

# The Maryland Star

A Publication of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Order of the Eastern Star

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April-June 2013

## The Dreams, Friendships, and Memories Session

The 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of Maryland was held April 28 - May 1, 2013 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City. WGM Debra L. Hribar and WGP David L. Hall presided over a very successful and enjoyable Session.

Sunday began with a contemporary church service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, across the street from the hotel. Approximately 35 members from all over Maryland attended.

The Sessions Banquet was held on Sunday evening. We were honored with the presence of PMWGM Barbara J. Benton, who brought us greetings from the General Grand Chapter.



The WGM and WGP welcome PMWGM Barbara Benton

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Brother Dennis Paul Jordan, GGC Trustee and PGP of California. His classical piano music and great sense of humor were very much enjoyed by everyone.



PGP Dennis entertained everyone at the Banquet

At the end of the evening, PGP Kevin Hribar, husband of the WGM, had a special surprise for Sister Debbie. He came into the banquet room dressed as the Phantom of the Opera, and they danced to the music from the play. Congratulations to the Banquet Committee for giving everyone such a wonderful evening and starting our Grand Session off just right!

Monday morning found the lobby decorated with the WGM's and WGP's emblems of teacups and honey bees, the Mad Hatter and Winnie the Pooh, and the honey pot. We even got to see Alice in Wonderland go down the rabbit hole!



Watch your step, Alice!

The Crystal Ballroom was filled with more beautiful decorations. The Grand East even had Alice hosting a garden tea party for her friends, including the Cheshire cat.



Everyone enjoyed Sister Nancy Natkin and her tea cart, which continued fundraising efforts for this year's Grand Chapter Charities Committee.



Sister Nancy - dressed for tea!

Monday morning began the official opening of the Grand Session, with Sister Linda D. Sanner, PGM, and Brother Patrick A. Curtis, PGP, calling the Grand Chapter to order. The WGM and WGP presided very capably over their Sessions. Many reports were given and special events occurred throughout the Sessions.

There were 66 50-year members honored on Monday morning. The Necrology ceremony was very beautiful, presenting a eulogy for PGP Ralph C. Copper and honoring the 87 members who entered the Grand Chapter above. The Credentials Committee reported 438 members in attendance, with 296 voting delegates. Maryland currently has 44 Chapters. The total membership is 5,196. There were 54 initiated, 134 suspensions, 19 demits, and 191 deaths. Twelve members took the Deputy test and all passed. There are now 37 deputies, two of whom are new, and there are three subs. In addition, 13 members were surprised with Grand Representative commissions.

Monday night found us honoring our Grand Officers, welcoming many special guests and enjoying several ceremonies. One of the most moving was that of PMWGM Barbara Benton, attired in her native Choctaw Indian costume, performing the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



PMWGM Barbara Benton signed the Lord's Prayer

The Grand Chapter of Maryland is honored to have four of our members on various General Grand Chapter Committees. Sister Wilma Thompson is Chairman of the Belmont Ball. Sister Mary Adeline Bradford is Chairman of Public Relations and will be selling CDs of Brother Dennis Paul Jordan's piano music. Sister Ernestine Hale is on the Youth Committee. Brother Jon A. Thompson is on the Scottish Rite Committee and will be selling OES handkerchiefs and Star pins.

We were also honored to have in attendance the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Brother Gerald A. Piepiora, who is also a member of OES. He spoke of the importance of membership. He also remarked that OES should teach Masons how to fund-raise. He stated our members should pat themselves on the back for a job well done and that we should all strive for peace and harmony in our Chapters.

The WGP presided over Jurisprudence on Tuesday morning. Several legislative items from the General Grand Chapter were discussed regarding members not serving in the East or the West in two Chapters at the same time; the replacement of dual membership by plural membership, thus allowing members to belong to multiple Chapters; expanding the eligibility for membership in OES; members signing petitions not being on the investigating committee; and the serving of alcoholic beverages at OES functions.

