

# "Unexpected Possibilities"

Grand Chapter of Louisiana  
Order of the Eastern Star

Donna Harrist  
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June, 2019 – Newsletter

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## **From the Desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:**

April's showers were still roaring through May and several of the communities in our state have suffered damage from severe weather. We have only been informed of members with debris and standing water in the area. This reminds us that we are always at the mercy of nature and disasters occur when we least expect them. Our Disaster Relief funds are important to assist our members in those times of loss and this is one of the projects this year.

Our sincere appreciation to all who braved the weather to attend the Reception in Lake Charles on May the 4<sup>th</sup>. It turned out to be a beautiful day and the event was lovely. Our District Deputy Grand Matrons, Debbie Richard of District 8 and Nancy Hickman of District 9, planned a lovely event and worked diligently to see that every detail was perfect. The members of Districts 8 and 9 did an outstanding job of decorating and preparing food. It was quite a bright and welcoming setting with more than we could eat. Keith and I thank each of you who prepared for the day in any way and hope everyone in attendance enjoyed the event.

Questions have been raised about carrying the ballot to all members as the Supervisors have directed you in the Schools of Instruction. This is an alternate form that has long been a part of our work, but mostly never used in our jurisdiction. It is the chapter's choice which style to use. With some of our chapters having fewer members in attendance and often several of those with mobility issues, the alternate form of carrying the ballot box to every member would be more suited. For this reason, I wanted to be sure each chapter in the state knew how to use this alternate form. It is as it has always been up to each chapter which form they prefer to use on any ballot. You will find this form explained on page 21 of the green Book of Instruction.

Additionally, I have been questioned about the first two paragraphs and the last paragraph of the Associate Patron's lecture. The only change here is that by a vote of the General Grand Chapter delegates, this portion of the lecture which has been optional is now mandatory for all initiations. It can still be given by either the WP or AP. It has been done at the schools so everyone will be aware of this requirement. Your candidates will surely be impressed with the explanation in this lecture.

**July 6 – Celebrating 100 years** - Vidalia Chapter No. 37 Immediately following the Official Visit of District 3, we will recognize this milestone with the members of Vidalia Chapter for cake and a short presentation. Please join us after the Official Visit in the dining room in Oak Grove.

**July 12-14 “Be Our Guest” Multi State**, Tallahassee, Florida. Room reservations must be made by June 14, registration and ticket orders due by July 1. Forms are available under out of state registration/events at <http://www.laoes.org>

**July 20 – District 1 Official Visit** of the WGM accompanied by the WGP and other Grand Officers to be held at the Creswell Street Masonic Temple, 1805 Creswell Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71105 at 3:00 p.m. The meal will follow the meeting. Angela McNicoll, DDGM 318-773-3878

**July 27 – District 14 Official Visit** of the WGM accompanied by the WGP and other Grand Officers to be held at Alberta Retif Chapter No. 252 located at 1105 LeBeau St, Arabi, LA. Refreshments will be served at 2:00 p.m. with the Official Visit to follow. Gail Dupree, DDGM 504-234-4703, Housing Chairman: Bonnie Johnston 504-452-1950

**July 28 – District 13 Official Visit**, District 13 invites you to attend the Official Visit of Sister Donna Harrist, Worthy Grand Matron, and Brother Keith Powell, Worthy Grand Patron, accompanied by the Grand Officers at 2pm on Sunday, July 28, 2019, at Unity Lodge # 267 1029 Bayou Black Drive Houma, LA. Light Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Denise Bonvillian, DDGM (985) 868-3256.

**August 3 District 2 School of Instruction-** Magi No 85, Ruston-1:00- Susan Hinckley, DDGM

**August 10 – District 5 Official Visit**

**August 14-16, Grand Chapter of Texas**

**August 24 – District 10 Official Visit**

**September 7 – District 7 Official Visit**

**September 14 – District 6 Official Visit**

**September 20-22, Four State Friendship, Hot Springs, Arkansas**

#### **Appreciations:**

We, the LA General Grand Chapter Committee Members and Special Appointee, would like to thank you for all the courtesies shown to us during the “Miracles of Faith” Session. Sister Marilyn Abshire, Junior Past Grand Matron, thank you for including a banquet in our honor in your Grand Chapter plans. We really enjoyed the wonderful evening planned by Sister Kathy Warmack, PGM. It made each of us feel very special. The Tributes given by our loved ones were a highlight of the evening and something we will always remember. We love the special gifts that were given to each of us. Thank you, Sister Marilyn for allowing us to report on each of our committee appointments so the membership could learn about goals, aims and duties. Thank you for all the donations made in our name to various Charites.

Fraternally, Roy Bankston, PGM-Benevolence, Juanita Wilkinson, PGM-Charters Chairman, Linda Lamkin, PGM-Distribution Chairman, Pamela Gill, PGM-Service Dogs and Wanda Hagemeyer, PM Campfire Friend of the MWGM

As this newsletter is being compiled for distribution, we are all preparing to celebrate Memorial Day. While the day is a celebrated holiday with reunions, cookouts and the welcoming of summer, we should all take time to remember those who have given their lives in defense of this country and the right for each of us to live in peace and prosperity. Let us be ever grateful for their sacrifice.

