

Pennsylvania *Eastern Star*

Summer 2026

Happenings Magazine



4 Love One Another

Meet Sister Debbie & Brother Todd's Grand Family, and their year of service ahead

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Celebrating 250 years at our Order's International Headquarters in Washington D.C.

More Than Neighbors

After facing one of the toughest losses of her life, Sister Nancy McMillan realized she also had a new, strong connection in her life with friend Sister Marjorie Vurdelja.

Upon the passing of her husband two years ago, Nancy was looking at a five-hour drive on a cold January day, from Masonic Village at Elizabethtown to get to her husband's hometown in Warren County, where his funeral was being held. Marjorie made sure Nancy wasn't alone that day, or the ones following.

In 2004, Nancy and Marjorie (shown l-r) both moved from the eastern part of the state to Masonic Village on two neighboring streets. Marjorie, and her husband, George, would host holiday gatherings and invite neighbors, including Nancy, and her husband, Gene. They'd also see each at square dancing sessions. Nancy and Gene had been dancing for 30 years, and Marjorie and George were first timers.

"We can talk about anything," Marjorie said. "We have a lot in common. We don't mind sharing things with one another. My husband passed away in 2020, and Nancy's husband had a stroke around the same time."

Nancy's husband passed away in January 2024. She and Gene didn't have children, so she didn't have family nearby to support her, which is why Marjorie ended up driving with her to the funeral and cementing their bond as friends.

"It was totally surprised when she volunteered," Nancy said. "It was very reinforcing to have someone with me."

"Having been through it, I know it's difficult when no one is with you," Marjorie said. "Gene's death really brought us closer together since we found ourselves in the same situation."

Nancy has since grown to know Marjorie's family, which includes two children, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



Today, they enjoy going to dinner together, attending a special singles support group and Red Hat group meetings. Nancy drives them to evening activities, while Marjorie takes the day shift. Both are members of the Order of the Eastern Star; Nancy in Unity Chapter No. 201, Falls Church, Virginia, and Marjorie in Corinth Chapter No. 229, Pitcairn.

"We call each other, make sure the other one is all right each day," Nancy said. "We share similar aches and pains, too."

Living at Masonic Village has made life not just easier, but more fulfilling in many ways for both of them.

"The friendships and the activities are the best part," Marjorie said. "The accessibility of things you want, like the dining room, the boutique and different programs, like glass fusion and Mahjong, is wonderful. When I lost my husband, I'm glad I was here; otherwise, I would've been alone. Here, you're not."

For more information on living options and services at Masonic Village's five locations, visit www.masonicvillages.org.

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Kick off the year with stories from Regions 6, 1A & 1B and Elizabethtown #407

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This issue: A family serving together

Hello Sisters & Brothers!

It is my honor to serve you as the Magazine Editor this year. Thank you to Sister Debbie, WGM for entrusting me with my first Grand Chapter Appointment!

I am a Past Matron of Norwood Herrington #356. I have a BFA in Graphic Design and years of web/UX design experience. I'm excited to return to my roots in print and serve our Order. This issue debuts the new cover masthead logotype. Please feel free to reach out with feedback.

I'm looking forward to working closely with the Grand Chapter Board and my Co-Editor, Julie, to improve processes and integrate with the website. Thank you to everyone who has helped me get started with my first issue. I look forward to helping to share the story of the Eastern Star members across PA.

In Star Love & Service,

Stephanie Rennie, Editor

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Stars, Stripes and Eastern Star Fellowship! Inside the 250th anniversary gala at our Order's International Headquarters, the Perry Belmont House in Washington D.C. Learn about its history, how to donate, and hear from Veterans Outreach.

ON THE COVER

Sister Debbie Helm, WGM, and her mother, Nancy Line, Grand Electa, bust a move as they make their entrance to the Grand Chapter Banquet.

Photo Credit © McDonough. 2026

For mailing-list changes, including name or address corrections, or to report that you are receiving this magazine in error or no longer wish to receive it, please **Contact the Grand Secretary at gs@paoes.org**

An electronic version of the magazine is available online at **paoes.org**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Installation of 2026-2027 Grand Officers is in the books. What a beautiful ceremony we had. I was blessed to have Jeffrey R. Miller, PGP and Linda E. Watson, PGM as my installing officers. All of the installing team did an outstanding job. The new Grand family graced our Grand Chapter floor with smiling faces and held our red rose covered wooden crosses with confidence. With Christ as our center and our strength and his holy spirit leading us we pray for safe travels throughout PA during our year.

My year will be devoted to meeting our members and personally I want to get to know them as a member of our order. I want to see them do our ritualistic work and hopefully bring in new membership and God knows that we need more members! I want to share God's love and pray for members in their needs that they may have and to carry out the Lord's love for one another.

If I could say one thing about our order that would be that we give freely and lovingly to a cause. We love supporting needs of others—isn't that what it's all about!

Speaking of love, my special project is the American Heart Association (AHA). We all know family, friends and members with heart issues. We also know that there have been improvements to help heart patients. I lost my husband to heart complications in July of 2008, a family genetic heart complication called Cardiomyopathy. My son, Matthew, has similar issues with his heart. So, my charity committee will be holding many charity events to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Let's all get out and support all those we love with heart conditions!

In closing, I am excited to meet with all of you, hear your stories, and see parts of PA that I have not been to yet.

Love One Another & Keep the Beat,

Debbie A. Helm

Worthy Grand Matron, 2026-2027

*Dear friends, since
God so loved us, we
also ought to love one
another. No one has
ever seen God; but if we
love one another, God
lives in us and His love
is made complete in us.*

1 John 4:11-12



THEME

“Love One Another”

WGM & WGP SPECIAL PROJECT

***The American
Heart Association***

FLOWER

Red Rose

COLORS

***Black, White &
Lavender***

WGM EMBLEMS

***Heart, Cross &
White Dove***

WGP EMBLEM

Horse

And We're Off!

Installation has been completed and just over a week later, the travel began. We're filling up the gas tank and checking the GPS and heading out for a year of service, fun and love. I've made many friends in Eastern Star over the years and hope to make even more as we visit in the coming year.

A little bit about me: I have been a Mason for 32 years and am a four-time Past Master of Big Spring Lodge #361, currently serving as Lodge Secretary. I am a 27-year member of Eastern Star, having been initiated into Oswald Taylor Chapter #540 and became a member of Old Bellaire Chapter #375 when my first Chapter closed in 2005.

My hobbies include model railroading, woodworking, stamp collecting, reading, and anything to do with electronics. I help many of the residents in my retirement community solve problems they may have with their "technology" including phones, computers, and TVs.

I am very active in my church serving not only as a Deacon but also as the head of our Technology Team taking care of the audio/visual and computer needs of the congregation and doing the live streaming on Sunday mornings. When you get your itineraries, you will see that the WGM and I didn't plan any events for Sunday mornings to allow us to keep up with our faith walk.

I'm hoping that all of our members can become proficient in their work and assist others to do the same. I encourage you to not only attend your Regional Schools of Instruction but to come out regularly to your own Chapter practices. Encourage each other and strive for excellence.

My scripture that I have chosen was inspired by a PM that I served with in 2011. In preparing for this year, I came across a thank you note that she gave me at the end of that year. She ended that note with a quote from 1st Corinthians 16:14, "Let all that you do be done in love." These words felt very appropriate to me and I hope that they can be a guidepost for this year of service to Grand Chapter.

