



The Star Gazer

Year 10, Volume 1

Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan, Order of the Eastern Star

June 2023

FROM THE EDITORS



Star Love, Marianne and Jean

FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON AND WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As the 2023-2024 Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan, we would like to thank all members that attended our *Spread Kindness...Live in Love Year (SK LILY)* Installation on the evening of April 29, 2023, and your support through out May 2023 and the coming year.

May was a very busy month for us with two Official Visits in the South, completion of our digital *2023-2024 SK LILY* booklets, development of an Official Grand Chapter of

Saskatchewan Facebook page, and updating the current Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan website.

You can now find the Official Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan OES Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GCSaskOES/. Further to our new Official Facebook page, the Worthy Grand Matron has updated our current Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan OES website – saskoes.weebly.com as much as possible. Our website is not yet password protected but is updated to reflect our current SK LILY Grand Family pictures and information.

We encourage you to check these out and “like and follow” our Facebook page so it reaches as many people as possible. Please email your pictures and Subordinate Chapter Events to saskgrandsec@hotmail.com if you would like to have them posted on our new Facebook page and website.

We are also very pleased to announce that a Task Force Committee has been set up by the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan OES Executive from the motion passed at “Celebrate the Strength of Our Stars” Session, April 29, 2023. The Task Force Committee members will consist of the Grand Line Officers, Chair of Finance, Chair of Jurisprudence, and Chair of the Grand Trustees.

The first Task Force Committee meeting will occur in mid-June 2023. All members, through their Subordinate Chapter Secretaries, will be kept updated on the progress and actions of this committee in the months to come.

Brother George Frederick Worthy Grand Patron stated the following at our April 30th Executive

Meeting and in his dedication. “We are getting to the point where the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan may have to follow Quebec’s lead, ***though we are confident not for some time.***” During the WGP’s first year as Grand Trustee (2018), he plotted our decline in yearly membership and found that we would have folded by 2022. ***Since the WGP’s initial assessment, the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan has experienced a levelling off in losses and an increase in initiates which has improved our prospects until the early 2030’s as of now.***

As your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, we are fully aware that the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan OES is facing challenges regarding our current membership numbers. ***We believe that all OES members of our Grand Jurisdictions need to focus on our recent positive gains and, if we (all OES members) work toward increasing our membership numbers, we will significantly improve our Grand Jurisdiction’s prospects of being around for many years to come.*** We hope that all our members will join us in working towards continuing OES membership growth in the coming year and future years.

Also, we would respectfully request that if you have sent us an email through the Grand Chapter Office or directly to the WGM or/and WGP’s email addresses and there is no response, to please feel free to follow up by text or phone in a week or so if you have not received a response from us. Emails are great ways to communicate but if they end up in our spam or the email address is incorrect, then we have no knowledge that you sent your email(s) to us. If we are not responding to your email, it means that we have not received it and a text or phone call can quickly fix this.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Rederburg George Frederick
Worthy Grand Matron Worthy Grand Patron

MIZPAH #1, MOOSE JAW

Brother Lloyd Pethick, PGP – Reporter

Mizpah Chapter #1 held their first meeting for 2023 in March with Sister Lynann Pethick as Worthy Matron & Brother Ray Moffatt as Worthy Patron.

In April we Initiated Sister Joan Paquin into our Chapter and as well we celebrated Sister Dorothy & Brother Vern Mittelholtz’s 75th Anniversary.



Sister Dorothy and Brother Vern Mittelholtz

Grand Chapter was held in Regina the last week of April, which was well attended by our members.

The Grand Officers from our Chapter for the 2023-2024 year are; Sister Lynne Moffatt (AGM), Brother Ray Moffatt (AGP), Sister Margaret Tatarinoff (Grand Treasurer), Sister Sue Butz (AGC) and Sister Barbara Webb (Grand Lecturer). We wish them all a great year.

On May 13th, a School of Instruction was held here in Moose Jaw as well as our Official Visit of WGM Sister Donna Rederburg & WGP Brother George Frederick. We also visited four (4) of our shut-ins which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Official Visit of Sister Donna Rederburg, WGM and Brother George Frederick, WGP with Officers of Mizpah #1

Members with years of service honoured:

- Sister Marjorie Pritchard (55-year certificate);
- Sister Marlene Wiebe (65-year certificate);
- Sister Judy & Brother Lorne Tilson with 45-year Certificates;
- Sister Margaret Tatarinoff with 40-year pin & certificate;
- and Sister Sue Butz , 25-year pin & certificate.