In 1914, the Secretary of the Interior stated that the flag said to him "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself." While so many around us forget that it represents all our constitution protects and the ideals our founders fought for, we should remember that the actions of us all affect how this flag and our country are perceived. During June we will be celebrating Flag Day. Surely this distinctive design of red, white and blue, symbol of the United States and freedom should be held in high by each of us with the same respect and honor that was woven into that very first flag.

In Service and Love,

*Donna M Harrist*

Donna Harrist

Worthy Grand Matron

Do good for others. It will come back in unexpected ways.

**Upcoming events Sunday, June 2 – Celebrating 100 years - Sunny South Chapter No. 12** located at 10506 Boswell St., Bastrop. Light refreshments will be served at 1:00 with a short program at 2:00.

**June 7-9 – The International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Grand Assembly of Louisiana, 93<sup>rd</sup> Wizarding World of Rainbow Session** at the New Orleans Airport Hilton. Informal Opening Friday, June 7 at 7:30 pm. Welcome Banquet 6:00 pm, cost \$40 and must be ordered by May 20.

**June 8 – LA/MS “Family Reunion” Exchange**, Concordia Parish Community Center, 26356 Hwy 15, Ferriday, LA 11am – 2 pm, Ticket order due by May 31 and the form is available on <http://www.laoes.org>

**June 8 – DeMolay, J C Deason Leadership Camp Closing** at the Wesley Center, Woodworth 7:00

**June 12-14 Georgia Grand Chapter, Macon**

**June 22 – District 9 Official Visit** of the WGM accompanied by the WGP and other Grand Officers at Ruth Chapter No.16 located at 717 Hodges Street, Lake Charles. Receiving line 1:30 pm with meal and meeting to follow. Nancy Hickman, DDGM 337-377-9226. Housing chairman – Martha Jo Schexneider 337-274-4909

Juanita and George Wilkinson will continue their tradition of food and ice cream at their home after the meeting.

**July 6 – District 3 Official Visit** of the WGM accompanied by the WGP and other Grand Officers to held at Guiding Star Chapter No. 66 located at 401 E Jefferson St., Oak Grove. Refreshments will be served at 2:00 p.m. with the Official Visit to follow. Marion Hicks, DDGM 318-267-9805.

**Line Officer Corner:**

**From the Sweet Peas:**

Is your closet overflowing with OES formals and page dresses? How many times have you thought "What can I do with all of these dresses?" Help is on the way!

We are asking for donations of freshly cleaned ready to wear formals and page dresses that you no longer wear. Please include the size. You may contact one of us to make arrangements to get the dresses.

Susan Freeman, Grand Conductress 225/937-7023, Lynn Bankston, PGM, Norma Jenkins, Norma Cagle, Mary Berthelot, Judith Duncan, Carmen Higgins or Paulette Spedale

**Tuesday, May 28** at 6:00 p.m. – Johnny Byrd's Teddy Bears and Hugs meeting will be at Booth Lodge, 1109 Kay Lane, Shreveport

**Saturday, August 3** – Kay McCray's Jewels of the Sea Fundraiser - time and location to be announced.

**Grand Representative Appointments:**

**District of Columbia**, Ann Talley, 36118 Ebb Guillot Rd, Pearl River 70452 Exp 3/15/21

**North Carolina**, Jerome Walker, P.O. Box 935, Franklinton 70438-0935 Expires 2/1/21

**Tennessee**, Lisa Byrd, 51 Sterling Ranch Rd, Haughton 71037 Expires 2/15/21

**New York** – Roberta B. Pinch, 19407 Rostrum Rd., Welsh 70591-6512 Exp. 4-1-21

**Colorado** – Virginia Field, 6737 North Clu Lp, Shreveport 71107-9645 Exp. 2-1-2021

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY:**

**ROSTER UPDATES:**

New Email address for Sister Pamela Gill, GGCCM is [pamgill921@outlook.com](mailto:pamgill921@outlook.com)

Correct email address for Bro Joe Stroud, PGM is [stroud.joe@yahoo.com](mailto:stroud.joe@yahoo.com)

<<<<<<< AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE >>>>>>>>

There will be no Rituals available until after General Grand prints new ones. I will let you know when they are available.

Revised Book of Instruction, 2019 - \$1.75 – **NOW AVAILABLE** (Please Order through your Chapter Secretary)  
Rosters, 2017-2018, \$1.50

Constitutions are available. They are as follows:

Constitution Revisions, 2018, \$1.00 (If you only want to update you Constitution)

Constitution Pages Only, \$4.68 (You have your binder and tabs but want new updated pages)

Constitution Tabs, \$3.62

Constitution Pages and Tabs, \$8.10

Constitution Binder, \$6.00

Secretaries and Members, Please make all checks payable to **The Grand Chapter**. Thank you.

Fraternally,

*Diane Smith*

Diane Smith, PGM  
Grand Secretary

Website: [www.laoes.org](http://www.laoes.org)