In Star Love & Service,

Todd L. Johnson

Worthy Grand Patron 2026-2027

***Let all that
you do be done
in love.***

1 Corinthians 16:4



***And now abideth faith, hope,
charity, these three; but the
greatest of these is charity.***

1 Corinthians 13:13

MORE ABOUT DEBBIE & TODD'S YEAR

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Meet the 2026-27 Grand Family

The 2026-27 Grand Family is united by their commitment to charity, community service, and lifelong friendships formed in their years of service.



Cathy A. Hoke
ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON

Cathy has been an active member of The Glen Chapter #425 for 26 years, serving as Worthy Matron twice. She had the honor of being Grand Ruth in 2016-17 and Deputy Grand Matron of Region 8B in 2022-24. She has served as Chairman on many Grand Chapter committees, including Caring and Sharing Central, Masonic Villages Central, 120th Sessions Housing, and 127th Sessions General Chairman.

Her family legacy in the organization runs deep. Her late mother, Rose, also served PA as Past Grand Ruth in 2004-05, and her late sister, Mona, was also an active Eastern Star member. She is a proud aunt to her nephew Jeremy, his wife Jackie, and great-nieces Lilly and Ella.

Cathy retired from the insurance industry in December 2020, after a 45 year career. In her spare time, Cathy enjoys traveling, crafting, and seasonal decorating. Her Eastern Star journey has deepened her commitment to charitable volunteer work while gaining precious lasting friendships and unexpected leadership opportunities.

Dr. Edward J. Glantz
ASSOCIATE GRAND PATRON

Ed is a 29-year member of State College Chapter #388, Region 7A, currently serving his seventh term as Worthy Patron, and formerly as Secretary. Additionally, he holds a plural membership to Lewistown Chapter #283. His Grand Chapter appointments include Grand Sentinel; Grand Representative of Washington State; 125th Sessions Paraphernalia; Representative to Van Zandt VA Medical Center; Fraternal Relations; Recycling for Education Central; Grand Guard; and Grand Page. He is Past Master of State College Lodge #700. Also, he is a member of Carlisle Lodge #260, Altoona Consistory, and Jaffa Mosque.

Ed and wife Lisa Weaver, Grand Trustee, reside in Port Matilda. Their family includes children Candace, Justin, and Kirsten, along with four grandchildren. Both daughters are active Star members, as is Candace's husband, Fred. Ed is professor and director of Master's Programs, College of Information Sciences and Technology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park.





Virginia L. Plyler
GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE
MEMBER & GRAND SECRETARY

Virginia, who is known as Gee Gee, is a member of Signet Chapter #129, Region 14B. She has served the Order in various capacities, including Grand Martha, District Deputy Grand Matron, Fraternal Correspondent, Ritualistic Excellence Program Eastern Chairman, and Regional Advisor for Regions 14B and 15. She has been WM three times since her initiation in 1977.

Gee Gee and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in May. He is also a member of Signet #129. Their family includes the "Texas clan": older son, Scott, and three grandchildren, Emily, Evan and Jack; and the "Virginia contingent": younger son, Sam and his wife, Susan. Sister Gee Gee loves to sew! Remember to always sew with Fidelity, Constance, Loyalty, Faith and Love – the threads that bind us.



Tammie S. Lasswell
GRAND CONDUCTRESS

Tammie joined the Order of the Eastern Star in 1987 and has served as Worthy Matron of Irwin Chapter #400 in 1999-00 and 2025-26. Her appointments include District Deputy Grand Matron, 119th Session Secretary, WGM Personal Secretary, Grand Electa, and Grand Representative of Kentucky, which have been highlights of her Eastern Star journey. She is a majority member of Irwin Rainbow Assembly #42, and serves on their Advisory Board.



Sylvia J. Devine
ASSOCIATE GRAND CONDUCTRESS

Sylvia goes by Sam, a nickname given to her by her father. She has been a member of Shick-Shawnee Chapter #190, Region 9, since 1993. She has held numerous local chapter offices, including six terms as Worthy Matron, and once filled a ten-month vacancy in that role.

Sam's Grand Chapter service includes Grand Martha, Grand Representative to New York, Grand Representative to Scotland, and two Club Boards, along with committee



Susan K. Fisher
GRAND TREASURER

Susan has been a member of Mount Union Chapter #280, Region 7A since 1999 and has served as Worthy Matron, Treasurer, and Martha. She has held several Grand Chapter committee appointments and served as Treasurer on Orpha Kemmler's Club Board. She has been serving as Grand Treasurer for the past 6 years.

Susan is a retired Master Sergeant and resides in Hopewell, PA. She attends the Stonerstown Church of the Brethren and is a Life member of the Bricktown Senior Center. Susan is "Nana" to 10 grandchildren, 4 boys and 6 girls, ages ranging from 6 years to 27 years. Susan enjoys playing computer games, reading, jigsaw puzzles and traveling in the RV with her family.

Outside of Star, Tammie works in the Special Education office at a local school district, and is the proud mom of Katie Vitale and Calvin Lasswell. She loves that her family has worked together in fraternal service for several generations. This year, her daughter and son-in-law, Frank, are serving together as the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Robert Fulton Chapter #446. She is especially excited about the newest member of the family, her first grandchild, Anthony!

roles such as Newspaper Reporter, Long Range Planning, Grand Page, and Personal Page.

Outside of Eastern Star, Sam is enjoying retirement after a 38-year career as an IT computer technician. Sam and her husband, Brother Dennis Devine, Past Grand Patron, live in the small community of Conyngham with their "fur-baby," Lily Pearl. She is the mother of five, grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of two. Sam looks forward to continuing her journey of service to the Order.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



Lisa S. Weaver, Esq.

GRAND TRUSTEE

Lisa, elected Grand Trustee in 2019, is a 46-year member of State College Chapter #388, Region 7A, currently serving as Conductress. A three-time Past Matron and former Secretary, she served as Grand Electa for Sandy K. Berkey, PGM; Deputy Grand Matron for Jean D. Fey, PGM; and was appointed Grand Representative of Colorado in

2006. Grand Chapter appointments include Public Laws and Regulations, Homes, and Travel.

Lisa and husband Ed Glantz reside in Port Matilda; Ed is Associate Grand Patron and Worthy Patron. They have three children, Candace, Justin, and Kirsten, along with four grandchildren. Candace and Kirsten are active members of State College Chapter #388, as is Candace's husband, Fred. Lisa is a Tax Attorney and CPA in State College, where her company, Lifestyle Retirement, helps employers establish and administer retirement plans.



Vicky J. Botjer

GRAND TRUSTEE

Vicky is a 30-year member of Eastern Star and belongs to Harriet Greene Chapter #198, Region 11C. The 2026-27 term, marks 5 years serving in her role as a Trustee of PA Grand Chapter. She has enjoyed traveling across the Commonwealth and connecting with members.

In her career, Vicky recently retired after spending 40 years in full-time roles as a CPA, Controller, and Chief Financial Officer across various organizations. She has since launched her own grant and financial services business from home.

Vicky has been married to her husband, Art, for 16 years. They have one daughter, two sons, and three granddaughters.

William Hoffman

GRAND CHAPLIN

William is a 28-year member and Past Patron of Fulton Chapter 519 where he currently serves as Worthy Patron. His past service for Grand Chapter includes Grand Representative to Maryland, Grand Guard, and other appointed committees.

