Meet your 2016-2017 Grand Officers!

Cindy Schwab, Worthy Grand Matron
Mecca #5, Fargo/Woodbine #4, Valley City
Thomas Payne, Worthy Grand Patron
Mecca #5, Fargo

We had a wedding! Our Grand Conductress, Evie, got married! She is now Evie Johnson!

Cheryl Siirila, PGM, Gr. Lecturer; Carolyn Paulsen, Gr. Chaplain; Roberta Charrier, Gr. Marshal;
Ilene McLean, Gr. Organist; Kathy Paul, Gr. Adah; Laurie Christianson, Gr. Ruth; Liann Zeller, Gr. Esther;
Carolyn Kastella, Gr. Martha; Janice Sather, Gr. Electa

Darlene Albertson, Gr. Warder (58)
Alan Siirila, PGP, Gr. Sentinel (5)

Richard Suggs
GGCCM, Membership
Ross Mushik,
GGCCM, Regenerative Medicine

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Grand Chapter Office:  1405 3rd St. No., Fargo, ND  701-364-0335
www.ndeasternstar.org
Our 2016 Grand Chapter Session was held at the Astoria Hotel, Dickinson, ND June 9-11. The session was conducted by Sister Muriel Hurt, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Fred Larson, Worthy Grand Patron.

2015-2016 GRAND OFFICERS
Seated: left to right; Cheryl Hewson, GC; Cindy Schwab, AGM; Muriel Hurt, WGM; Fred Larson, WGP; Thomas Payne, AGP; David Spooner, Gr. Sent.
Standing: Cleo Rowe, Gr. Chaplain; Rita Frank, Gr. Adah; Roberta Charrier, Gr. Martha Pro Tem; Pam White, Gr. Esther; Marilyn Hoge, Gr. Electa; Evie Woodall, AGC; Dawana Jensen, PGM, Gr. Lecturer; Cindy Weisenburger, Gr. Warder; Robbie Kloster, Gr. Sec; Kathy Pratt, Gr. Treas; Darlene Spooner, Gr. Marshal; Dee Beaumont, Gr. Ruth; Carol Troftgruben, Gr. Organist.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE
Seated: Beth McPhaden, GGCCM, PGM, Manitoba; Muriel Hurt, Worthy Grand Matron; Fred Larson, Worthy Grand Patron; Pat Conger-Sweaney, GGCCM, PGM South Dakota.
Standing: Herb Solmundson, GGCCM, PGP Manitoba; Jim Hutchison, GGCCM, PGP, Manitoba; Howard W. Moerdyk, GGCCM, PGP, Michigan; Jim Whiteley, GGCCM, PGP, California; Eugene Kinney, GGCCM, PGP South Dakota; Ron Hodge, GGCCM, PGP, Manitoba

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
Seated: Helen Hodge, Worthy Grand Matron, Manitoba; Margo Hellickson, Past Grand Matron, Montana; Muriel Hurt, Worthy Grand Matron; Fred Larson, Worthy Grand Patron; Dannell Altman-Newell, Grand Page, Kansas; Andrea Stewart, Grand Conductress, Manitoba.
2nd Row: Bernice Zachau, Washington; Lori Thomson, Associate Grand Conductress, Manitoba; Barbara Green, Grand Organist, Manitoba; Ann Reid, Grand Esther, Manitoba; Nancy Drewniak, Past Grand Matron, Manitoba; Cherri Whiteley, Escort to GGCCM, California; Hilda McMillan, Associate Grand Matron, Manitoba.
3rd Row: Ray Moffatt, Past Grand Patron, Saskatchewan; Paul Drewniak, Worthy Grand Patron, Manitoba; Jim Whiteley, GGCCM, PGP, California; Bob McMillan,

NORTH DAKOTA PAST GRAND MATRONS AND PAST GRAND PATRONS 2016
Floor: Cheryl Siirila; Dawana Jensen
Seated: Hazel Bless; Pat Welsch; Muriel Hurt, WGM; Fred Larson, WGP; JoAnn Buriak; Richard Elefson; Bonnie Elefson
Standing: Richard Suggs; Karen Overn; Eugene Plummer; Karen Tankersley; Larry Sitter; Julia Johnson; John Welsch; Janet Greenwood; Doug Woodall; Nancy Kainz; Paul Buriak; Kathy Pratt; Martin Bless; Darnell Woodall; Alan Siirila; Martin Kloster; Harlan Pratt; Ken Kelling; William Zeller.
GRAND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2015-2016

Seated: Darnell Woodall, PGM; Judy Maxson; Muriel Hurt, WGM; Fred Larson, WGP; Janice Sather; Cheryl Disrud
Standing: Pam White; William Zeller, PGP; Roberta Charrier; Nancy Kainz, PGM; Julia Johnson, PGP; Carolyn Paulsen; Larry Sitter, PGP; Evie Woodall, AGC; Jani Seifert; Janice Greenwood, PGM; Doug Woodall, PGP; Cindy Harkness; Judith Ruzicka; Cheryl Arndt; Eugene Plummer, PGP; Diane LaValley; Martin Kloster, PGP; Susan Godsell; Richard Suggs, GGCM, PGP; Karen Overn, PGM.

