Together in Perfect Harmony
Grand Chapter of Louisiana
Order of the Eastern Star

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November 2026 – Newsletter

Thanksgiving Blessings from My Heart to Yours

From the Desk of the Worthy Grand Matron:

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself reflecting on just how blessed I truly am. I am thankful for my family, my friends, my faith, and the many blessings God has placed in my life. But this year, one of my greatest blessings has been **each and every one of you, my Eastern Star family.**

When I began this journey as your Worthy Grand Matron, I knew there would be miles to travel, meetings to attend, and responsibilities to fulfill. What I didn't realize was just how deeply this journey would touch my heart.

Everywhere Brother Ray and I have traveled, we have been welcomed with open arms, warm smiles, and so much love. From the wonderful meals and laughter to the conversations and hugs, you have given us memories we will treasure forever. It is those simple moments of friendship and fellowship that make every mile worthwhile.

I want to extend a very special thank-you to **Sister JoAnn Gibbs, District Deputy Grand Matron of District 5; Sister Beth Holden, District Deputy Grand Matron of District 7; and Sister Lorraine Mullin, District Deputy Grand Matron of District 9.** Sisters, thank you for the beautiful Official Visits, your hard work, and the love and hospitality you have shown Brother Ray and me. I know how many hours of planning and preparation go into making these visits special, and I want you to know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. More than anything, I am grateful for your friendship, your dedication, and the wonderful memories we have made together. Each of you holds a special place in my heart, and I thank you for making this journey one I will always treasure.

To each and every one, I wish I could personally tell each of you how much you mean to me. Every kind word, every smile, and every act of kindness has touched my heart. **You have made me feel not only welcome as your Worthy Grand Matron but loved as your Sister and friend.** That means more to me than words can express.

I am especially thankful for those who work so faithfully behind the scenes. Whether you are preparing meals, decorating chapter rooms, filling stations, or simply being there when needed, please know that your dedication does not go unnoticed. You are the heart of our beautiful Order, and I appreciate you more than you know.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us also remember those whose hearts may be heavy. Some of our Sisters and Brothers are facing illness, loneliness, or the loss of someone dear. For some, there will be an empty chair at the Thanksgiving table. A phone call, a card, a visit, or a simple hug may be the greatest gift we can give. Sometimes the smallest kindness leaves the deepest impression.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you will slow down long enough to enjoy the blessings around you. Hold your loved ones close, share a little laughter, make another memory, and never miss an opportunity to tell someone how much they mean to you.

To Brother Ray and to our Grand Family who have walked beside me, encouraged me, prayed for me, and supported me, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have made this journey more special than I ever imagined.

My prayer for you this Thanksgiving is simple: May God bless your home with peace, your heart with joy, your family with love, and your life with more blessings than you can count. And when life becomes difficult, may you always remember that you have an Eastern Star family who loves you and cares about you.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Worthy Grand Matron. But even more than that, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives. The memories we are making and the friendships we share are treasures that I will hold close to my heart long after this year has passed.

Happy Thanksgiving, my dear Sisters and Brothers! I love you, I appreciate you, and I thank God for each and every one of you.

With love and a thankful heart,

Angela McNicoll
Worthy Grand Matron
Harmonizing our Future!

Birthdays for November
Nov 12 – Lonnie Smith, PGP Nov 16 – Terrie C Castay, PGM, Grand Secretary, Emeritus
Nov 26 – Michael Hall, Grand Warder

Upcoming Events:

Little Red School House Founder's Day Festival

Mark your calendars for **November 7 at 10:00 a.m.** and join us in Richland, Mississippi, for the Little Red School House Founder's Day Festival!

This special occasion celebrates the founding of the Order of the Eastern Star by **Dr. Rob Morris**, whose vision and dedication helped establish the beautiful traditions of our beloved Order.

Let us come together to honor our history, celebrate our sisterhood and brotherhood, and remember the legacy that continues to unite us in faith, love, and service.

District 1 Official Visit

Join Worthy Grand Matron Angela McNicoll and Worthy Grand Patron Ray Bedwell on **November 14** for the final Official Visit of the year!

- **Location:** Creswell Masonic Temple
  1805 Creswell Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana
  - **Receiving Line:** 11:30 a.m.
  - **Lunch:** 12:00 noon
  - **Meeting:** To follow lunch

Come together with District 1 for a special day of fellowship, Thanksgiving, and Eastern Star friendship as we celebrate our beloved Order!

Toys for Tots – Time Is Running Out!

Let's help make Christmas brighter for children in need! Gather toys and deliver them to your local Toys for Tots collection agency or invite representatives to your next meeting to share a meal and collect your donations. It's a wonderful way to serve together and bless children who might otherwise go without a Christmas gift.