He is an active member of Mount Zion Lodge #774 currently serving a fifth term as Worshipful Master. He is a devoted member of St Paul's Lutheran Church, serving as a lay minister for several years.

He resides in McConnellsburg with his wife Marianne for 37 years along with three "spoiled rotten" Boston terriers. Together they have two grown children and three grandchildren. Though he spends most of his spare time with the grandchildren, Will also enjoys hunting, gardening, and officiating high school basketball and softball games. He is looking forward to traveling with the Grand Family and meeting new brothers and sisters throughout the year.



Sharon K. Wise

GRAND TRUSTEE

Sharon is a member of Monessen Chapter #205, Region 4, and this year marks her 50th anniversary as a Golden Star within the Order of the Eastern Star. Over five decades, she has served in numerous leadership roles within her local chapter and PA Grand Chapter.

She counts the life-long friendships built along the way among the best parts of her membership. Outside of her fraternal commitments, Sharon loves to travel and try new foods, often sharing photos from her latest adventures with the many friends she's made along the way.



Vicki L. Geigus

GRAND MARSHAL

Vicki is a member of Harrisburg Chapter #552, formerly of Capital City Chapter #146, as well as Old Bel Air Chapter #375. She has served her home chapter as Worthy Matron twice and has filled numerous other offices over the years.

Her extensive Grand Chapter service includes serving as a Grand Page five times, as a Deputy Grand Matron for Gee Gee Plyler, and as the Grand Representative to São Paulo, Brazil. Additionally, she has held multiple Grand Chapter Committee Appointments and proudly served on both the Limelighter Club Board for Shirley Capo and the Sweetheart Club Board for Debbie Helm.

Outside of her fraternal responsibilities, Vicki is an active member of Calvary United Methodist Church. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, crafting, reading, and spending time with her husband, family, and friends.



What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

Residents came together for a successful Adopt-a-Road cleanup along Country Club Road in Dallas Township. This community effort not only beautified the area, but also strengthened the bonds among residents who share a commitment to keeping the area clean and welcoming.



Congratulations to resident Ron Prutzman, who was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for his dedicated volunteerism and enriching the lives of others. At Masonic Village, he has served on the Resident Association Executive Committee, on the Social Committee, as chair of the annual Christmas party, as a driver to take residents to appointments and as a helper with clean-up following events.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN

The annual June-a-Palooza is one of the community's best summer traditions. Residents take turns playing different sports, games and brain activities, winning tickets that can be turned in for raffle prizes. Staff are also invited, enhancing the friendly competition!



Continuing America's 250th celebration, residents had a blast at the Liberty Ball. The Tapestry Historical Dance Ensemble blended history, education

and entertainment that was perfect for the occasion. The Generations Big Band provided a soundtrack of big band classics, swing and patriotic favorites, which brought residents to the dance floor.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

Residents enjoyed classic fair-style games, caricatures, music, vendors and a display of classic cars at the annual

carnival. The clouds cleared up in time for residents to enjoy the fresh air, as well as an indoor buffet lunch and most important for a carnival - ice cream!



Residents also spent this summer experimenting with faux tattoos, dancing with the Mummers and molding beach-themed chocolates.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

At the Opportunities Expo, new and longtime residents filled up their summer calendars and learned about the community's different clubs, classes, off-campus excursions and more.



Participating groups included the Sustainable Living Committee, Mahjong, Book Discussion, Plarn and others. As residents move in, each with their own expertise or hobbies to share, they bring new ideas for groups or classes with them.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

A deck of cards and a cup of coffee or tea were all residents needed to have a good time together at "Cards and Coffee." Residents played classic card games in small groups while sipping their favorite hot beverages.



They also brought beach volleyball vibes indoors and served up some sporty fun with just a net, balloon and foam pool noodles, while jamming to the summer sounds of the Beach Boys.

MEET THE GRAND FAMILY



Renee L. Tomlinson GRAND ORGANIST

Renee is a member of Gridley Chapter #324 in Erie. A lifelong lover of music, Renee is an accomplished vocalist and has studied classical music extensively throughout her life. Renee served as 131st Sessions Choir Director and looks forward to serving PA Eastern Star again this year as Grand Organist.

Besides music, Renee has a background in air freight and sales. For many years, she was president of her own freight forwarding business based in Miami, Florida, where she lived before moving back to Pennsylvania in 2007.

Renee has continued sharing her passion through teaching students and by directing various church choirs. She is currently serving as choir director at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, performing with the Erie Philharmonic, and teaches "everything but brass" at Guitar Center in Erie. Her location #619 was recently named the chain's Top Lesson Department worldwide.

Eric R. Holden GRAND SENTINEL

Eric joined Martha Custis Chapter #342 in 2014 and began as a Flag Bearer. The following year he advanced to Worthy Patron; he has served for seven terms. His past Grand Chapter appointments include Grand Representative of Alberta, Canada; 127th Sessions Housing; Aluminum for Region 8A; and Grand Guard.

In 1984, he became a member of George Washington Lodge #143 and later, York Rite in Chambersburg. There he served as Past High Priest of George Washington Royal Arch Chapter #176, Past Thrice Illustrious Master of George Washington Council #66, and Past Commander of Continental Commandery #56. This year, Eric is Division Adjutant for Division 11.

Eric also belongs to Zembo Shrine and Valley Forest #145, Tall Cedars of Lebanon. He's a life member of VFW Auxiliary at Post #1599, and has served on the Board of Guilford Pool for 36 years.

Eric and his wife, Karen, have been married for 44 wonderful years. Their son, Zachary, married to Bellamy, has given them an amazing granddaughter, Willow. His favorite hobby is scuba diving.



Amanda M. Lewis GRAND WARDER

Amanda joined Morris Chapter #14 at the age of 18 and has served as Worthy Matron three times. She has held several state appointments including General Page, Fabulous Firecracker, Caring and Sharing Region 2, Charity Western Chairman, and 131st Sessions secretary. Following in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, both active members, Amanda is a proud majority member of Pennsylvania International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Past Grand Worthy Associate Advisor, and current Board Chairman of Franklin Assembly #19.

Outside of her Masonic service, She is a certified EMT and paramedic and has volunteered with Sandycreek Volunteer Fire Department for many years. Professionally, she works as an accounts payable secretary at Franklin Area School District, where she assists with the marching band and serves as Head Coach of the senior high winter cheerleading squad.



Jo Etta A. Sollenberger PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON

Jody was initiated into Trio Chapter #544 in February 1981, then served as Worthy Matron for the first time in 1987. She is currently serving in the East again at Old Bellaire #375.

With over 30 years of experience, Jody is a talented and dedicated secretary. She has served as chapter secretary for 23 years at Trio #544 and 8 years at Old Bellaire #375 and now has the honor of serving as Personal Secretary to Sister Debbie Helm, WGM. She has held numerous Grand Chapter appointments and served as Deputy Grand Matron of Region 8A in 2011-12.

At home, Jody is enjoying her retirement from working in the Federal Government by spending lots of time with her family. She has two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



IN THE FALL ISSUE

Meet the 2026-27 Deputy Grand Matrons

Nancy Line

GRAND ELECTA

Nancy has been a member of Old Bellaire Chapter #375 for 50 years. She has served as Worthy Matron six times, three times at Old Bellaire #375 and three times at her plural chapter, Gettysburg Chapter #392.