GRAND MUSICIANS
2015-2016

Seated: Muriel Hurt, WGM; Fred Larson, WGP
Standing: Carol Troftgruben, Grand Organist; David Spooner, Grand Sentinel, Soloist; Ilene McLean, Grand Music Director

BIBLE AND EMBLEM BEARERS
2015-2016

Seated: Mary Hurt; Muriel Hurt, WGM; Fred Larson, WGP; Joy Hurt
Standing: Terry Klusman; Barbara Hurt; Paul Buriaik, PGP; Sara Streeter; Linda Fox

AND
Our Worthy Grand Patron and Matron had some fun!

Grand Secretary’s Corner: Our per capita to General Grand Chapter will be going from $1 to $2 starting with the year 2017. This means that the per capita for our local chapters in ND will also go up now in 2017. Chapters presently pay $12 per member, however, beginning next December 31, 2017, this will increase the per capita from $12 to $13 per member. So, you may have to raise your dues!

Remember! We need candidates for Grand Secretary, Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Sentinel. I have served 10 years now as Grand Secretary, 2 over the term in by-laws. Please give these positions your consideration.
CHAPTER NEWS!

Finley Chapter #82 celebrated their 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary on July 12\textsuperscript{th} at the Cooperstown Masonic Hall. It was a very enjoyable event and many of the Grand Family were there in attendance to help them celebrate. It is with sadness then to report that Finley Chapter merged with Woodbine Chapter #4 of Valley City in October. Many of our chapters are struggling with low membership and/or a suitable place to meet. We are now down to 15 chapters in ND.

Friendship Chapter #68, Williston, ND held a Masonic prospect event on the 21st. STAR received a petition and a couple of young girls interested in Rainbow. In February, we are serving two different community church dinners. We also are attending a performance of "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" as a group. The new petitioner is part of the cast. We are looking forward to installing a first time Worthy Matron and Patron in April.

Mecca Chapter #5, Fargo, for the first time ever, went dark Jan. Feb, & most of March, having one meeting the end of March! As Worthy Matron, I for one love it! Not having to worry about going out at night in the winter, if we should have to cancel a meeting due to weather, having to drive on icy roads after dark, etc. So, we too do not have much to report on at this time of the year but we do look forward to hosting Grand Chapter this June in Fargo! Hope to see many of you here!.

ESTARL CORNER

Please remember our No.1 charity, ESTARL (Eastern Star Awards for Religious Leadership). Applications can be downloaded from the website. The applications have to be in to the chair of the ESTARL Committee by MAY 1: Nancy Kainz, PGM, PO Box 55, Hope, ND 58046. In the recent years we have not had many recipients of this wonderful scholarship. Yes, it is a scholarship and can be applied for every year that a student preparing for full time Christian Service. They just need to be enrolled in an accredited program. Students in Intern positions are not eligible during the year of internship. The applicant must be a ND resident at the time of the initial application and has to be recommended by a ND Chapter. The applicants must be preparing for leadership in one of the following fields: Ordained Ministry; Missionaries; Directors of Church Music; Director of Religious Education or Counselors of Youth Leadership.

Contact the minister of your local churches for applicants!

2017 GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER PILGRIMAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

August 11-13, 2017

Every 3 years, there is a pilgrimage to the International Peace Garden sponsored by our General Grand Chapter. Our Most Worthy Grand Matron is Helen Westmorland and our Most Worthy Grand Patron is Robert Penoyer.

Information will be available on our website ndeasternstar.org

MARK YOUR CALENDER!!!!!!

GRAND FAMILY GATHERING AND QUARTERLIES

Friday, April 28-Saturday, April 29\textsuperscript{th}

Fargo Masonic Center

Friday evening will be a Grand Family dinner and event; more info to be coming. Saturday morning will be Grand Officer practice at 9 am for opening, closing & memorial service. Quarterly meetings will consist of Line Officers, Trustees, Finance, By
It’s happening more often than we would like. Another chapter closes its doors permanently and North Dakota Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star becomes that much closer to having to close its own doors. When a state has less than ten chapters, that’s the end. With the consolidation of Finley with Woodbine last year, North Dakota is down to fifteen chapters. Does that worry anyone else besides me? I certainly hope so!