Amendments to the Constitution brought about much discussion; i.e.: reviews of the books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer; allowing the Grand Secretary to work from home part-time; allowing for vacating certain stations within a Chapter; and the surrender of charters by Chapters.

During the Session, McKinley #12 was awarded the Membership Committee's trophy for initiating the most new members during the Grand year. Congratulations to McKinley #12!



WM Mollie and WP James Arnold accept the trophy

Following Tuesday night's session, we were treated to a party with cookies and tea and were entertained by:



the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and...



... a sweet honey bee, who had a party in the Grand East with Alice and friends!

Maryland's Chapters and members were very generous in their donations to the various Grand Chapter charities:

WGM Special Jewelry - \$1,650; Greetings Book - \$14,050; Maryland OES Tags - \$226; Relief - \$1,310; Bonnie Blink - \$1,400; Youth - \$1,611; Eastern Star Scholarship Foundation - \$2,018; Grand Chapter Charities Christmas event - \$4,725; Arthritis - \$1,465; Cancer - \$4,773; Heart - \$2,474; Military & Veterans - \$2,628; ESTARL - \$4,072; WGM-WGP Special Project - Alzheimer's - \$8,500; Ways and Means - \$8,975; Related Charities - \$54,537.42.



The 2013-2014 Grand Family

Elections were held Wednesday morning and the following installed Wednesday afternoon:

- WGM - Bette L. Bowen, #67/61
- WGP - William D. Gunn, #40
- AGM - Claudia A. Eaton, #46
- AGP - Edsel D. Crouse, #83
- Grand Secretary - Donna Almony, #42
- Grand Treasurer - Kevin A. Hribar, PGP, #49
- Grand Conductress - Nancy L. Ford, #33
- Assoc. Grand Conductress - Diane J. Smith, #27
- Grand Trustee - Leslie R. Gilliam, PGM, #112
- Grand Trustee - Joan E. Morris, PGM, #10
- Grand Trustee - G. Phil Beeman, PGP, #15
- Grand Chaplain - William D. Dula, #40
- Grand Lecturer - Kay C. Bond, PGM, #61
- Grand Marshal - Deborah L. Raynovich, #67
- Grand Organist - Nancy L. Natkin, #70
- Grand Adah - Judith T. Stone, #80
- Grand Ruth - Rachel K. Sunderland, #38
- Grand Esther - Brenda H. Aliff, #107
- Grand Martha - Linda H. Quillen, #108
- Grand Electa - Susan D. Schupfer, #12
- Grand Warder - James B. Bachtell, #89
- Grand Sentinel - Ernest R. Birckhead, #112

The Bibles were exchanged, led by the outgoing Grand Chaplain, C. Elaine Niemeyer, #70, and incoming Grand Chaplain, William Dula, #40. In addition, Grand Master Gerald Piepiora conducted the Square and Compasses ceremony at the altar - the first in our 115-year history. The General Grand Chapter approved the use of this ceremony within OES jurisdictions in 2009. The ceremony was then approved by the Grand Master of Maryland.

A highlight of the installation was the Chair Brigade, 22 Brothers who brought out the chairs for the semicircle and then took them away after all were installed. WGM Bette and WGM William gave their acceptance speeches and made remarks. JPGM Debra Hribar received the jewel of PGM Audrey Ditch, and JPGP David Hall received the jewel of PGP Clarence Harmeyer. After all ceremonies were completed and introductions, presentations and appointments were made, the Grand Chapter was proclaimed closed by Sister Deborah L. Raynovich, Grand Marshal. Following the Session, members were invited to a reception hosted by Sister Bette and Brother William.

*(Thanks to Karla Light for her very generous contributions to this article.)*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WGM



Bette Bowen, WGM, and William Gunn, WGP

Welcome to the 2013-2014 "Face In The Mirror" Grand Chapter year!