Nancy served as District Deputy Grand Matron of District 14, under Sister JoAnne Carnes, PGM, before it was reorganized as Region 8A. She has held numerous Grand Chapter appointments and served as Grand Representative to Washington State and Grand Representative to New Brunswick, Canada. She has also served as Mother Advisor of Carlisle Rainbow Assembly #81 for five years.

She was married for 62 years to her late husband, Brother Donald P. Line, PGP. She has two children, including Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Debbie A. Helm.



Catherine S. Dazio

GRAND MARTHA

Catherine joined Fraternal Chapter #249 in 2009; She is a three-time Past Matron and served Region 15 as Deputy Grand Matron from 2024-26. She has chaired Grand Chapter committees for Eastern Section of Service Dogs and 128th Sessions Information, and served as personal page to the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda G. Winchester.

Catherine and her husband, Edward J. Dazio, Grand Representative to Kansas, have been married for 35 years and have worked together in the beauty and service industry for more than 50 years. Catherine started as a hairstylist in 1971, then left her accounting position in 1975 to teach hairstyling alongside Ed in their barber shop. She became a licensed esthetician in 1992, then earned her CIDESCO Diploma in 1996.

An avid dog lover, Catherine channels her passion into service dog work through Eastern Star. She has owned six Rottweilers, and she and Edward now share their home with two rescued lab mixes, Quincy & Sheldon.

Lori L. Cooper

GRAND ESTHER

Lori joined the Order in April 2011 as a member of Martha Custis Chapter #342, Region 8A. She began her service as Star Point Esther then Star Point Ruth before moving up to the East, where she was honored to serve her chapter as Worthy Matron for the 2017-18 and 2023-24 terms.

Lori is retired from Mercersburg Academy, where she dedicated over 17 years as the Accounts Receivable Manager.



Margaret Griego

GRAND ADAH

Margaret joined Norwood Herrington Chapter #356 at age 18 and became more active in the Order after graduating college; She became WM in 2022-23 and served as Deputy Grand Matron of Region 3 this past year. She is also a majority Rainbow girl and is the Mother Advisor of Beaver Valley Assembly #187.

Margaret holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting and works as an auditor for governments and nonprofits. She recently gained her CPA in February 2026. She enjoys crafting, playing board games, and gardening in her spare time. She and her husband, Chasz, have two cats named Spooky and Tia.

The Order of the Eastern Star has become a major part of her life; She loves to travel across the state and meeting her sisters and brothers.



Joy L. Enck

GRAND RUTH

Joy was initiated into Perry Chapter #459 in 2015 and served as Worthy Matron alongside her husband, Barry, in 2022; She will return to the East in 2028-29. Joy serves on Debbie's Sweet-heart Club Board and has held multiple Grand Chapter roles.

After earning an associate degree in accounting and working in banking for a decade, she paused her career to raise her family. Later, Joy was elected as Jury Commissioner two times for Perry County, and now manages the book-keeping for her husband's business while working as Jury Manager for both Perry and Juniata Counties. She is also a member and past Treasurer of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Andersonburg, Assistant Secretary of LVMA, on the board of LYDC, and a past township auditor.

Joy has been married to Barry Enck, a 33° Mason, for 44 years. They have three married children, three grandsons, and share their home with three cats and a dog.



Lori and her husband, Lee, are the proud parents of three daughters and grandparents of five grandchildren.

Their household also includes four beloved cats. Lori is an avid crafter and enjoys making handmade greeting cards. She and Lee also share a passion for traveling, they frequently taking cruise vacations together in their free time.



KEEP THE BEAT

May our hearts be open and guided to serve others joyfully this year

Service is the heartbeat of our Eastern Star Chapters. As one Appointed Grand Chapter Committee Member (AGCCM) put it: "I did not step into service one day — I was born into it." *How about you?* Here's a look at what Debbie and Todd's committees have planned to keep that beat going strong.

Have a Heart for Charity

Tina M. Haley, General Chairman

The American Heart Association is our special charity project this year. Debbie's husband suffered from cardiomyopathy, and her son continues to live with it today. A list of Heart Healthy Tips will be shared monthly at meetings. The Charity Committee has planned many fundraisers and events.

Fundraisers:

Each chapter has received 10 Red Hearts sold for \$5.00 each, in Honor or Memory of someone, to be displayed at Grand Chapter Sessions. Debbie has also started an 'H' and 'L' (Heart and Love) dollar-bill collection for donations.

Soup Cook-offs & Cookie Decorating:

Regional Soup Cook-offs and Cookie Decorating contests will be held, with each region's winners advancing to compete at their sectional event. Sectionals will determine the winner in each contest. Winning participants and dishes will be recognized in a later issue of the magazine. Each region is also invited to host a fundraising table at their sectional event.

SAVE THE DATES:

Western Section	Central Section	Eastern Section
Sandra L. Lewis	Laurie E. Miller	Jennifer S. Hoopes
January 23, 2027	February 20, 2027	February 6, 2027

More details to follow, please check in with your chapter secretaries and appointments.



Masonic Village Committee

Toni A. Harmony, General Chairman

The Worthy Grand Matron encourages every chapter to provide meaningful service for residents of our four Masonic Villages health care facilities by organizing a service project on site, or providing for a need. Be creative and share Star love and kindness with the residents. Past projects have included:

- ♥ Sponsored bingo game or ice cream social
- ♥ Lap blankets or quilts
- ♥ Activity books, word searches, sudoku, and crossword puzzles
- ♥ Holiday events like Easter bonnet parade or Christmas caroling

The committee chairs look forward to offering engaging, joyful events for the residents of each facility. These are an opportunity for the Grand Family to mingle with residents and share fellowship through a variety of activities. Having served Masonic Villages for the past few years, I can assure you:

the joy you receive is as meaningful as the joy you give.

GRAND FAMILY EVENTS:

Elizabethtown,
Central Section
Nancy M. Morris,
AGCCM
December 12, 2026

Sewickley,
Western Section
Melody L. Snyder,
AGCCM
November 28, 2026

Lafayette Hill,
Eastern Section
Andrea P. Murray,
AGCCM
August 8, 2026

Warminster,
Eastern Section
Donald W. Murray,
AGCCM
August 8, 2026

Community Service & Fraternal Relations

Rebecca D. Krout, General Chairman

Community Service:

The WGM and WGP's special community service project this year is for members to be involved in supporting weekend food assistance programs for students. These programs provide bags of food sent home with students who receive free or reduced school lunches and do not have reliable meals while home over the weekend.

At Big Spring School District, where Sister Debbie, WGM, works, the program is called "Paw Packs," referencing their Bulldog mascot.

Paw Packs include: two cereals, two drinks, two lunches, two dinners, two snacks, and two fruits. Student food assistance programs are run in many local school districts under different names. Organizers often need help with specific food item donations, financial assistance, or volunteers to help pack the bags. This is an excellent project to invite our Masonic family to participate in.

If your local school doesn't already offer a similar service, start by contacting school guidance counselors or the nurse directly to ask how you can help establish one. Additional service projects by individuals or local chapters are encouraged to continue and should be reported to your regional AGCCM.

Look for ways to team up, such as co-sponsoring a community activity, like Bingo, spaghetti dinner, or a Service Dogs meet and greet. What could be a better way to introduce our organizations to the public and obtain new members!

Another idea: host a casual meal before their meeting and invite families along. Ask attendees to bring a food or clothing donation to benefit first responders, veterans, a program like Paw Packs, etc. It's a great way to enjoy fellowship while learning more about each other's programs.