Not only do we lose a chapter when this happens, we lose loyal members who have given many years of service to Eastern Star. Chapter closure leaves a member with only two choices. A member can transfer to another chapter or take a demit. Neither choice is an easy option. Transferring to a different chapter may mean an increase in dues and often many more miles to travel just to attend a meeting. Taking a demit may only delay the inevitable – cessations of membership altogether. What a sad ending for anyone who loves the Order and for whom neither option is a solution.

As my path up the grand line leads me to the Grand East, I’d like to encourage thought and discussion about an alternative to the two options mentioned above. I’d like you to consider the possibility of offering a “Member at Large” membership to those affected by Chapter closure. This type of membership would be similar to a type of membership held by Masons in North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, that being a membership in the International Peace Garden Lodge. Those members must be an active member of an existing Masonic Lodge; they pay one-time membership dues, and they meet once a year. While the difference between that “Historic Lodge” membership and one for our State chapter would be significant there still could be some similarities.

After discussion with Past Grand Matrons and Patrons of North Dakota, here is what I propose.

1. Reinstitute Lady Washington #1 as the chapter for members at large.

2. The chapter would meet once a year during the Grand Chapter session.

3. Membership is open to any member who is more than 75 miles away from the nearest active chapter.

4. Membership is open to any member who has taken a demit when their own chapter closed and who is in good standing.

5. Annual dues will be collected.

Any action of this sort would first need an amendment to our North Dakota Bylaws. This could be accomplished at a Grand Chapter Session. Based on my research and information obtained from several officers of the General Grand Chapter, I find no restrictions to the formation of this kind of a chapter in the Bylaws of General Grand Chapter. All rules and regulations are under state jurisdiction.

I offer this idea to the members so you can discuss it amongst yourselves and at your chapter meeting. There is more than one chapter in North Dakota that is currently struggling to stay open. This subject will be up for discussion during our Grand Chapter session in June. Please bring questions and concerns at that time.

I certainly don’t have all the answers and I know this idea is not a new one. I only want our members to have a chance to continue to belong to and support an organization that has become very near and dear to my heart.

Cheryl Hewson, Associate Grand Matron
Sisters and Brothers:

Tom and I wish to thank each of your Chapters for your continued support through this past year and we look forward to the coming Grand Chapter Session.

The North Dakota Grand Chapter is in need of everyone’s participation in the Grand Officer Line for our Grand Chapter. To date we have not received any nominations for Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Sentinel, or Grand Secretary. It is the responsibility of each of us to support our Order even if it means a sacrifice on our part. In turn, the rewards we receive while participating is overwhelming and quite remarkable. We, from the bottom of our hearts, ask for your consideration in placing a name for these offices from your Chapter into the mix for the upcoming Grand Chapter Session. There are several of you that would serve our Order very well on this journey, but for some reason have not come forward to help out. We know it is a big commitment, but remember we want to keep our Grand Chapter going and need your assistance. The Grand Secretary requires that any nominations be submitted to her office by April 1, 2017. Since many of our Chapters are dark during the winter months our action now is very important.

This journey has been remarkable, it is work, but very rewarding and it is fun. If anyone has any questions whatsoever either Tom or I would be willing to visit with you about our journey.

With a hand clasp across the miles, best wishes to you and your families for a blessed Christmas and very Happy New Year, we are

Fraternally yours,

Cindy Schwab, Worthy Grand Matron
Thomas Payne, Worthy Grand Patron

Welcome to our new initiated members and affiliations:

Wahpeton Chapter #3; Nathan Thomason; James & Molly Hamar. Mecca Chapter #5; Cindy & David Lund. Queen Esther #9; Gloria & Kenneth Snyder; Tammy Bulman. Acacia Chapter #12; Elaan Kuharenko; Tony Telken; Heidi Dammen. Venus Chapter #14; Johnny & Nicolette Hunter; Collin Nelson. Golden Rule #17; Michelle Horn; Ken Swenson. Ionic #39; Jan DeKrey. Granville #47; Linda Mull. Friendship #68; Roger Stoudt. Bathgate #74; Hazel & Ken Bartron
This pin can be yours for a $100 donation to the permanent fund of the Foundation. Your donation may be a memorial or honorarium. Donations to the Foundation can be designated for the permanent funds of which a percentage is disbursed each year leaving the balance to grow so that more funds are available in the years to come. Donations may also be made to the annual funds which are disbursed in full after the end of the Grand Chapter year.

Donations to the permanent funds that are not designated for ESTARL or the Overlook Shelter will be placed in the MORRISON Fund and used for various charitable or educations projects.

Donations may be mailed to the Grand Secretary at 1405 3rd St. No., Fargo, ND 58102.