**LOVELINKS OF OHIO**

The 41st Grand Chapter Luncheon meeting of the Lovelinks organization was called to order Sunday, September 29, 2024 by President, Sherry Kita (3-2009/10), citing her theme this year – “Celebrate Family…there’s snow place like home.” Nothing is more important than home and family. We have much to celebrate in our lives and so many families in addition to our immediate and extended family to celebrate, like our Eastern Star family, our church family, and our Lovelinks family, just to name a few.

“There’s snow place like home” is my whimsical take on the expression, “there’s no place like home”. I am a big fan of snowmen—they come in all shapes and sizes and are usually smiling and happy. Our table decorations are as colorful and joyful as our Eastern Star Family and I hope you enjoy them. May we rejoice in each other’s company as we “Strike a Chord” for family this day.

President Sherry explained for the visitors that the members are former Deputy Grand Matrons of the Grand Chapter of Ohio. This organization was founded in 1982 and she invited the founder of Lovelinks, Sister Marion Johnson, DGM 1981 to give our welcome.

**Welcome**: Sister Marion Johnson (18-1981) welcomed everyone and spoke about the Lovelinks organization where we share wisdom, imagination, enthusiasm, mentorship and excellence. She thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a great day.

**Tribute to Flag and Pledge of Allegiance:** Sister Linda Prochazka, (4-2006) gave a very moving flag tribute explaining the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, which was then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Sherry thanked Sister Linda, a very special Golden Key from 2014.

**Invocation and Blessing:** Sister Valere Craig, (3-1991) gave the invocation and blessing for our delicious meal.

**Introduction of the Head Table:** President Sherry continued the meeting with introductions. We were honored to have the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Winchester and her traveling companion, Faithful Note, Sister Aubrey Righetti, (seated at an adjacent table). It was a pleasure to greet our very own, Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Lon Lowry and his wife Barbara (11-2006). Worthy Grand Matron, Cheryl Maslowski (12-2009) and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Harless Maynard, along with his wife, Jennifer Maynard, were introduced. Also seated at the head table were the officers of Lovelinks: Vice President, Linda Whitesel (17-2018), Secretary, Wanda Petrenio (19-2022), and Treasurer, Sherry Taylor (12-2006). She welcomed each of us saying family is about the memories that bring you together and all of us continue to create happy Eastern Star memories.

**Introduction of Other Guests, General Grand Chapter Committee Members, Ambassadors and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons:** Worthy Grand Esther, Sister Bonnie Youngblood (4-1983) also Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Ohio in 2006.

**General Grand Chapter Committee Members, Ambassadors and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons of the Grand Chapter of Ohio**

**General Grand Chapter Ambassadors**:

Brazil Espirito Santo/Ohio Chm. Triennial Assembly, PGP Steve Farus. (2014)

Ambassador to Hawaii & Finance Chairman, PGM Janice Goerss (2010).

**GGC Committee Members – PGM & PGP**

Charters Co-Chair/PGP Bruce Ailes (2010); Education/PGM Eloise Wyse (1998); ESTARL; Margie Wheeler (2020); Necrology Co-Chair/PGP Ron Keller; (2013) Regenerative Medicine Chair/PGM Peg Reiterman (2009); Service Dogs, Gail Walsh (2014); Personal Page to the Most Worthy Grand Patron, Cindy Chadwell (2022); Ritual and Name Badge, Chair, William Taylor (2016); Personal Aide to the Most Worthy Grand Patron, Chuck Merkle (2020).

**Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of Ohio**; WGM, Cheryl Maslowski (12-2009), WGP, Harless Maynard, Associate Grand Matron, Marla Barber (10-2016), Grand Conductress, Debbie Somerlot (11-2008), Associate Grand Conductress, Amy Yoho Young, Grand Marshal, Suzanne Griffin (12-2022), Grand Organist, Lynn Miller-Penegor, Grand Adah, Denise Vanderhorst (18-2016), Grand Electa, Dee Ross-Kuttler, Grand Trustee, Larry Mayer.

