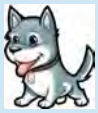
The Star Gazer



Year 11, Volume 2 Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan, Order of the Eastern Star September 2024

FROM THE EDITORS

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!
Sisters Marianne and Jean

FROM OUR WORTHY GRAND MATRON AND WORTHY GRAND PATRON
Sister Lynne Moffatt and Brother Ray Moffatt

Hello to all our wonderful stars.

I can't believe that Summer is almost over. Our Official visits have been going very well and still have two more at the time of this printing and our homecoming. I hope that I will see a lot of you at our homecoming. Don't forget the Whine and Roses fundraiser that the Project Committee is putting on. We need 60 people to make this a success. To register just email myself at raymof@sasktel.net. Once we have the 60 you will be notified to e-transfer or send cheques to our Grand Secretary.

If you have an idea to raise money for our Service Dog Charity, please let me know. We have people waiting for dogs in Saskatchewan and I'm sure all of us want to help them get their dog.
Although summer is coming to an end we have Thanksgiving just around the corner. A time to gather with family and friends and thank God for all that the creator has provided.

SERVICE DOGS REPORT
SISTER LLYNNE LAMBERT
CANADIAN CHAIRMAN,
GGCCM SERVICE DOGS COMMITTEE
2018-2024

Hello fellow puppy pals,

As we near the end of our 'Dog Days of Summer', I hope that you have enjoyed a ***pawsitively*** wonderful summer season with your family, friends or furry pals.

This will be my last Star Gazer article as Canadian Chair for Service Dogs.

I have proudly represented Saskatchewan, travelling near and far, as I worked with the members in many jurisdictions on behalf of service dogs and our General Grand Chapter. Congratulations is extended to Sister Colleen Hozack, PGM on her appointment to the GGC Service Dogs for 2024-2027.

Saskatchewan has supported the service dogs since 2015. As OES members in Saskatchewan, we have financially sponsored several dog guides for Saskatchewan people living with physical disabilities or medical conditions. These incredible dogs have truly been life changing. The demand for Autism Assistance dogs continue to rise as more people are being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, as well, the need for Diabetic Alert, Hearing, Vision, Service, Facility Support and Seizure Response dog guides are in great demand. And WE CAN HELP.

As I reflect on almost 10 years of our OES Service Dogs charity, Sisters and Brothers, this committee gratefully appreciated your contributions to the success of the following creative and varied fundraising ideas that were offered.

Your charitable support was given to our pins, magnets, micro cloths, cookbooks, jackets, t-shirts, tablet holders, wallets, blankets, table runners, quilts, wall hanging, slippers, koozies, many raffle draws, dances, auctions, dinner fundraisers, shrine happy hours and of course, your personal and chapter donations. I would like to sincerely thank the GC Service Dogs Committee for the dedication and enthusiasm they provided to this charity, the WGMs for their support in their year and to our WGM & WGP Lynne and Ray for choosing service dogs as their special project this year.

To continue with fundraising ideas for 2024, your Service Dogs Committee & the Service Dog Project Committee are offering a “Whine & Roses Tasting Event.” See our poster for info.

In closing, I would like to update you on one of our favorite autism assistance dog team stories, guaranteed to leave paw prints on your heart. Stephen and Bingo. I first met Stephen in 2016, shortly after he received his autism assistance dog, Bingo. With Stephen’s mother Laurie, we participated in a radio interview to tell the story of the changes his dog guide Bingo made to their lives. Stephen, Bingo and his family attended our first “Rock & Roll Dance’ Service Dog Fundraiser and then our Steak Night & Auction fundraiser. Stephen later made a video about how Bingo has changed his life. His story is now used in my PowerPoint presentations to educate others about autism and service dogs. This year Bingo retired, and Stephen has received a new dog guide called Doug. With the help of his Autism Assistance Dog Guide, Stephen graduated at the top of his class and is off to the University of Saskatchewan this fall with his companion Doug. What a wonderful success story.

Sister Colleen Hozack, PGM, Stephen, Bingo and Brother Bruce Farrer, PGP

Sisters and Brothers are making a difference, one service dog at a time!!