I congratulate the Elective and Appointive Grand Officers as they embark on their individual journeys.

Our theme this year is "Happiness through loving service." As we serve our beloved Order, let us grace each moment with gratitude. It is the service of willingness to give our best to the Order; the service of helpfulness; the integrity that fulfills the ideals of our Order.

As we begin our Face In The Mirror year, let us reflect on the following:

- F - Fraternal Bodies' Relationship
- A - Advertisement
- C - Community Involvement
- E - Education - educating the public

Sisters and Brothers, we need to FACE the fact that we need to have purpose and vision in rescuing our Order. Our Order is a 'movement' and not a monument. We cannot afford to stand by and watch it or look at it.

I ask you, "What kind of an example are you to others?" When you see your FACE in the mirror, what do you see? Does your image reflect charity, truth, and loving kindness? Let our mirrors help us to achieve our goals for today and for the future; show us how to treat one another with respect and loving kindness. Let us reflect these core values each time we look into the mirror.

Strive for perfection. Friends and family say to me, "You are a perfectionist." To their

comments I reply, "With perfection comes excellence!" The quality of our work is a reflection of our excellence. Sisters and Brothers, our performance gives us a platform. By our spirited excellence, we explore new ways to grow and to take the initiative to learn how we can improve. When we stop improving, we stop growing. Realize your attitude is everything. Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a process; working together is SUCCESS!

Our Motto is "Let It Begin With Me." Let us be the first to give a friendly sign; to nod first; to smile first; to speak first; and if such a thing is necessary, to forgive first. These are ways to spread light - to be the candle or the 'mirror' that reflects a positive attitude. The Worthy Patrons, under the direction of our Worthy Grand Patron, are introducing "The Chapter Excellence Program." With forty-four Chapters participating in this Program, we can accomplish goals we thought impossible. When we do more than is expected, we had better be prepared for new doors to open!

I ask that you keep me in your prayers this year, that you will walk beside me and be my friend, and that God will give me strength for the tasks that lie ahead.

Bette L. Bowen, WGM

## Inaugural Ritual Competition

The Grand Chapter of Maryland held its first Ritual Competition on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at the Grand Lodge in Baltimore. WGM Debra Hribar wanted to have a competition for OES members that was similar to the Ritual Competition the Job's Daughters have each year. The idea for the competition was to encourage members to learn and study the ritual. There were many categories for the members to participate in, both individually and as a team. The individual categories included Worthy Patron, Conductress, Chaplain, Adah, Ruth,

Esther, Martha, Electa and the Heroines (all 5 Star Point lectures). Members could also participate in a Star Point Team. The judges for the competition were the members of the Ritual Committee and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons.

The winners were announced at Sessions by WGM Debra Hribar and PGM Edith Leach. Unfortunately, there was only one team entered in the Star Point team, so that category was dropped this year. Hopefully it will be included next year. Each participant received a certificate of participation. The winners were given gift cards. The winners were:

- Worthy Patron - Ted Raynovich, #67
- Conductress-Pam Whitecavage-Kincade, #27
- Chaplain - Beverly Geisler, #83
- Adah - Elaine Niemeyer, #70
- Ruth - Joan Maloney, #62
- Esther - Karen Janczy, #112
- Martha - no entries
- The Heroines - Karla Light, #107

Everyone who participated did a great job and represented their Chapters well. They all enjoyed the competition and said they would encourage others to participate next year. It is hoped that the ritual competition will be part of Sister Bette and Brother Bill's plans for 2013-2014.

Karla Light, #107

### GRAND LINE RECEPTION

The Grand Line reception was held on Sunday, June 23, 2013 at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club in Cumberland, Maryland. The Ali Ghan Temple was a beautiful setting for the event. The guests were met out front by the Order of St. Andrew Shriners in full regalia, including kilts. The ladies were escorted inside by these handsome fellows. The host Chapters were Oakland #67, Victory #40, Annapolis #46, Harford #83, Highland #33 and Havre de Grace #27.