**Deputy Grand Matrons:** Sherri Gotthardt (1&2), Rebecca McAlindon (3), Cathy Howard (4), Joella Van Winkle

(5&10), Sharon Witten (7&8), Patty Creighton (12), Pam Miller (13), Paige Cotter-Moss (14), Kay Kruppa (15&16) Jill Biteman (18), Dora Purcell (20), Nancy Williams (21) Nancy McCollum (22) Jodie Augustine (23&28) Dianne Merkle (25), Julie Meenach (27).

**Grand Representatives:** Alberta-Twila Childs; Arizona-Laurie Stout, (14-2014); California-Dorothy Ballard; Florida-Nancy Johnson; Indiana-Tracie Evans, COA(7-2023); Kentucky-Deb Wooddell; New Mexico-Soni Dennis, (27-2001, 2021), Personal Page to Worthy Grand Esther.

**General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly Committee: Projects Co-Chair** Susan Corwin.

**Past Presidents of Lovelinks:** Marion Johnson (18-1982), Janice Goerss (3-2002), Nancy Kirkpatrick (2-2004) Patricia Kiefel (20-2007) Gail Walsh (6-1995) Charlotte Ballard (26-2012), Susie Mayer (23-2013), Lois Terkhorn (24-2015), Patti Askins (8-2019-20), Laurie Stout (14-2021), Suzanne Dick (18-2022), Linda Zerkle (9-2023).

**Liaisons:** Robin Zizzo (1), Janet Doolittle (2), Sherry Kita (3), Linda Prochazka (4), Bonnie Chapin (7), Jenna Geuy (9), Susan Corwin (11), JoAnn Walton (12), Cathy Maurer (13), Brooke Anderson (16), Marion Johnson (18), Patricia Kiefel (20), Susie Mayer (23), Ruth Ann Fox (25), Nancy Flautt (27).

President Sherry advised that these ladies serve as assistants to the Lovelinks officers. They are responsible for assisting the officers in the distribution of information to the members and gathering updated information for the members’ roster.

**Parliamentarian:** Janice Goerss (3-1996)

**Secretaries Report:** The minutes of the May 18, 2024 meeting were emailed to all members along with the invitation to the Fall Meeting. Letters were sent through the U.S Mail to those who do not have email addresses. Some emails and letters were returned with wrong addresses. Minutes were approved as emailed.

Anyone who didn’t receive either was asked to see the secretary after the meeting to fill out a form that updates your name, address, phone number, district, email address, and the year that you were deputy. This will keep our records current.

Rosters were available for sale and an update sheet for anyone interested. They were on sale before the meeting and if you didn’t get one and would like one, contact the secretary after the meeting.

Our membership is 555 members. There are 30 members paying yearly dues and 525 life members. There was a net loss of 8 members since our last meeting, May, 2024.

**Communications:** A letter was received from the Ohio Eastern Star Home thanking the Worthy Grand Matron Cheryl Maslowski and Worthy Grand Patron for the $100.00 donation for the WGM/WGP Pond Project.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Sherry Taylor gave a very detailed report showing beginning balance 9-24-23 of $6959.71, receipts of $3,003.00 minus disbursements of $5737.81, giving us an ending balance 9/24/24 of $4224.90 in our checking account and $6477.84 in our savings account, showing NET Worth 9/29/24 of $10,702.74. Report filed for Audit.

**Registration Report**: Sherri Bretland (18-2010/11) gave the report showing a total of 140 reservations for lunch and 5 members attending the meeting for a total of 145 at the meeting. President Sherry thanked Sherri for serving as the Reservation Chair. She did an amazing job, which is not surprising as she is an amazing Sister.

**Announcement of Spring Meeting:** President Sherry stated the Spring Meeting will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Inspection of the Worthy Grand Patron Ray Dennis, Millersport Chapter # 301, Lancaster MT, Lancaster, OH. Luncheon Chairman is Nancy Flautt (27-1996). Thank you, Nancy, for handling this important task. The luncheon will be catered by Melody Boyer, (27-2009).