Best Wishes and Puppy Hugs,
Llynne

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS REPORT
SISTER THEA HOWE, GGCCM
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (132)
2021-2024

I would like to thank the subordinate chapters for their contributions to the International Headquarters this Triennium. All chapters were asked to send in $1.00 per member for the three years of Sister Glenda Winchester MWGM and Brother Lon Lowry MWGP triennium. All Saskatchewan chapters sent in money; some paid the fee for one year but most chapters sent money to pay per member for the three years.
In June while I attended the Grand Chapter of Alberta, Sister Helen Bilou, Canadian Chairperson of the International Headquarter Committee reported on our Canadian region and recognized us for our participation. The following information is where the money was spent at the Headquarters.

As of August 14th, $163,602.81 has been received by the RWGS. Here is the breakdown: solar film, flooring, and first floor air conditioners $115,207.86 and additional air conditioners with installation $7,000.00. The remaining funds will be used in the near future on the following items:
1. Upholstering furniture - $4,600.
2. Historical reproduction of fabric for Gold Room - $9,000.
3. Restoration of the Family Salon we need an additional $9,000 (painting, fabric, rug cleaning, draperies).
4. Water heater replacement for 4th floor, energy savings - $7,000
5. Extending the solar film to the first floor - $12,000
6. Cleaning of the air vent system for efficiency - $4,000
7. Sealing of the chimney caps for heat loss - $2,794.95

"Because of the efforts of your committee, we have saved a huge amount of money in operations. Three of the projects are restoration, helping to restore this beautiful house to its original glory. I hope you will be pleased with what we have done through your efforts."
Charles Chandler, RWGS

"Thank you to the committee for all your efforts on this most worthy project. The Trustees appreciate all you have contributed to our efforts to continue to return our beautiful headquarters to its rightful place as the place to be seen in DC. Again, THANK YOU!"
Jo Cullifer, RWGT Chairman

Thank you for helping to restore our International Headquarters. I appreciate your support as your General Grand Chapter Committee Member on International Headquarters the past few years.

MIZPAH #1, MOOSE JAW
Brother Lloyd Pethick, PGP – Reporter

Happy Fall to all the Chapters and their members from WM Sis. Sue Butz & WP Bro. Paul Tysdal.

We hope you all had a great summer as they seem to fly by so fast.

Our members continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for lunch and a good visit. Keeping in touch with our shut-ins and delivering rose bowls to them on their birthdays, etc. helps to make their day and keep them in the know.

Our Chapter was saddened by the passing of Sister Bonny Taylor and also Sister Darleen Smith's husband, Ev.

Mizpah Chapter #1 held the Official Visit of our very own Worthy Grand Matron Sister Lynne Moffatt & Worthy Grand Patron Brother Ray Moffatt on Monday August 19th.

They were supported by twelve (12) Grand Officers and their Special Pages, their daughters, Sister Amy Moffatt (Special Page of WGM) and & Sister Gillian Moffatt (Special Page of WGP).
Sister Elaine Lucas was presented with her 55 year Certificate.

Upcoming Chapter activities / events are….

- Regular Meeting September 16, 2024;
- Homecoming of the WGM & WGP on September 28, 2024. Tickets: Sister Lynann Pethick, 306-694-4121;
- Baking Walk on October 19th at St. Andrew's United Church;
- December 2nd …. Our last meeting & Installation of 2025 Officers;
- Christmas Raffle Tickets: Draw on December 2nd. Contact: Sister Cheryle Svab, 306-631-4598 or Sister Dianne Sanborn - 306-631-6474 .

We wish all those travelling a Safe Journey to the 51st Triennial Assembly in Myrtle Beach from October 24–31, 2024.

A Little Spark of KINDNESS….
Can put a burst of Sunshine
into Someone's Life

ACACIA #3, BIGGAR

Sister Urla Tyler, PM - Reporter

Acacia #3, Official visit June 18

Sister Myrtle Robinson, PM received her
50 year certificate from Sister Urla Tyler, PM

Sister Vera McNeil celebrating
her 90th birthday on July 11

Biggar and North Battleford members of Acacia journeyed to Unity to have lunch and wonderful visit with our Unity members in July.

