our vets



A veteran building his stamp collection

CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

William E. Gelston #435 Initiation

It was a beautiful afternoon in March as William E Gelston #435 initiated their 8th new member for degrees. Earlier in the fall, 3 plural members affiliated for a grand total of 11 new members this 2025 - 2026 year. Congratulations to the chapter; Holly Jill Patterson, WM and William O. Cusick, WP. Brother Robert E. Holderbaum, PP surprised his Aunt Sandra L. Pietrusza by initiating her into the Chapter.



Veterans Newsletter

The collections were done last fall before the December meetings. The severe weather made it difficult to get the items delivered before March.

I received several items from region 1B, Linesville, and the western OES members. The items were: t-shirts, blankets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, etc.

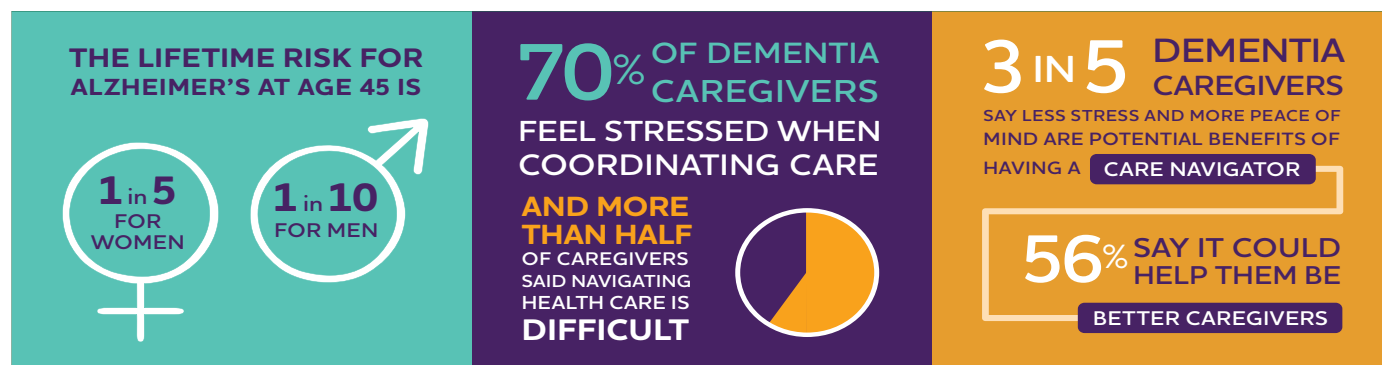
Attached are several pictures of volunteers from 1B and the facility at the Butler Veterans.

It was quite impressive and the staff was helpful and most appreciative. The two people on the photograph are Cheryl Mansour AGCCM Region 1B and Barbara Crothers, PM Stoneboro Chapter 110, Region 1B



Alzheimer's Awareness

The vision of the Alzheimer's Association is "a world without all other dementia". Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.





GRAND CHAPTER OF PA OES INC
105 FREEMASON DRIVE
ELIZABETHTOWN PA 17022

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 729
Harrisburg, PA

for Brightening the Lives of Residents & Families

At the 131st Session of Grand Chapter in June, M. Joyce Camlin, Worthy Grand Matron, and Dennis J. Devine, Worthy Grand Patron, presented a check to Masonic Villages (accepted by R.W. Grand Master Robert D. Brink). We are grateful for this support which will benefit residents in nursing and personal care areas, including memory support, as well as retirement living areas when needed, in countless ways.



In the past, these funds have been used for a Friendship Garden at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown (near the ponds), dryer chairs for hair salons, lifts to assist with safely lifting/moving residents, mattresses, recliners, exercise equipment, a jukebox, sliding doors, murals and much more across the state.

Thanks to last year's donation from the Grand Chapter of PA - Order of the Eastern Star, the Lafayette memory support neighborhoods of the Masonic Health Care Center at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown have a more colorful outdoor gathering space. The raised planter beds fill the courtyard with brightness, giving families a place to spend time with one another and enjoy the blooms.

Residents can help care for the plants by watering and removing any dead buds, or just take in the view!