Please continue to support the Youth by attending meetings, supplying refreshments, donating to their fundraisers, and encouraging the young people in our lives to consider joining.

Remember: Please turn in reports!

Send your regional AGCCM a log of your service hours, monetary donations, and count of items made or distributed—Independent efforts count too, not just chapter projects.



Fraternal Relations:

Let's work to strengthen our ties with other Masonic Organizations. Have fun together, get acquainted, and support each other's service projects.



Let's Play

BINGO

Caring & Sharing

Cost and schedule apply to all three Section Events. Non-members and children are welcome to attend.

For individual flyers and details talk to your chapter secretary or visit paoes.com/events

\$30

Subscription includes
Bingo Cards, Lunch & Door Prize Ticket

SCHEDULE

Doors Open: 10:30 AM

Bingo Starts: 12:00 PM Noon

Ritualistic testing occurring prior— see details below

Raffles, Special Games, 50/50, and snacks will be available for an additional charge.

WESTERN SECTION

From the Heart Saturday, November 7, 2026

Kittanning Masonic Temple
11906 State Rt. 85
Kittanning, PA 16201

RSVP by Oct 24
Valerie A. Johnson, AGCCM

CENTRAL SECTION

Dove into Bingo Saturday, November 21, 2026

Masonic Village, Brossman Ballroom
One Masonic Drive,
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

RSVP by Oct 7
Saralee Tollinger, AGCCM

EASTERN SECTION

Heart of the Harvest Saturday, October 17, 2026

Scottish Rite Cathedral
430 South Seventh Ave
West Reading, PA 19611

RSVP by Oct 7
Martha Baird, AGCCM

If you are facing
financial difficulties,
the Grand Chapter Fraternal
Committee is *here to help*

Every inquiry is handled with the utmost empathy, responsiveness, and strict confidentiality. We encourage you to reach out and learn more about our application process.

Our committee reviews each application individually, considering both our established guidelines and your unique circumstances. If needed, we can also connect you with alternative resources to ensure you receive the best possible support during this time. We are able to assist with both emergency and monthly situations.

Western Section

Marlene Piccolin
piccolinm@gmail.com
(724) 877-1083

Central Section

Virginia Foor
jffraternal.2026@gmail.com
(717) 887-2461

Eastern Section

Kim Hanshaw
kmhanshaw@gmail.com
(215) 901-6434

All three committee members will be at the upcoming BINGOs if you wish to speak personally and privately.

Contact us for applications and instructions or
Visit paoes.org/fraternal-committee

Barbara E. Adams *Ritualistic Excellence Program*

Testing sessions will be held prior to each Sectional Bingo Event, starting at 8 AM.

Sisters

will be tested on
Star Point Electa

Opening Speech, p. 38
Initiation Speech, p. 74-76

Brothers

will be tested on
Worthy Patron's work

Initiation Speech, p. 80-83
ending with the Grip

All members are invited to participate!

Those scoring 90% or more will receive a pin from the Worthy Grand Matron and recognition for their good work at Grand Chapter. All participants will be given a Certificate for their effort.

Visit paoes.org for entry form, scoring sheets, and more detailed information about testing.

GRAND CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Be a Light to the World

The 131st Session was a celebration of the many ways we shine a light in our communities, our chapters, and each other's lives—renewing our commitment to service and strengthening our bonds of friendship.

Contributor: Randa Triggs, 131st Sessions General Chairman

5



6



1 Photo Credit © McDonough, 2026

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12



13



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SCENES FROM 2026 GRAND CHAPTER

1. Cathy Taormina of Woodlawn #164 proudly shines her light as she marches in the Grand Page drills during the 131st "Be a Light to the World" Grand Sessions, held June 25-29, 2026, at the York Expo Center in York, PA.
2. Sister M. Joyce Camlin, Worthy Grand Matron, presides in the East during the 131st Session.
3. WGM and Brother Dennis J. Devine, Worthy Grand Patron present a check in support of her special project, MS.
4. Eastern Star sisters have a blast learning Irish folk dances at the "Step into the Glow: A Night at the Castle" Grand Banquet.
5. The Deputy Grand Matrons, including Katie McGuire, Region 4, march the Grand Floor with their glowing floral baskets.
6. Crystal Remaly (163) poses with Kim Drake (323), while delighting all Grand Banquet guests as a court jester.
7. Brother George Camlin, PGP, and wife, M. Joyce, WGM; Dennis J. Devine, WGP, with his wife, Sam; Michelle Byers, 131st Banquet Chairman, and her husband, Mike Byers, PGP, celebrate a job well done.
8. Grand Pages, including Nikki Miller (356) and Susan Britten (153), raise their lamps and voices during drills.
9. "It's George's fault!" Sister Billie, MWGM, was in stitches over the week's running joke, while Sister M. Joyce, WGM, gives her husband, George Camlin, PGP, a look.
10. MWGP, Mike Berry congratulates Sister Rhonda M. Johnson, Worthy Grand Adah, with a kiss on the cheek, as she seeks election to Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress at the next Triennial Assembly.
11. Sister Diane Runser, Grand Organist, as "Liberace," with Appointed Grand Officers dressed as his iconic candelabra for Thursday night's "Turn Up the Volume: The Final Show!" event.
12. Grand Pages served dinner at the Worthy Grand Adah, Rhonda's "Red, White and the Lady in Blue" Honor Banquet.
13. The 131st Session Committee dressed in their tartan sashes.
14. We were honored to welcome the General Grand Officers.
15. The Tree of Life display for the Necrology Service. Each Deputy Grand Matron placed a leaf on the tree representing her region and bearing the names of the 555 members who had passed.
16. Rainbow Girls open the Divine Service with cross exemplification led by Sister Sarah Hamm, Grand Worthy Advisor and WGM Joyce's personal page.
17. Jobies, including Samantha Boyer, Miss Job's Daughter, close the Divine Service with their traditional cross formation.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers of Pennsylvania Grand Chapter!

We are still smiling from our wonderful visit to your Grand Jurisdiction in late June. The hospitality shown to us and all of your Grand Chapter visitors was truly humbling. Thank you so much for your kind words, hugs, gifts, and expressions of love as we visited with you in York and beyond!

It was a special treat to be with Past Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Bob Penoyer, who continues "Flying High for OES." Of course, the highlight of our visit was the event honoring our Worthy Grand Adah, Sister Rhonda Johnson. It is evident how proud Pennsylvania is of Rhonda, and we are pleased that she is representing the Keystone State around the world during the "Dream, Imagine, Believe" Triennium.

Your GGCCMs are serving you well; we so appreciate

their dedication to our 2024-27 Dream Team. Special thanks to the members of the Grand Chapter of PA for your VERY generous contributions to Alzheimer's projects, Historical Landmarks, and Service Dogs. Our Eastern Star shines brighter because you have chosen to reflect its brilliance.

We look forward to crossing paths with you again and hope to see you at "The Desert is Heaven in '27!" 52nd Triennial Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, being held Aug. 26 to Sept. 3, 2027.

