**Lovelinks minutes of May 18, 2024**

Our Fortieth Annual Meeting of Lovelinks was held in Dayton, Ohio at the Dayton Masonic Temple on May 18 2024. President Linda Zerkle (2010) called the meeting to order, honoring the Worthy Grand Patron Harless Maynard. Linda explained the table decorations represent her theme this year “In the Garden” along with her bible verse of Mark 9:23 “Jesus said to him, if you can believe? All things are possible for one who believes.” The sunflowers are in honor of the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Patron’s theme “Strike a Chord”.

**Welcome:** Sister Marion Johnson (1981) gave a welcome to all and mentioned it is a much larger attendance today than when she served as the first president 42 years ago.

**Tribute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance:** Sister Jenna Guey (2013-2014) gave the flag tribute. She presented several patriotic readings that mentioned the flag is the symbol of our nation’s glory.

**Invocation and Blessing:** Sister Sherri Bretland (2010-2011) gave a lovely prayer asking that God watch over the officers today as they make decisions, and that God would hold us all in the palm of his hand from the book of Isaiah.

**Introduction of the Head Table:** President Linda proceeded to the introductions of those sitting at the head table. Worthy Grand Matron Sister Cheryl Maslowski (2009) and her travelling companion, Sharon Stolte, Worthy Grand Patron Harless Maynard, Knight York Cross of Honor, Knights Templar Cross of Honor, Recipient of the Meritorious Service Award Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and his wife, Jennifer Maynard, Grand Representative of Manitoba.

Also seated at the head table were the officers of the Lovelinks; Vice President, Sherry Kita (2009-2010); Secretary, Suzanne Dick (2004); Treasurer, Sherry Taylor (2006). Linda stated, “The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.”

**Introductions of Other Guests, Ambassadors of the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Chapter Committee Members and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons:** Ambassador to Hawaii and Finance Chairman, Jan Goerss (1996)(also 2024 Co-Drill Director and Lovelinks Parliamentarian): Name Badges Chairman, William Taylor; Personal Aide to the MWGP, Chuck Merckle; ESTARL , Margie Wheeler; Chairman, Regenerative Medicine, Peg Reiterman (2005); Chairman Cancer ,Jean Watters (2005); Cindi Chadwell (2009), Personal Page to the MWGP; Marie Williams (1979) and Scott Riddle, OES Home Trustee. **Ohio’s General Grand Chapter Committee Members:**  Member of Sales, Becky Meyer (2013-2014); Project of Triennial Medal, Susan Corwin (1980); Associate Grand Patron and Co-Chair of Property, Ray Dennis. **Grand Officers;** Associate GrandMatron, Marla Barber (2016-2017); Grand Secretary, DuAnne Farus (2004); Associate Grand Conductress, Amy Young; Grand Chaplain, Mike Smith also Knight York Grand Cross of Honor; Grand Marshal, Suzanne Griffin (2022-2023); Grand Adah, Denise Vanderhorst (2016-2017); Grand Martha, Patricia Kasserman; Grand Electa, Dee Ross-Kutler (2020-2021) Grand Sentinel, Todd Evans. **Deputy Grand Matrons,** 14; **Grand Representatives,** 15; **Past Presidents**, 7; **Liaisons**, 14.President Linda thanked all for their service.

**Deputy Grand Matron Honored Years:** 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years and beyond. President Linda thanked all for coming.

**Secretaries Report:** Sister Suzanne Dick stated that the minutes had been e-mailed with the invitation to this Spring Meeting. The report was approved as e-mailed. Membership report was 563. There are 31 paying yearly dues and 532 life members. She also read regrets from those who could not attend.

**Treasurers Report:** Sister Sherry Taylor gave the treasurer’s report that as of April 28, 2024, $3,611.97 was in the checking account and $6417.59 in the savings account. Bills were presented, approved and paid.

**Registration Report:** Sister Sandy McCollum (2021-2022) gave the registration report of 117 registered with 114 present.

**Unfinished Business:** Sister Suzanne talked about how important the information (especially the e-mail address) is to keep updated to keep our roster current.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** President Linda welcomed several new Lovelinks members with a small gift stating “we are pleased you chose to join us.” Jill Biteman-18, Sherri Bosse-24, Jeni Casbar-22, Tracy Evans-7, Suzanne Griffin-12, Kay Krupa-15, Becky McClindon-3, Diane Merckle-25, Pam Miller-13, Joella VanWinkle-5 and Nancy Williams-21.

**Audit Report:** Sister Suzanne Griffin reported that the books balanced and are in balance with the bank.

**By-Law Committee Report:** At the present time, there are no new changes to be made to the By-laws.

**OES Home Project Presentation:** President Linda asked the WGM and WGP to join her at the podium where she presented them with a monetary gift for their OES Home Project on behalf of the Lovelinks.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** Sister Rita Bailey (2010) reported the following to be nominated as officers for the coming year. President, Sherry Kita (2009-2010); Vice President, Linda Whitesel (2018-2019); Secretary, Wanda Petrino (2022-2023); Treasurer, Sherry Taylor (2006). Sister Rita moved the nominative ballot become the elective ballot. It was seconded and the motion carried.

**Installation of Officers:** Sister Peg Reiterman was the Installing Officer who installed the President. Margie Wheeler installed the Vice President. Cindi Chadwell installed the Secretary and Bill Taylor installed the Treasurer. Bill Taylor also presided as the Installing Chaplain. Sister Linda then presented Sherry with the Presidents pin.

**New President’s Remarks:** Newly elected and installed President Sherry Kita thanked the nominating committee and Peg Reiterman, who she served for as Deputy Grand Matron in 2009. She also recognized the deputies she served with in 2009 and 2010 and thanked those who traveled from her District 3 and the incoming officers. Her theme will be “Celebrate Family…There is Snow Place Like Home.” The scripture this year will be Psalm 46-10 “Be Still and Know that I am God”. She announced that the Grand Chapter meeting and luncheon will be September 29, 2024, at 11:30 and Sherri Bretland will serve as the Reservation Chairperson.

**Outgoing Presidents Remarks:** President Linda thanked her committee members who helped organize the activities for the meeting. She also thanked each of the current Lovelinks Officers and presented them with a small gift. She also thanked the members of District 9, 2010 Deputy Grand Matrons and her husband Denny, in which she stated, “In my garden, you are my special bud and I love you”.

**Closing Remarks:** Worthy Grand Patron Harless thanked everyone for attending and for his lunch and complimented all the past and present Deputy Grand Matrons and all the dedication they give to our beautiful organization.

Worthy Grand Matron Cheryl congratulated the new officers and thanked the Lovelinks for her lunch. She finished her speech with a story and wished everyone well for the rest of the day.

**Benediction:** Given by Sherri Bretland. President Linda announced the meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Suzanne Dick, Secretary