Sis Maxine Olmsted was honoured with a Certificate of Commitment for helping sponsoring of a Refugee Family in Swift Current and instrumental in helping to raise over \$90,000.

Other Members recognized were:

- Sister Marsha Matiyek (25-year pin & certificate);
- Brother Doug Coleman (25-year pin & certificate);
- Sister Dorothy Mittelholtz (45-year certificate);
- Sister Kay Ogilvie (65-year certificate).

We Congratulate all these members for their years of dedication and support to their communities and to our Order of the Eastern Star.

At our June meeting, we will welcome Sister Andrea Klassen as an Affiliate.

We are selling Wheel of Fortune tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) as one of our Chapter annual fundraisers. Then in August to November, we have a Raffle, with various prizes. These are also \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please contact Sisters Lynann Pethick (306-631-4129), Dianne Sanborn (306-631-6474) or Cheryle Svab (306-631-4598) if you would like some tickets.

We wish each and everyone a Safe, & Happy Summer.

A Blessing
*Bless us all with.....the blessings of
 Peace
 the beauty of Hope
 the spirit of Love
 the comfort of Faith*

ACACIA #3, BIGGAR

Sister Urla Tyler, PM -Reporter

At Acacia's January meeting, Sister Beth Joseph, PM received her 60-year pin from PGM Idella Barr and in March received her certificate from WM Carol Fowke-Burns. She is actually a 62-year member, but COVID happened!



Sister Beth Joseph, PM and Sister Carol Fowke-Burns, WM

Over the first three months of 2023, members made 12.5-inch squares to make a quilt. After all was said and done we managed to make 7 quilts and 21 Afghans.

These were presented at Grand Chapter Thursday night session by Sister Carol Fowke-Burns, WM and Sister Marion Kelly, PM to the surprise of WGM Cheri Cowan and WGP Rick Galloway and the Ronald McDonald House representative was overwhelmed.

Members from Biggar, Unity, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Luseland, Cudworth of Acacia Chapter No. 3 hold up quilts and Afghans that were on display in the Grand Chapter room.



Acacia #3 members with Quilts and Afghans

Ten members from Acacia attended Grand Chapter, Bev Otsuka, Urla Tyler, Linda Ard and Gordon Yarde were in the Grand Chapter choir, and Robin Isabelle acted as a page. The Bible and Emblem ceremony was narrated by Cheryl Rann, PGM along with her line of officers with Elizabeth McMahon PM as Chaplain.

The Bromantics entertained Friday evening with 50s and 60s music with everyone dancing up a storm. Some pictures to prove it!!! The Pink Ladies took a turn on the dance floor, Urla Tyler and Merle Sawatsky.



Sisters Merle and Urla

The last of the night owls at the dance, Urla Tyler, Debbie Robinson and Marion Kelly.



Kayla Ingram took her turn on the dance floor with Bruce Farrer, Lloyd Pethick and Anita Ingram.



Sister Anita Ingram, Brother Lloyd Pethick, Brother Bruce Farrer and Sister Kayla Ingram

Ten 50-plus year members were introduced; from Acacia Bev Otsuka (53 years) Urla Tyler (53 years) and Marion Kelly (58 years) were among them for total years of 579 7/12 years!!! Sister Robin Isabelle, PM received her commission as Grand Representative of Arizona in Saskatchewan.

Installation of 2023-24 Officers took place on Saturday evening with Sister Elizabeth McMahon being installed as Grand Esther.

Sister Carol Fowke-Burns WM presented Sister Elizabeth with a wrist corsage from her Acacia sisters and brothers.



Sisters Carol and Elizabeth

It was a wonderful weekend of renewing friendships and making new ones. See you all next year at Park Town in Saskatoon!!!

REGINA #7

Sister Donna Sanders,
GGCCM - Canadian Chair of ESTARL, PGM – and
Marianne Woods, PM, Reporters

Brother Tom Hannan, PGP

Tom Hannan was born on Sunday, July 16, 1922, when he became the 4th son born to Dawson and Elizabeth Hannan who lived in the Buck Lake District and later the town of Gray, just southeast of Regina.

Tom was uncle to 4 nieces and 5 nephews, grand uncle to 18 and great grand uncle to many more!

Tom graduated from Gray high school followed by a year at Normal School to become a teacher. His education was interrupted for 3 years when he joined the army but after discharge, he was able to

obtain his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan and a few years later, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Regina.

He was a classroom teacher and principal for 20 years, teaching in several small southern Saskatchewan towns, including Gray, Craik, Lewvan, Avonlea and Milestone. In 1968 he began teaching at the Correspondence School here in Regina until 1986 when he retired.

