**LOVELINKS OF OHIO**

The 42nd Spring meeting of the Lovelinks organization was called to order Saturday, April 12, 2025 by President, Sherry Kita (3-2009/10), as we honored our Worthy Grand Patron Brother Ray Dennis.

She advised the centerpieces may seem out of place but they represent her theme – “Celebrate Family…there’s snow place like home.” Snowmen come in all shapes and sizes and most are smiling. The table decorations are colorful and joyful as our Eastern Star Family and hope you enjoy them. May we rejoice in each other’s company as we celebrate our Worthy Grand Patron and Millersport Chapter #301. We are blooming where God has planted us this day, in spite of the frosty decorations.

President Sherry explained that the members of Lovelinks are former Deputy Grand Matrons of the Grand Chapter of Ohio. This organization was founded in 1982 by Sister Marion Johnson, DGM 1981. She was invited to speak. 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.

Sister Sharon Jakse, (3-2017/18) read a poem entitled “I Am the Flag” which gave us a virtuous meaning of the freedom we have today, after which she led everyone in the Pledge of Alligeance to the Flag of our Country. Sister Jan Goerss, PGM, 3-1996 gave the invocation.

**Head Table**: President Sherry continued the meeting with introductions. We were honored to have the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Marla Barber, (10-2016/17), and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Ray Dennis, along with his wife, Soni Dennis, (27-2001, 2021/22) Grand Representative of New Mexico in Ohio. She thanked them for their leadership this year and spending time with the Lovelinks today. Sister Rita Follas, (8-2004) was seated next to the Worthy Grand Matron and the officers of Lovelinks: Vice President, Linda Whitesel (17-2018/19), Secretary, Wanda Petrenio (19-2022/23), and Treasurer, Sherry Taylor (12-2006). She welcomed each of us advising everyone to stay cool, enjoy the beauty of each day and leave a little sparkle along the way..

**General Grand Chapter Committee Members and Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons of the Grand Chapter of Ohio:** Eastern Star Journal **–** Cheryl Maslowski, PGM (12-2009); **Past Grand Matrons & Past Grand Patrons:** Jan Goerss-2010; Jean Watters-2012; Gail Walsh-2014; Michelle Howell- 2017; Cindy Chadwell-2022; Cheryl Maslowski-2024; Bill Taylor-2016.

**Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of Ohio**: Grand Marshal-Joella Van Winkle (5-2023-24); Grand Adah, Patricia Wall; Grand Ruth, Marie Paver (15-1991); Grand Esther, Julie Meenach (27-2023-24); Grand Martha, Susan Schenck (2-2012/13); Grand Electa, Anessa Hill, (11-2015/16); Grand Warder, Jodi Wilkins, (15-16-2021-22); COA Suzanne Dick, (18-2004); Drill Director Vicki Perks, (18-2021/22); Choir Director, Diane Phillips.

**Deputy Grand Matrons:** Gloria Tilden (1&2), Amanda Schoen (3), Patty Creighton (12), Paige Cotter-Moss (14), Dody Myers (17), Linda Young (21) Nancy McCollum (22) Jodi Augustine (23&28) Connie Mundy (24). They were encouraged to join Lovelinks after their first year of commission.

**Grand Representatives:** Arkansas, Melinda Callahan (20-2022/23); Australia & Secretary to WGM, Sharon Kloepfer (2009); British Columbia & Yukon Jodi Drake; Kentucky Deb Wooddell; Maryland Donna Thomas; Missouri Ruth Ann Fox; New Mexico Soni Dennis; Wisconsin Kelly Sparks.