Acacia Members have been attending official visits around the province, Mizpah #1 on August 19 and Corinthian #89 on August 24.

Acacia star members attended the internment graveside service for Sister Vivian Shipanoff, PM at the Biggar Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Acacia supplied a lunch for family and we all reminisced about Vivian.

SASKATOON #4

Sister Bev Otsuka, PGM - Reporter

Saskatoon Chapter #4 has been going through a new transition of time and dates of which we are not quite used to. For the past 100 years or so, we have met in the evening (3rd Monday for most of those years) and now have changed to accommodate our older members and our out-of-town members. Because our Temple is so busy, we were left with moving our meetings to the 1st Saturday of the month with holidays in May and July. This will more than likely change in 2025 after a vote of the chapter. Most of us would prefer having our summers back instead of meeting in April, off in May, on again in June, off again in July and back in August. We will keep you posted as to the new schedule when one is voted on…. Hopefully, this month!

Because of our disjointedness in our own schedule, a number of our members opted to visit and help with Chapters that needed our help. A number of us went to Alberta to help celebrate the new WGM in her installation (Kim McMinis– dualled with Saskatchewan).

Sister Merle Sawatsky (4,89) directed a fun choir at the installation.

A few of us also made our way to Winnipeg to attend the Manitoba Grand Chapter.

It was very unfortunate that our Warder, Sister Donna Rederburg, PGM, resigned as of June and so we appointed and installed Brother Joe Zbeetnoff into that position. We were very glad to have him on board as an installed officer.

A number of us made our way to Regina to help with the Initiation in July, Regina 7 was very happy to bring in two very fine young women, Georgina Sedaka and Emma Long, into the Order. Those of us who were visitors and acting officers very much enjoyed our day and were very happy to have been asked to participate.

Our official visit was slated for August 3rd, but due to the untimely and very sad passing of our Grand Sentinel, Brother Kevin Pizzey, we cancelled our meeting and supper during the last few days. We were able to stop everyone from coming, even the WGM from Alberta and her appointed officer. We did have the opportunity of meeting and greeting the WM and WP of Damascus Chapter in Arkansas. They both attended our meeting knowing that we had cancelled

the official visit and that this was a very condensed and fast meeting. They were lovely members and we hope to see them again.

A number of us were able to attend the service and luncheon for Kevin directly after our meeting. Our condolences are extended to the Hoskins/Pizzey family.

There are a number of Saskatoon #4 members that are dualled with Corinthian so we have a fair amount in regular attendance. As a HM, I am in attendance at each meeting and some of our other members come whenever possible (2 or 3 of the Wilsons, Carla Simsic and anyone else that chooses to attend). The WM is a dual member with us (Merle) and the AM is Janet Haryett (dual), the AC is Kayla Ingram (dual) so it looks like we will be in attendance for a while longer!

Sister Norma Wilson attended the July meeting and celebrated her birthday with us at Corinthian.

Sister Norma Wilson

A few of us went to Lloydminster 76 to help with their official visit/ meeting and attend Hands Across the Border. It is so very important for all of us as members to help other Chapters and support them in their endeavours. We in #4 may have been on a mixed-up holiday schedule this year, but our members have been very busy living out the principles that they were taught.
What a wonderful way to get to know other Stars and grow as friends from different areas of the province. We can only hope that our members keep up their visiting and others do the same!

REGINA #7

Sister Donna Sanders, GGCCM and PGM AND
Sister Marianne Woods, PM – Reporters.

July was a fun and busy month for Regina #7! We were pleased to welcome WGM Sister Lynne and WGP Brother Ray for their Official Visit to Regina #7. On the Friday before the Official Visit, Sister Mary Ann Couse, WM, Sister Marianne Woods, AM and our WGM and WGP visited with Sister Ruby Maitland. PM and Sister Joyce Brown, PM. Sister Joyce hosted us Victoria Estates, which was her new home. It was a wonderful morning and afternoon, and Sister Mary Ann brought beautiful flowers for each of our dear Sisters.