Star Love,

*Billie Bradfield, Most Worthy Grand Matron
Mike Berry, Most Worthy Grand Patron*

GRAND CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

2025-26 Impact

Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania
Order of the Eastern Star



\$979,929.64

Total Charitable Monetary Donations

\$155,257.88

Combined Total to Multiple Sclerosis
Organizations for WGM Special Project



4,600

Kits for Kids
packed for WGM
Special Project

175

Members
Initiated

\$31,306.98

Combined Total given to
Masonic Youth Groups



\$34,609.93

Total to Alzheimer's Association for General
Grand Chapter Special Project

22,230 Miles Traveled by WGM

\$218,420.00

Combined Total to Masonic Villages



105

OES Veterans
honored at
Sectional Events

27

Golden Stars
honored at
Grand Chapter

Every year, members across Pennsylvania turn their Eastern Star membership into measurable impact. **Here's what we accomplished together in 2025-26.**

Educational Scholarships.....	\$402,200.00
Masonic Villages.....	\$218,420.00
Service Dogs.....	\$111,752.85
National MS Society.....	\$88,830.97
Focus Light on MS*.....	\$66,426.91
Alzheimer's Association.....	\$34,609.93
Historical Landmarks.....	\$26,382.00
DeMolay.....	\$10,435.66
Order of the Rainbow for Girls.....	\$10,435.66
Job's Daughters.....	\$10,435.66
Grand Total.....	\$979,929.64

- ★ **Honorable Mention:** Figures do not include individual Chapter projects or money raised for Fraternal Fund through sectional Caring & Sharing Bingo
- ★ **Focus Light on MS:** Check presented total of \$36,101.00 grew to \$66,426.91 by the close of Grand Chapter sessions.
- ★ See individual reports for, **Scholarships** pg. 17; **Service Dogs** pg. 18; **Historial Landmarks** pg. 20

TOP: Sister M. Joyce Camlin, WGM, presents a check to the Focus the Light on MS Foundation, part of her special project supporting those affected by multiple sclerosis.

LEFT: Mason Derosky, Deputy State Master Councilor, accepted the check on behalf of PA DeMolay.

RIGHT: Sister Linda E. Watson, PGM and General Grand Chapter Appointment, presents the check for the Alzheimer's Association, General Grand Chapter's special project this Triennium.

BOTTOM: Sister HelenBeth G. Vilcek, PGM, received her certificate for 50 years of membership and responded on behalf of all Golden Stars.

2025-26 Educational Scholarships

The Educational Scholarship and ESTARL Committee of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Order of the Eastern Star is pleased to report the following numbers:

Youth Awardees:

Mason Derosky, DeMolay International
Victoria Shinn, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG)
Margaret Heaton, Job's Daughters International (JDI)

Named Scholarship Awardees:

Beryl L. Hogue Follow the Rainbow Scholarship
Estella DeJesus, Laurel #67

Alice A. Yates, PGM, Memorial Scholarship
Anna Plank, Jephthah #73

Evelyn M. Kostenbauder, PGM, Scholarship
Jana Mizrachy, Calypso #163

Margaret M. Finley, PGM, Scholarship
Piper Anke, Latrobe #221

Helen E. Meadows Memorial Scholarship
Lucas Steinmetz, Freeland #323

Edna Gwendola Naeser, PM, Memorial Scholarship
Elena Kacprowicz, Gridley #324
Jenna Kuntz, Gridley #324

Queen Esther Memorial Scholarship
Michael Barone, Elizabethtown #407

Jean Anderson Scholarship
Rachel Carr, Orwigsburg #424

Barbara E. Adams, PGM, Scholarship
Logan Challenger, The Glen #425

Larry H. Bingeman, PP, Scholarship
Isaac Earnest, Robert Fulton #446

Lois Marie Smith Scholarship
Evangelia Karagiannis, Conrad Weiser #449

Lois H. Summers, PGM, Scholarship
Makenzie Rupp, Hollidaysburg #471

General Scholarship Awardees:

Connor Orkin, Wyoming #1
Mary Meinikoff, Juanita #8
Courtney Price, Juanita #8
Gabrielle Ziesemer, Juanita #8
Kara Girard, Gill #12
Sarah Singleton, Morris #14
Alayna Bishop, Phoenix #15
Emily Swanson, Albion #22
Abigail Swantek, Albion #22
Cameron Swantek, Albion #22
Grace Legg, Harmony #58
Brooke Bean, Priscilla #64
Samantha Earl, Priscilla #64
Sophia Pino, Priscilla #64
Alexandra Schwab, Priscilla #64
Karlynn Smallwood, Priscilla #64
Brianna Cobourn, Laurel #67
Makayla Cobourn, Laurel #67
Emma Neuber, Towanda #76
Thomas Lewis, Stoneboro #110
Ryan Tobias, Lebanon #115
Anna Kane, Signet #129
Maisie McGarvey, Signet #129
Dante Henry, Trinity #138
Joshua Morrison, Trinity #138

Eva McKnight, Farrell #156
R. Kemp Clow II, Harriet Greene #198
Dylan Malobabich, Harriet Greene #198
Molly Suppo, Woodlawn #164
Tawney Culver, Shick-Shawnee #190
Marcella Amendola, Harriet Greene #198
Justin Toy, Harriet Greene #198
Julia Wirths, Harriet Greene #198
Kyleigh Kelley, Monessen #205
Ryleigh Kelley, Monessen #205
Travis Kennett, Monessen #205
Brianna Conniff, Grace E. Barthold #216
Laney Broglio, Latrobe #221
John Bruner, Latrobe #221
Luther Miller, Latrobe #221
Tristan Miller, Latrobe #221
Nicholas Joyce, Ross Croix #235
Madeline Higgins, Connellsville #247
Kaitlin Carcanague, Fraternal #249
Sofia Hulshizer, Reading #251
Alexis Seymour, Reading #251
Joshua Wagner, Reading #251
Zachary Cherrup, Sunbury #266
Cody Fultz, Sunbury #266
Jordan Fultz, Sunbury #266

Benjamin Burke, Kittanning #277
Robert John, Kittanning #277
Jayde Bartholomew, Bloomsburg #279
Dalton Poeth, Bloomsburg #279
Logan Dilling, Mount Union #280
Elizabeth Welliver, Watsontown #282
Zoe Moyer, Lewistown #283
Jadyn Hudak, New Temple #298
Haley Schantzenbach, New Temple #298
Thomas Seislove, New Temple #298
Davin Griffith, Freeland #323
Anna Tanski, Freeland #323
James Kuntz, Gridley #324
Benjamin Aubert, Lenape #339
Kaira Hollenbach, Lenape #339
Logan Monroe, Lenape #339
Julia Lipscomb, Norwood Herrington #356
Lillian Fringer, White Rose #360
Dean Meredith, Neshaminy #374
Melissa Skibinski, Neshaminy #374
Sadie Wiley, Neshaminy #374
Afton Camlin, Martha V Paul #404
Logan Wagner, Martha V Paul #404
Lauren Bell, Orwigsburg #424
Robert Homyak, Orwigsburg #424

Courtney Mease, Orwigsburg #424
Sarah Snider, Orwigsburg #424
Bryson Pell, The Glen #425
Mason Spangler, The Glen #425
Taylor Schmauch, William E. Gelston #435
Miranda Johns, Sewickley #439
Kelsie Martin, Sewickley #439
Garrett Rader, Sewickley #439
Kylie Goss, Robert Fulton #446
Olivia Musser, Robert Fulton #446
Melody Carsey, Conrad Weiser #449
Emily Leshner, Conrad Weiser #449
Allison Howell, Perry #459
Madison Howell, Perry #459
Emma Stiller, Perry #459
Kaley Hileman, Hollidaysburg #471
Matthew Desimone, Youngsville #478
Abigail Fisher, Triangle #483
Ezekiel MacCloskey, Triangle #483
Alyssa Matyas, Anna M Rote Mem. #491
Kellen Stevens, Fulton #519
Payge Lytle, Meyersdale #548
Henry Appel, Harrisburg #552
Joesphine Berra, Harrisburg #552
Lauren Mark, Harrisburg #552

\$402,200

Total Scholarship Amount Awarded

56

Proud Sponsoring
Chapters

116

Total Scholarships
Awarded

Congratulations to all recipients!

