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**GRAND CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA  
 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR  
 Organized 1878**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are both honored and excited to serve as your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. We hope to accomplish much, and have fun doing it this year. We hope many of you will join us in the fun!



	<b>WGM</b>	<b>WGP</b>
<b>SONG</b>	59 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)	You'll Never Walk Alone
<b>COLORS</b>	All colors, tie dye	Red, White and Blue
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Lilacs, Wildflowers	Red Rose
<b>FUN SYMBOLS</b>	Peace Signs and Puppies	Trumpets, Eagles, American Flag
<b>HONORED STATION</b>	Organist	Marshal
<b>BIBLE VERSE</b>	Put on then, as God's chosen ones, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.  Colossians 3:12-14	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,  John 3:16

And of course – our mascot, Sparky

**THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS**

**Helping Paws**

Most of you know how much I love dogs. And Dave really wants to do something for our veterans. Instead of having two projects, we have decided to focus on raising more money for Helping Paws for veterans with PTSD. I get panic attacks myself, and truly know how calming a dog can be. I have seen and heard stories from veterans who have received a service dog and how it has opened their world. As part of our fund raising, we have a beautiful afghan crocheted by the incomparable Bonnie McGinnis. Watch for those raffle tickets as the Grand Family travels the state.

### **Alzheimer's**

Both of our families have been affected by this awful disease. I lost my father to dementia. My mother and Dave's sister-in-law are currently going through this, so it is fresh on our minds. Sue Bay has created a beautiful quilt for this project, and we will be selling tickets for that also. We are planning an Oktoberfest on October 10 at the American Legion in Anoka as our major fundraiser. We will be revealing a "Mr. Legs" contest then, which will continue on through the year. You'll have to come to find out more about that.

### **Masonic Home**

Our Masonic Home project will be to refresh the gazebo that OES built about 10 years ago. Right now, few people are using it because there is not enough furniture. This project would include purchasing additional furniture, outdoor rug, new ceiling fan, and other décor. This will make it more functional and inviting. Who doesn't want to sit outside in Minnesota when you can?

### **Cancer**

We will continue to support our cancer scholar and the Masonic Cancer center. I don't know of any family who has not been affected by this. I just attended a dinner with some of the doctors from the U of M speaking. The treatments they continue to pursue are amazing and promising. The dance dates are January 16 and March 6.

### **Challenges to Chapters:**

- 1) I challenge each and every Chapter in this state to initiate at least one new member this year. The Grand Chapter will support you in any way you need; marketing, doing Initiations either in full, or filling in where needed.
- 2) Get involved with youth. They are our future. First, let's support our Fraternal Youth. We are having a contest. Every time you attend a Jobie or DeMolay meeting, get a signature from the presiding officer or adult supervisor. Jeanne Whetstone and Kaitlin Barret are going to provide schedules for meetings and events, and a form for you to gather your signatures.
- 3) Also, get involved with youth in your community. Providing supplies is always good, as long as they know where it is coming from. But try to get more involved. Can you volunteer somewhere, cook or serve a meal, or find a mentoring program? We are exactly the type of people who should be guiding our youth. Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness go a long way.

### **Denim Shirts**

This is a project for the next 2 years for our Grand Chapter general fund. They have the new OES logo, with Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness around it. Kathie Brown is leading this project, so contact her for more information. Order forms can be found in Starlites and some of the Facebook pages. Buy more than one, and give them to your friends!

Of course we will continue to support the three scholarship programs. ESTARL, M. Josephine Ruhsam Scholarship, and the Pat Rasmusson Continuing Education Scholarship.

### **Upcoming Events**

WGM/WGP Reception at Lost Spur in Eagan on August 2  
Area Conferences

August 22 at Unity Chapter in Austin

November 7 at Granite Chapter in St. Cloud

There is much to do, but with everyone's help, we can certainly accomplish our goals. Doesn't our Initiation say "through cheerful companionship and social enjoyment, lighten the burdens of active duty"? That means we have fun while doing good. We look forward to working with you, and seeing you at many events this year. Time for road trips with your friends!

Fraternally,

Deb Rickard



Worthy Grand Matron

Dave Emery

Worthy Grand Patron