Tom has been involved for many, many years with the Masons, the Order of Eastern Star and the Scottish Rite. He has been a faithful member of St Paul's Cathedral having been confirmed into the Anglican Church at a young age. He has been a volunteer for many outreach programs all his life and will always be remembered for his kind-heartedness, thoughtfulness, patience, and genuine caring nature.

Tom was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star 19 September, 1956 in Bowling Green Chapter # 83 at Colfax, then affiliated with Milestone #60 in 1973. He affiliated with our chapter April 1, 2007, but had been an Honorary Member of our chapter for many years. In our chapter, he served as Warder and Worthy Patron, two years in a row with Sister Marianne Woods, PM.

He was WGP in 1967, with WGM Sister Isabel Welch in the "Garden of Prayer" year. Their motto was "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" and those of us who remember Tom know that is what he did for us – brightened our corner. Sister Rose Whaley, PGM, said to the Grand Chapter in 2016, the 50th anniversary of his installation as WGP, "He is the kind of fellow who works in a quiet unassuming way, with no thought of reward or recognition. But have no fear, you can always count on his sense of humor, which at times may raise an eyebrow." Brother Jack Smith submitted a request to General Grand Chapter for Brother Tom to be honored on the occasion of 50 years of

service as a Past Grand Patron, and Sister Donna Sanders, GGCCM, was pleased to present it to him. Tom, of course, - humble as always.

Tom's niece, Beth, described him best at his 100th birthday party: "You are loved and admired, and you have influenced us to always strive to do our best, help our fellow man, and to remember that above everything else, family comes first. You have done so not only with your encouraging words but in the quiet, humble way you have lived your life."

Sisters Donna Sanders, Melinda Nagy, Jean Thibeault and Marianne Woods Regina #7 Chapter were honoured to serve as members of the Honour Guard at Brother Tom's Celebration of Life on May 4, 2023 at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Members of the Masons from Brother Tom's Masonic Lodge and Members of the Scottish Rite were also part of the Honour Guard.

Our Brother Tom Hannan, PGP, and RGG.
(Really Great Guy)



Brother Tom Hannan, PGP
at his 100th Birthday Celebration

Regina Chapter No 7 was very busy at Grand Chapter. We had several members in the choir having a good time!

Our Brother Rod Stafford was the Aide-de-Camp for the entrance of the Lieutenant Governor!!! And then opened a session with his WGM, our Sister Donna Sanders GGCCM Canada Chair of ESTARL.



Sister Donna and Brother Rod

We are also very honoured to have three of our members installed as Grand Officers! Sister Gilda Treleaven Graham as Grand Martha, Sister Jean Thibeault as Grand Marshal and Sister Mary Ann Couse as Grand Trustee.



Sisters Jean and Gilda (photo unavailable for Sister Mary Ann)

CONGRATULATIONS! ❤️💚💜💛💙

The Gala on Friday was a great success and enjoyed by all!



I finally got to celebrate my 50+1 year of nursing in Edmonton and got to wear my Gold Cap!!!



I then went to Ireland where we saw a bit of our new monarch King Charles III's Coronation Celebration!!!!



Several of our members went to Manitoba's Grand Chapter. It was their 100th anniversary and OV of The MWGM and MWGP Sister Glenda and Brother Lon! She is quite the card!! We had so much fun!!



Sister Glenda

The Past Grands did the ribbon ceremony which was so special!!



Then we took off for Alberta's Grand Chapter!! Such fun!



Regina No 7 was invited to a BarBQ with the Brothers from Wascana Lodge No 2 in Regina on June 7! What a wonderful evening it was!! We should all do this more often!!!

Have a great summer everyone and see you at the Official Visits!! Ours is September 7th!!

ASSINIBOIA #8

Sisters Elaine Lucas, PM – Reporter

Due to a storm we were not able to have our April meeting until after Grand Chapter. We were able to get our installation of officers done before our May meeting.

We had a great day for our Official Visit.....first one for Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Donna Rederburg and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother George Frederick. We started our day with books being checked. Thank goodness no mistakes!



Sister Marie, WM and Brother Bruce, WP with the Grand Family



Sisters Donna, Marie and Lynne



We were very happy that our Sister Chapter,

Mizpah #1, filled in as Star points, Brother Lloyd Pethick PGP as Associate Patron and Brother Ray Moffat PGP as Sentinel. Brother Bruce Farrer, PGP acted as organist. Thank you all so much!