PA Eastern Star Happenings

For application information visit paoes.org/scholarships

Grand Chapter Highlights **17**

Service Dog Committee

Service Dogs is the primary charity of the Order of the Eastern Star. Funds raised in Pennsylvania stay in the Commonwealth, supporting our various partners including Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD) and Canine Partners for Life (CPL), among others.

We are very proud to support these remarkable organizations and the life-changing work they do each and every day. Service dogs bring independence, confidence, and hope to those they serve. It is an honor to play a small part in making those partnerships possible.

This June at Grand Chapter, the Service Dog Committee was proud to award two special donations:

\$86,754.85 to Susquehanna Service Dogs
\$25,000.00 to Canine Partners for Life

This was made possible by the hard work of all our members throughout the state. **Thank you** for your dedication & ongoing commitment to such a worthwhile cause. Be sure to share this wonderful accomplishment in your chapters!

Our committee is looking forward to the coming year! We it kicked off with **Day with the Dogs** on July 20th at the SSD Facility, where members learned about their training process and packed donations in "Doggie Bark Bags" for our Puppy Trainer-Raisers. Canine Partners for Life has a Fall Festival on Sat, Sept. 26th, please consider attending. CPL is in the final stages of completing their new training facility. They have also agreed to give a tour to an OES group. That date is pending, but contact us if you'd like to attend.

Make sure to Save the Date of Sat, Jan. 16th for our **Annual Puppy Bowl** to be held at the Holiday Inn Grantville, PA. Also, look out for **clothing fundraiser**! We hope to offer few items like t-shirts, long sleeves, or hoodies. Details coming soon for both! If you're planning events in your chapter or region, reach out to us about Service Dog participation at your event. We'll do our best to support you by attending or helping promote your event.

We can't do this without **you**! We look forward to working with all of you. Let's make this another fantastic year!

PA OES Service Dog Committee 2026-2027

Linda J. Jordan, General Chairman

Debra Renninger,
Western Chairman

Dora Housekeeper,
Central Chairman

Kim Drake,
Eastern Chairman

SUMMER EVENTS:

Saturday, July 20, 2027
Annual "Day with the Dogs"
at Susquehanna Service Dog
Facility in Grantville, PA

Members toured the training facility and packed Doggie Bark-Bags for the Puppy Trainer-Raisers at four sites.

Saturday, September 26, 2027
Fall Festival at Canine Partners for
Life Facility in Cochranville, PA

Consider attending this free, fun-filled afternoon with service dogs, activities and local vendors.

Visit K94life.org/events for details

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, January 16, 2027
Annual Puppy Bowl in Grantville, PA
To be held at Grantville Holiday Inn, more details follow.



Follow "PA OES Service Dogs Project" on Facebook to keep up with the dogs!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Valerie Whyman, SSD Puppy Raiser/Trainer; Debbie Tanner, General Grand Appt.; Michael Berry, MWGP; Billie Bradfield, MWGM; Deb Tack, SSD Exec. Director; Linda Jordan Service Dogs General Chairman; Jeffrey Miller, PA PGP and General Grand Appt. **FRONT:** Ambassador dogs, SSD Meyer and SSD Gordon



LEFT TO RIGHT: General Grand Chapter Officers, Appointments, and Pennsylvania Service Dog Group present the check to Diane Blenke, Canine Partners for Life Coordinator and CPL Chewie (Aunt of our OES Dogs, Robert & Marshal).

Left to Right: Richard Farnsworth, III, Worthy Grand Organist; Julie Bridge, AGCCM; Dara Hagosky, AGCCM; Joyce Plonka, PGM; and Rhonda Johnson, Worthy Grand Adah & PGM of PA.

250TH GALA IN D.C.

Stars, Stripes & Eastern Star Fellowship

What better place to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday than a visit to our Order's International Headquarters in Washington, D.C.?

This year's Fourth of July weekend was made even more special as members of the Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern Star traveled to Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable experience filled with fellowship, history, and patriotic pride.

One of the sparkling highlights of our trip was an elegant fundraising gala benefiting the Perry Belmont Mansion, our international headquarters. It was a wonderful evening of friendship, music, and celebration, made even more memorable by the opportunity to spend time with Billie Bradfield, our Most Worthy Grand Matron (MWGM) and Michael Berry, our Most Worthy Grand Patron (MWGP). Representing Pennsylvania were Rhonda Johnson, Worthy Grand Adah; Joyce Plonka, PGM; Julie Bridge, AGCCM and Dara Hagofsky, AGCCM.

MIDDLE: *Left to Right: Billie Bradfield, MWGM; Tori Loll, Worthy Grand Martha; Richard Farnsworth, III, Worthy Grand Organist; Debbie Dreier, Worthy Grand Marshal; Rhonda Johnson, Worthy Grand Adah & PGM of PA; Michael E. Berry, MWGP*

BOTTOM: PA delegation poses with the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Patron. *Left to Right: Dara Hagofsky, AGCCM; Julie Bridge, AGCCM; Rhonda Johnson, Worthy Grand Adah; Billie Bradfield MWGM; Michael E. Berry, MWGP; and Joyce Plonka, PGM*



Photo Credit © Tony Powell. 2026



★ **Did You Know?** The Perry Belmont House has been our International Headquarters for nearly 100 years. [Read more on the next page.](#)



EASTERN STAR HISTORY

The Perry Belmont House

The Order of the Eastern Star International Headquarters has stood on New Hampshire Avenue NW in Washington, D.C for nearly 100 years.

Before that, it was the grand home of Perry Belmont, a former US Congressman and Ambassador to Spain. Built between 1906 and 1909 at the *then-extravagant* cost of \$1.5 million, the Beaux Arts mansion was designed by celebrated French architect Ernest Sanson. The house is known for its craftsmanship as it features eleven fireplaces, with hand-carved Italian marble mantles, Germany woodwork, and French metal fixtures.

Perry and Jessie Belmont lived in the home from 1909 to 1925 and often entertained foreign dignitaries as well as notables of Washington. The house sat empty for a decade, until 1935, when Mr. Belmont, himself a Freemason, sold it to the General Grand Chapter for \$100,000. As part of that agreement, the Right Worthy Grand Secretary is required to live on-site, so the building remains a both private residence and the Order's Headquarters today.

OES HISTORICAL LANDMARKS:

- ★ **Perry Belmont House**
OES International Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (501-C3) tax deductible
- ★ **Rob Morris Home**
home of our Order's founder in La Grange, KY (501-C3) tax deductible
- ★ **International Peace Garden Chapel**
at the Manitoba, Canada & North Dakota, USA border
- ★ **Little Red School House**
birthplace of the Order in Richland, MI



Photo Credit © Tony Powell. 2026

Walking through the headquarters was both inspiring and humbling. We reflected on the rich heritage of our beloved Order and the countless members whose dedication has helped our Star continue to shine brightly around the world.