The handsome escorts!

The dining room was decorated in a garden theme, and each table was decorated with flower pots with flowers of various colors. The guests enjoyed beautiful harp music while they ate, provided by Lynn Dale.

The Grand Line Officers were introduced by Charlene Bennett, Chairman: Bette Bowen, WGM, #67/#61; William Gunn, WGP, #40; Claudia Eaton, AGM, #46; Edsel Crouse, AGP, #83; Nancy Ford, Grand Conductress, #33; and Diane Smith, Associate Grand Conductress; #27.

The invocation was given by William Dula, Grand Chaplain. The Master of Ceremonies was Brother Jerry Piepiora, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. After enjoying a delicious meal, each Grand Officer was presented gifts and good wishes from their Chapters. The afternoon was very enjoyable and lovely end to the Western Maryland trip.

Karla Light, #107

### ASK THE GRAND LECTURER!

Our Grand Lecturer, Kay Bond, is asked many questions by many members, so it was thought that a little Q and A with Sister Kay would be helpful to everyone!

*Question: "Do Officers leave their badges on their chairs if they go to the West for introductions?"*

*Answer: There is no need to remove your badge if you are not leaving the Chapter room. As long as you remain in the Chapter room, you can keep your badge on, as a Chapter officer, to be introduced in the West.*

## IN MEMORIAM



**Glenn C. Haynes, PGP**

**Initiated into Olive Branch #34 in 1946**

**Member of Hagerstown #89**

**71-year Member of Antietam Lodge #197**

**Grand Sentinel 1957-58**

**Worthy Grand Patron 1959-60**

**Entered Eternal Rest June 16, 2013**

**"God saw the road was getting rough  
The hills were hard to climb,  
So gently He closed the weary eyes,  
And whispered, "Peace be Thine."**

### **MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMITTEE DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISER**

The committee has many ideas this year to support our troops -- Hotels for Heroes, PB&J donations, sunscreen -- to show them we care! They are also having a Fisher House-Andrews AFB Golf Tournament on September 20. Registration and payment for the golf tournament is due by September 6. Contact Karen Smith at garysubu@aol.com or 301-843-2568 for more information on any of these projects.

## CALENDAR

### JULY

- 12-14 Multi-State Exchange Visit, Atlanta, GA  
24 MD in PA Exchange – 7:30 p.m.  
Myersdale Masonic Temple,  
226 Beachley Street  
Myersdale, PA 15552  
814-634-5700
- 27 Grand Master's Ball - 6 p.m. to midnight  
Grand Lodge, Cockeysville, MD

### AUGUST

- 2-4 DeMolay Conclave, Salisbury, MD
- 2-9 Royal Caribbean Grandeur of the Seas  
Florida and Bahamas - Port  
Canaveral,  
Coco Cay-Bahamas, Nassau

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 Lebanon #108 – **Special – 2 p.m.**
- 8 Grand Representative's Picnic  
at Patapsco Park
- 11 Havre de Grace #27 – **Stated – 8 p.m.**  
at Harford #83, Bel Air, MD
- 13 Queen Esther #3 – **Stated – 8 p.m.**
- 14 Hagerstown #89 – **Special – 2 p.m.**
- 17 Plymouth #41 – **Special – 8 p.m.**
- 19 Freedom #87 – **Special – 8 p.m.**
- 21 Unity #112 – **Special – 2 p.m.**  
Exchange Visit - DC in MD
- 24 Worcester #102 – **Special – 8 p.m.**
- 25 FUN DAY
- 26 Roelma #113 – **Special – 8 p.m.**  
at Minerva Chapter,  
439 Race Street, Cambridge, MD
- 27 Caroline #62 – **Special – 8 p.m.**  
Exchange Visit - DE in MD
- 28 Centreville #69 – **Special – 2 p.m.**