Sister Cathy and Brother Bruce Farrer

Sister Llynne Lambert, PGM, and GGCCM-Chair of Service Dogs was presented. There were 8 Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons. There were 3 Elected Grand Officers and Grand Trustee, 4 Appointed Grand Officers and 3 Grand Representatives.

We sat down for our banquet at the 55 Club at 5:00 pm. We then played our favorite game, "Heads and Tails." We were done early enough that our visitors were able to be driving in daylight. We were able to follow our Worthy Grand Matron's motto, "Spread Kindness for her Live In Love Year!"

PRINCE ALBERT #16

Sister Dorothea Herron, PM – Reporter

Prince Albert Chapter was represented by six members in attendance at Grand Chapter, with, of

course, our own Worthy Grand Patron and his special page, Sister Alice Bedford, along with Grand Electa, Sister Linda Galloway. Since his very satisfactory term as WGP is concluded, he was presented with a cutting board with emblems from his year. Maybe when you visit, he will use it as a charcuterie board - just to show it off.



Brother Rick's Parting Gift as WGP

One of the speakers for the Official Opening was His Honour Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, who gave a very warm welcome to all in attendance. One of the lucky persons to be in the right spot at the right time was Sister Alice Bedford to get a picture with the honoured guest.



Sister Alice Bedford with His Honour Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Each year, at the PAGO luncheon, the Loving Cup is presented to the PGM for having the most Past Appointed Grand Officers at the meeting. This year the honour went to Sister Cheryl Rann; Sister Sophie Sajtos was a member of the Grand family that year.



Sister Sophie with the Loving Cup

LLOYMINSTER #76

Deborah MacDonald, Reporter

Chapter 76 is looking forward to hosting the Official Visit of Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Donna Rederburg, and Brother George Frederick on June 24, 2023 at 2:00 pm in the afternoon with a supper held at 5:P.M. The cost of the dinner will be \$20.00.

The Hands across the Border exchange between Saskatchewan and Alberta will also be part of this afternoon, so come out and renew old friendships and make some new ones. We look forward to seeing everyone and catching up with everyone.

Have a great summer and take care.

CORINTHIAN #89, GOVAN

Brother Bruce Farrer, PGP – Reporter

After our two-month winter break, we are back attending our monthly meetings. Sister Cheryle Svab, our Worthy Matron has organized her year to be centred around one of the most intelligent animals there is...the often-maligned pig. There are various pigs of different sizes and shapes lurking all over the Chapter room. Each month the Worth Patron. is telling a story about one of ten famous pigs.

In March we heard about Wilbur, the pig destined to become ham and bacon and of his friend Charlotte, an amazing spider who created words in her web, a feat which contributed to Wilbur's never being slaughtered. The popular children's book *Charlotte's Web* tells the whole story. April featured Miss Piggy, from the Muppets. She was well known for her on-again off-again relationship with Kermit, the Frog. In 1996 she was rated by TV Guide 23rd out of the 50 most famous television personalities. May's famous pig was Babe, another pig apparently destined to become ham and bacon; however when it was discovered that he was able to separate white hens from brown hens and was just as successful herding sheep, he too, like Wilbur, became too valuable to be slaughtered.

The April Grand Chapter was enjoyed by all our members who attended, and the Friday night Gala was especially successful. Sisters Merle Sawatsky, and Kayla Ingram were Grand Officers, Sister Jeanie Daigle Lunney was Special Page to the WGM and Brother Bruce Farrer was Parliamentarian.

We were pleased to see that Sister Judy Brown is Grand Electa for 2023–24. In addition, five other Corinthian members are serving on various Committees: Sisters Betty Abrey, Kayla Ingram, Lorraine Sobchysyn. Grace Griffiths and Brother Gerald Griffiths.

We have many projects planned for the year. Later this summer we will be selling as we always do, the Grey Cup tickets and this spring and early summer we are selling tickets on two quilts. The one below will be First Prize and the blue one will be Second Prize.



First Prize



Second Prize

Many Corinthian members are dual members so you will probably find a Corinthian member with tickets to sell at the next OES Official Visit or regular meeting.

Corinthian never has a coin march but this year we are holding a monthly toonie draw at our noon lunch. The May winner was Marilyn Bodnar, who won a banana holder and two bananas.

Earlier this spring four energetic Sisters, two of them who don't officially belong to our Chapter spent many hours housecleaning the Temple. A sincere thank you to our WM, Sister Cheryle Svab, IPM, Janet Haryett as well as Sisters Dianne Sanborn, and Bev Otsuka for all their hard work.