Please be sure to let Sister Rovenia McDonald, GGCCM for Community Service, know how your chapter distributed its donations so she can include your efforts in her report to General Grand Chapter.

Time is running out, so let's make every donation count!

A Personal Reminder: Our Grand Chapter Charities

Sisters and Brothers, as we near the end of our year together, I want to personally remind each of you to please send in your donations for our Grand Chapter charities: **Cancer, Service Dogs, Regenerative Medicine, Disaster Relief, Masonic Charities, and Historical Landmarks.**

These charities are more than names on a list. They represent people who need hope, families facing difficult times, communities rebuilding after disasters, and causes that preserve our Masonic heritage. Every dollar we give is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

I know how generous our Louisiana Eastern Star family can be, and I have seen what we can accomplish when we work together. Please help me finish this year strong by making sure your chapter's donations and your personal donations are submitted.

Every gift matters, every act of kindness counts, and together, we can make a lasting difference. Thank you for your loving hearts, your generosity, and your continued commitment to serving others as we work *Together in Perfect Harmony*.

Service Dogs Quilt Raffle Winner Announcement!

We are excited to announce that the winner of our beautiful **Service Dogs Quilt Raffle** is...

Sister Barbara Walker

Congratulations!

Winning ticket sold by Brother Michael Hall. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supported this wonderful cause. Your generosity helps make a difference in the lives of those who benefit from the love, companionship, and assistance of a service dog. The total raised for Service Dogs with this fundraiser was $1,250.

A special thank you to Sister Susan Freeman, GGCCM, for her hard work and dedication in making this raffle a success!

Together in Perfect Harmony, we are making a difference — one paw at a time!

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary:

If you only need the newsletter and attachments in email form, please email laoesgrsec@gmail.com and I will remove you from the hard copy list.

All dues cards have been delivered. If you do not have your 2027 dues cards, or need more, please email.

All donations and invoice payments must be in the Grand Secretaries office no later than January 31. NOT POSTMARKED actually in hand. Please note – this includes the Annual Return Payments.

Roster Changes:

Oscar & Marilyn Abshire (PGP & PGM), new address, 1481 Feaster Road, Ville Platte 70586-7585, email and phone are the same.

Grand Representative Appointments:

Indiana – Randy McCallum, PP, 3817 Lake Providence, Harvey, 70058, randy.mccallum@yahoo.com,
William D White #141expires, August 1, 2028.

Upcoming Events

Nov 14th – Official Visit District 1

The Members of District #1 Order of the Eastern Star cordially invite you to attend their Official Visit of Ms. Angela McNicoll, Worthy Grand Matron, accompanied by Mr. Ray Bedwell, Worthy Grand Patron, and Other Grand Officers, Nov. 14, 2026, location Masonic Temple, 1801 Creswell Ave. Receiving line at 11:30 AM, lunch at 12:00 pm with meeting to follow. Rovenia McDonald, GGCCM, 318-294-4515, roveniaoes2@yahoo.com.

Reminders for Secretaries: Know your duties.

Page 53 in Constitution, Article 5, Section 4 (l) It shall be the duty of the chapter Secretary to keep a record of those members holding copies of the Constitution, Bylaws or General Regulations, Edicts and Decisions of the Grand Chapter. When new pages are printed she or he shall be responsible for seeing that copies of these changes or amendments are available to each member holding a copy of the Constitution, Bylaws or General Regulations, Edicts and Decisions of the Grand Chapter, and that they also be placed in the books she or he has in her/his office. (Amended 1989)

For items available to purchase, please check out the Grand Secretary's page on the Richard Shaw Memorial Website at www.laoes.org

We do have years of service pins available for purchase in 5 year increments starting at 25 to 85, $10 each!
For 25, 50, & 75 years, Certificates signed by the WGM and Grand Secretary are sent at no cost!

The Roster and the Book of Instruction are available and will be with me at each official visit. If you would like to order extras for your chapter, and have them mailed, please send orders for each to laoesgrsec@gmail.com. Please DO NOT text or call, I need a record in email. The revised Constitution is ready for print, $8.00. Not updates but the completely revised Constitution. The cost for updates would be more expensive. Please email your order. These are printed on demand, and I usually do not print more than one or two extras. I may have one or two with me at OV.

Proceedings for Grand Chapters 2021 through 2024 are printed and cost $5. Please order by emailing laoesgrsec@gmail.com. Send an email with the proceeding year you want.
Please contact the Grand Secretary at the following email address only: laoesgrsec@gmail.com. Also, please include your chapter name and number.

Secretaries and Members, please make all checks payable to "Grand Chapter of Louisiana, OES".

Fraternally,
Rocky Schexneider, PGP, Grand Secretary

Check out the Richard Shaw memorial website at: www.laoes.org.