Brother Ray, Sisters Ruby, Lynne and Mary Ann

Sister Mary Ann, Brother Ray, Sisters Lynne and Joyce

l-r: Brother Ray, Sister Lynne and Sister Joyce

Regina #7 hosted a lunch prior to the Installation of Brother Rod Stafford, PGM as Grand Warder, after which followed our Official Visit.

Sister Donna Sanders, Brother Rod Stafford and Sister Barbara Webb

We hosted a Special meeting in July for the Ceremony of Initiation for Candidates Emma Long and Georgette Sedaka. We are extremely grateful for several members of Mizpah #1 and Saskatoon #4 who graciously offered to be substitute officers for us on this special day. We are so delighted to have two new members join our ranks!

First row l-r: Brother Lloyd Pethick, PGP, Sisters Georgette and Emma, Sister Mary Ann, WM

At our August meeting, the Altar was draped in lovely memory of Brother Kevin Pizzey, Grand Sentinel.

Our Dear Sister Joyce Brown, PM passed to the Grand Chapter on High on August 27, 2024 at the age of 83

years. The Altar was draped in loving memory of Sister Joyce at our September meeting.

Sister Joyce was a 45-year member and a Life Member. We shall miss her bright smile, quick laugh, and gentle heart.

Joyce Eileen Brown was born and raised in Regina. She grew up in an 8-sided house designed and built by her dad. She graduated from Scott Collegiate, having taken some commercial classes. She worked for the Department of Highways as a steno.

She met Chuck Brown on a blind date arranged by one of her friends. They were married in 1958. Once the 4 boys were all in school, she began working for the Exhibition Association in various areas and was involved in the first lottery. When Chuck started his own business, Chuck's Heating, she set up the office in their home, and attended SIAST to complete her Accounting Certificate. She also kept the books for one of her sons. She had 4 sons, 9 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. One of Joyce's favourite memories was being the "catcher" when one of her grandchildren arrived unexpectedly early!

She found her love of water – being in it and on it – when she was young. She and Chuck enjoyed their cottage for years, and she really loved sailing on *Silvia*, the sailboat built by her uncle. For years, she hosted our chapter for an afternoon and BBQ at the cottage! Joyce enjoyed sewing, reading, coin collecting, and being active at church.

She joined Eastern Star on March 22, 1978. She held the offices of Chaplain, Adah, Esther, Electa, Warder, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron and Worthy Matron (1986,) and Treasurer for 17 years. She served the Grand Chapter as DDGM (1998-99) and was Grand Esther (2008-9). She was assistant to the Grand Secretary for several years, and served on various committees. She was Grand Representative to Vermont (1998-99) and visited their Grand Chapter in 1999. She attended General Grand Chapter twice. She affiliated with Yuma Chapter and held offices there, also. And - she was famous in our chapter for her Fruit Cocktail Cake – fabulous!

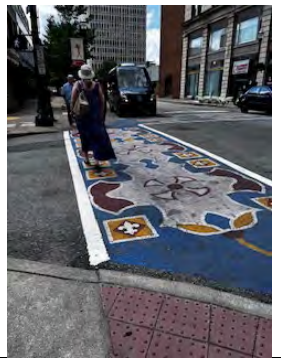
Sister Joyce Brown, PM

At our September meeting, Sister Gilda Treleaven Graham, PM was presented at the Altar by Sister Betty Cumming, PM. Sister Gilda was escorted to the East and given Grand Honours. Sister Donna presented Sister Gilda Treleaven Graham with her 60-year pin.

Sister Donna has had a lovely summer filled with travel visiting with Sisters and Brothers, including the Orientation for next triennium in Louisville Kentucky.

Sister Laurie Costello, Sister Donna's travel companion

Derby hats everywhere!



Colourful streets

Sister Marianne PMWGM

Met up with old friends! Sister Barbara Grobler

Coming home during WestJet strike via Amtrak train!!

Our Sister Marianne as the Bird Woman in Mary Poppins

Look forward to seeing you at the Homecoming!
Happy Trails!