After many, many months of waiting, Sister Betty Abrey finally underwent hip surgery at the end of May. She was able to go home almost immediately afterwards. Once she and Sister Kayla start running up and down our front steps we will be able to say that every single Corinthian member and the two "might as well be members" are ready to run a marathon... at least around the block.

Our attendance will be lower for the June meeting as the "Hands Across the Border" event was set the same day as our stated meeting. We wish everyone a wonderful summer.

YORKTON #92

Sister Ruby E. Lee, PGM - Reporter

Hard to believe three months have passed and it is time to create another report.

Our Chapter continues to meet on a regular basis. A noon luncheon and time of fellowship precedes each meeting. Our members volunteer to provide food and each gathering is a fun-filled event.

Yorkton was well represented at Grand Chapter with many members involved in various roles – Grand Chapter Officer, Choir Director, Flag Bearers, Opening Sessions, and Committee Members. The attendance was much lower than

usual. This is a big concern for our members, but many feel the cost of attending is just too high.

Our area was hit with a huge snowstorm on April 20.



Prior to this weather event, it was beginning to look like spring might be around the corner. The ice did eventually leave Fishing Lake on May 11 and before long docks were beginning to appear along the shoreline. People are so anxious to get out on the water.

Members of our Chapter held a very successful BBQ at the Yorkton Superstore on Friday, May 26. Weather was a bit cool with a few showers, but didn't seem to chase away the hunger pangs.



We have planned another BBQ for Friday afternoon, June 16. Have a safe and happy summer!

ACCESSION #96, MELFORT

Sister Florence Bott, PM – Reporter

Accession Chapter #96 was happy to initiate Dave Waldner to our Chapter on April 15th, Congratulations Dave!



Brother Dave with Accession Members

Congratulations to Sister Donna Rederburg WGM & Brother George Frederick WGP and all the Grand Family on your “Live In Love Year” .

We’re saddened to announce the passing of Sister Betty Morton on May 2nd. Sister Betty & Brother Ted were initiated to Accession Chapter on October 30th, 1984.

Star Memorial Service for Sister Betty Morton...December 12, 1923-May 2, 2023.

Rest in peace Sister Betty,
your work on earth is done.

REGAL #132, SASKATOON

Sister Thea Howe, GGCCM-IHQ - Reporter

Chapter members have been busy with all kinds of catering. Sister Angela did the dinner at RMHC in honour of her son, Carter. Some members decorated SMILE cookies at Tim Horton’s. We have provided lunches for several organizations as fundraisers for our needs. It is a great time for us to get together as a group and while doing work we actually get to know each other a bit better rather than just seeing each other at a stated meeting. June is the month that we make pails and pails of cookies to be donated to Camp Circle of Friends. (camp for children with cancer)

We were extremely saddened by the loss of two of our sisters. Sister Verna Mills HLM, former Queen Alexandra member, passed away just prior to her 100th birthday. Sister Alice McAuley PGM, even though Sister Alice had moved to B.C. years ago she continued to keep in touch with Chapter members including joining us for Zoom calls. We will miss these two STARS!

In April, several members attended Grand Chapter in Regina. We were proud to have OUR Brother George Frederick installed as WGP for the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan. Brother George has always been a dedicated star member willing to help out whenever needed. Need any baking done; Brother George is your guy!! We were delighted when Brother Dave Hartley was elected as OUR Grand Sentinel, another Brother who is dedicated and a “gopher extraordinaire”. We wish him and Sister Jenny Guest GC a fun-filled few years as they prepare for their year in the Grand East together.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you, September 30 at our Official Visit.

CHAPTER REPORTERS

Mizpah #1, Moose Jaw-Lloyd Pethick, PGP
Acacia #3, Biggar-Urula Tyler, PM
Saskatoon #4-Bev Otsuka, PGM
Regina #7-Donna Sanders, GGCCM, PGM
Assiniboia #8-Elaine Lucas, PM
Prince Albert #16-Dorothea Herron, PM
Lloydminster #76-Deborah MacDonald
Corinthian #89, Govan-Bruce Farrer, PGP
Yorkton #92-Ruby E. Lee, PGM
Accession #96, Melfort-Florence Bott, PM
Regal #132, Saskatoon-Thea Howe, GGCCM-IHQ

Thanks for the articles and pictures. Members, please contact your Chapter Reporter with news. **The Star Gazer** is a publication of the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan and is designed to enhance communication within the Order by providing timely, interesting, and educational information. **The Star Gazer** will be emailed to Chapter Secretaries (or to another Chapter member if the Secretary does not have email access) on June 18, 2023

Please note deadline for next submissions:
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*Spread
Kindness
Live
In
Love
Year*