That same dedication showed up closer to home too, at Pennsylvania's Grand Chapter this past June. Brother David McKibben, PGP and General Grand Chapter Historical Landmarks Committee for the International Headquarters, presented Sister Billie Bradfield, MWGM and Brother Mike Berry, MWGP a check in the amount of \$26,382.00 for the International Headquarters. The amount represented approximately \$1.00 per member for 2025-26 period of this Triennium.

\$26,382

Presented for the International Headquarters at Pennsylvania Grand Chapter in June



HOW TO GIVE:

Consider donating to preserve our four Historical Landmarks. Every gift helps preserve all four sites; your designated landmark receives 55% of your gift, with the remaining amount split equally (15% each) among the others.



Scan the QR code

Online: Visit EasternStar.org then find the dark blue "Historical Landmarks" banner

By check payable to *General Grand Chapter, OES.*

Write your designated landmark on the memo line & mail to:

General Grand Chapter, C/O Historical Landmarks Committee
1618 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009-2549



Washington, D.C. was bursting with excitement as America celebrated its 250th birthday. The city sparkled with patriotic spirit as we watched impressive military flyovers, explored the incredible Smithsonian museums, and joined thousands gathered on the National Mall for a dazzling fireworks display that lit up the night sky. The energy throughout the city was contagious, and it was impossible not to feel grateful for the freedoms we enjoy and the history we share.

The weekend was a perfect combination of Eastern Star fellowship and American patriotism. We were honored to represent Pennsylvania, strengthen friendships with members from across the General Grand Chapter family, and return home with cherished memories of an unforgettable Independence Day in our nation's capital.

Want to help preserve our Order's Crown Jewel Landmark? See more details on the previous page about how to give.



Supporting Our Veterans

Edwin A. Bloxham, General Chairman Veterans Outreach

My role is to support, document, and coordinate veteran outreach happening at the chapter level. The real work is done by our chapter representatives and Grand Chapter appointments. They understand the needs in their local communities far better than I ever could.

This appointment isn't about raising money, at least not on a statewide level. When chapters do raise funds or receive donations, my strong belief is that those resources should stay in that region and put towards whatever project the local team feels will make the biggest difference.

If you have a veterans center near you, consider organizing bingo or fulfilling item requests for residents. You could also collect clothes or personal items for homeless veterans, or organize a dinner for local veterans in your area.

I have many friends who have served and my son is a Navy veteran. I deeply respect their service to our country. We owe our veterans so much more than we could possibly give them. Let's do something to show them the support they deserve.

If you'd like to get involved, reach out to your chapter representative to find out what's needed in your area.

PREVIOUS PAGE

TOP LEFT: Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Michael E. Berry, gives his address in front of the grand fireplace of the Perry Belmont ballroom on July 3, 2026.

BOTTOM LEFT: Looking Good! Our PA delegates pose in a selfie together before headed to the gala!

MIDDLE: Brother Mike Berry, MWGP snaps a selfie after accepting Historical Landmarks check at PA Grand Chapter

TO THE LEFT: Our star sisters sparkle in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

TOP: Julie, Dara, and Joyce are proud to be Eastern Star members as they pose in front of our Order's International Headquarters. The Perry Belmont house was fully-decorated for the Fourth of July!

BACKGROUND: US Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration

Contributors: David McKibben, PGP & GGCCM;

Joyce Plonka, PGM; Julie Bridge, AGCCM



Region 6 will BE BRAVE

North Central PA is where you will find Region 6. We encompass Tioga, Potter and McKean counties. Region 6 has six Chapters and as Past Grand Patron and Regional Advisor, Bradley A. Lewis would say, "Coincidence? I think not!"

On May 27, 2026, Incoming Deputy Grand Matron (DGM), Angela D. DiPetta, was the Installing Officer for the final chapter meeting in Region 6. A first time Worthy Matron (WM), Jolene M. Empson, was installed. What a joy to have ALL 2026-27 Region 6 Worthy

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."

A. A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

Matrons in attendance and two of our Worthy Patrons.

Cooperation and supporting each other is what keeps our Region strong. As we embark on a new year, we will BE BRAVE! We are following Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as for the Lord". We continue to learn from our past and reflect on why we joined; are present for each other and practice our memorization; and make our future by asking those we know to join us as members of this amazing organization.

Remember what Christopher Robin told Winnie-the-Pooh, "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."

Let us BE BRAVE!

Angela D. DiPetta

Deputy Grand Matron, Region 6



Installation at Ulysses Chapter #95 on May 27, 2026.

Left to Right: Jacklyn A. Hazen, WM, Phoenix #15; Elizabeth J. Kulish, WM, Cowanesque #33; Bradley A. Lewis, WP, Eureka #52; Beth A. Lewis, WM, Eureka #52; Angela D. DiPetta, Incoming DGM Region 6; Jolene M. Empson, WM, Ulysses #95; Mark R. Major, WP, Ulysses #95; Amy J. Moshier, WM, Eulalia #148; Connie K. Jones, WM, Knoxville #328

A Day of Learning & Fellowship

By: Susan Britten, PM

Region 1A and Region 1B's School of Instruction was held on July 11, 2026, in Albion, PA. Sister Nancy Wick, Deputy Grand Matron 1A and Sister Gayla Rhodes, Deputy Grand Matron 1B conducted a very informative session. We were pleased to have Sister Joyce Plonka, Past Grand Matron, Regional Advisor, in attendance as well.

Following the School of Instruction, several Region 1A members enjoyed a get together at Valenza's Restaurant. It was a great day of fellowship!



Banner year for Elizabethtown #407

By: Susan Cromer, PM

Elizabethtown Chapter #407 has had a banner year during our centennial! During the 2025-26 term, the chapter initiated 13 new members and brought in 9 more through affiliation or plural membership. Our chairs are filled and we are supported by members on the sidelines at our meetings which have an average attendance of 60-70.

To top it off, we celebrated our 100th Anniversary on April 18 with a gathering of 243 people in attendance. We honored the Grand Family and three Golden Stars from our Chapter. The decorations, food and entertainment were superb! It was a wonderful celebration recalling memories of the past and looking forward to our future.

Ann K. Berger, WM and Donald Woodburn, WP with the cake celebrating the 100th anniversary of Elizabethtown Chapter #407 on Apr. 18, 2026.



MEMBER STORIES



A Family Affair

By: Susan Britten, PM

Our family journey in Eastern Star began on January 6, 2006, when my daughter, Sister Julie Britten and I were Initiated into Shiloh Chapter #153. We had no idea where our journey would take us but we were excited to begin.

Fast forward to March 4, 2013, when I was Worthy Matron for the first time and Sister Julie was Conductress we had the privilege of Initiating Brother Richard Britten Sr, my husband and Julie's father, into our Order. We haven't looked back since.

"You never know where a simple "yes" will take you!"

I have served as Worthy Matron of my chapter five times, Sister Julie is currently serving as Worthy Matron for her fifth time, and Brother Richard has served as Worthy Patron consecutively since 2015. But our proudest moments as members of Eastern Star came when all three of us had the opportunity to serve as Grand Officers. Sister Susan served as Grand Electa 2019-21, Brother Richard served as Grand Sentinel 2022-23, and Sister Julie served as Grand Adah 2025-26. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve our beautiful Order over the past years and encourage others to step up and accept leadership opportunities.

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Sunday, Noon – 4 p.m.