**Memorial Service:** Our Vice President, Linda Whitesel, gave a lovely memorial service with a ringing of a chime for each deceased Lovelink as follows:

 Brenda Momirovic (13-2017) Sept 23 , 2023 Pat Day (7-1959) March 16, 2024

 Betty Hall (28-1981) October 2, 2023 Vivian Owsley (18-1978) December 15, 2023

 Joan Reinschell (10-1968) October 6, 2023 Sarah (Blazer Hohman (24-1980) Dec 2, 2023

Elizabeth Strow (6-1994) November 30, 2023 Carolyn Wiseman (27-2004) February 9, 2024

Angie Berridge (5-1988) August 1, 2023 Patty Voiers (28-1995) January 25, 2024

Lou Ann Kilgore (2-2002) November 14, 2023 Sharon Hickman (12-2019) December 7, 2023

Jennie Scott (14-1990) January 15, 1023 Merrie-Lynn Seaburn (3-1989)February 24, 2024

Linda Young (7-2005) December 4, 2023 Yolanda Murphy (19-1995) March 24, 2024

Carol Phelps (9-2003) January 4, 2024 Grace George (19-2002) June 28, 2024

Virginia Dunn (6-1997) January 11, 2024 Janet Sheehan (18-1984) May 21, 2024

Delean Dotterer (7-1955) July 29, 2023 Theresa Ludwigsen (1-1991) May 9, 2024

Fran McGonigal (2-2006) February 3, 2024 Mary Fox (4-2008) July 20, 2024

Mickie Palmateer (4-2009) January 29, 2024 Faye Turk (4-1994) July 24, 2024

Doris Slosser (5-1987) January 23, 2024 Connie Slob (11-2004) September 2, 2024

Due to the tight schedule of the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron and Grand officers, we heard their remarks first.

**Remarks from the Worthy Grand Patron:** Brother Harless Maynard thanked everyone for attending and for the lunch they enjoyed. He thanked everyone for their dedication to the Lovelinks organization.

**Remarks from the Worthy Grand Matron:** Sister Cheryl welcomed everyone and thanked them for her meal and for attending the Lovelinks luncheon. She and Harless thanked everyone for all the support and donations that were made during this “Strike a Chord in 2024” Grand Chapter session and hoped everyone was ready for the Installation of 2025 Grand Officers.

**Committees:**

**Audit:** Judi Shaeffer (12-2008), Suzanne Griffin (12-2022/23), Janet White (12-2014/2015)

**Nominating:** Rita Bailey (19-2010), Diane Worchester (6-2010), Linda Ayers (17-2010).

**Advisory:** Patti Askins (8-2011/12), Laurie Stout (2016/17), Suzanne Dick (2004).

**By-Law Committee:**  Fonda Mason (9-1986), Janet Doolittle (2-2021/22), Cindy King (9-2011).

**DGM of Honored Years:** Deputy Grand Matrons who served 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years ago and beyond were recognized for their continued service.

**Closing Remarks from our Guests:** Our Most Worthy Grand Patron closed his remarks with “It is so good to be home.” Glenda Winchester, our Most Worthy Grand Matron advised that the flag tribute today truly touched her heart.

**President’s Closing Remarks:** President Sherry Kita thanked Sherri Bretland and Vicki Swearingen for their loving assistance. She advised that she was a Deputy Grand Matron in 2009 and asked the 2009 Sweet Violets and PGM Peg Reiterman to stand. She also asked the 2010 Golden Girls and PGM Jan Goerss and PGP Bruce Ailes to stand. What a joy to be part of these wonderful families. Thank you for your support today and always. Sister Sherry also recognized her District 3 family, thanking those who helped today and those who are always there for her. She closed with a message that explains why she ***Celebrates Family***:

“There’s a special kind of closeness that only families know.

That begins with childhood trust and deepens as you grow.

There’s a special kind of caring in knowing your family’s there—

To back you up, to lift you up, to understand and care.

Of all the treasures life may bring, your family means the most

And whether near or far apart that love will hold you close.” Anonymous

May the love of our OES family and this special Lovelinks family keep us close until we meet again.

**Benediction:** The benediction was given by PGM Gail Walsh (6-1995)

Sister Sherry declared the Lovelinks meeting closed and thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Petrenio, Secretary Sherry Kita, President