**Past Presidents of Lovelinks: with us today:**  Marion Johnson (18-1982), Janice Goerss (3-2002), Gail Walsh (6-1995) Susie Mayer (23-2013), Ruth Ann Fox (25-2014) Debbie Pool (10-2018), Suzanne Dick (18-2022), Linda Zerkle (9-2023). **Liaisons:** Janet Doolittle (2), Sherry Kita (3), Rita Follas (8), Debra Pool (10) JoAnn Walton (12), Kay Krupa (15), Brooke Anderson (16), Marion Johnson (18), Susie Mayer (23), Patricia Wall (24), Ruth Ann Fox (25), Nancy Flautt (27), Ruth Smalley (28). President Sherry thanked all the ladies who 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. She also thanked Sue Ward for her years of service as the Liaison Officer for District #15 and welcomed Kay Krupa as the new Liaison Officer for District #15. Gifts were given. **Parliamentarian:** Janice Goerss (3-1996)

After introductions President Sherry thanked everyone for attending and throughout the introductions shared some snowman wisdom with each group.

**PAST DEPPUTY GRAND MATRONS OF HONORED YEARS :**

5 YEARS, 2020 Symphony of the Stars: 20-Melinda Callahan, 10-Darcie Miller, 16-Jodi Wilkins, 28-Ruth Smalley

10 Years, 2015 Our Living Tree: 10-Rita Dropsey, 11-Anessa Hill, 12-Janet White

15 Years, 2010 Life’s Golden Treasures: 3-Sherry Kita, 9-Linda Zerkle, 16-Brooke Anderson, 18-Sherri Bretland, 20-Michelle Howell, 27-Melody Boyer

20 Years, 2005 Golden Chain of Friendship: 3-Janice Herbst, 16-Brooke Anderson, 19-Melora Waltman 20-Jean Watters, 23-Susie Mayer

25 Years, 2000 Sing A New Song: 1-Donna Thomas, 6-Peggy Heider, 16-Jodi Wilkins

30 Years, 1995 Precious Moments: 6-Gail Walsh

They were thanked for their service to our Order and continued support of Lovelinks,

**Final Snowman Thought:** “ I made myself a snowball as perfect as could be; I thought I’d keep it as a pet and let it sleep with me. I made it some pajamas and a pillow for its head. Then last night it ran away, but first it wet the bed.”

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Secretaries Report:** The minutes of the September 29, 2024 meeting were emailed to all members along with the invitation to the Spring luncheon and 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, please contact the secretary after the meeting.

Our membership is 550 members. There are 29 members paying yearly dues and 521 life members. There was a net loss of 11 members since our last meeting, September 29, 2024.

**Communications:** The secretary received several emails sending regrets for not attending. President Sherry received one from Grand Treasurer, Gayle Sutherin sending her regrets. We received a thank you card from PMWGP Lon Lowry thanking us for the love gift he received at General Grand Chapter.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Sherry Taylor gave a very detailed report showing beginning balance April 29, 2024 with checking balance of $3611.97, receipts $3138.00, disbursements $3220.05 with an ending balance of $3529.92 March 24, 2025. Savings beginning balance $6417.59, receipts and interest 240.57 with an ending balance of $6658.16. Total net worth of the accounts $10,188.08.

**Bills:** $85.00 for postage. We will receive a bill for today’s luncheon.

**Registration Report**: Nancy Flautt (27-1996) gave the report showing a total of 93 present today for the luncheon. President Sherry thanked Nancy for serving as the Reservation Chair.

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:**

**New Members:** President Sherry welcomed our newest Lovelinks Members who were with us today. Denise Zephier, Dist. #6 & 26 – DGM 2024; Beth Turner, Dist. #9 – DGM 2023-24; Patricia Creighton, Dist. #12 – DGM 2024-25; Paige Cotter-Moss, Dist.#14 – DGM 2024-25; Dora Purcell Dist. #20 - 2024; Nancy McCollum, Dist. 22 2024-25; Jodi Augustine, Dist. # 23 & 26 2024-25; Rebecca McAlindon, 3-2023/2024 became a Life member today. Each received a journal and Bath & Body Hand Soap. She informed them to reach out to their District Liaisons or the Lovelinks officers if they had any questions.

**Report of the Audit Committee:**

Suzanne Griffin advised the Audit Committee this year included Judi Shaeffer and Janet White. Suzanne read the Audit Report and advised that the Books balanced with the bank. Aduit report signed by Suzanne Griffin, Judi Shaeffer and Janet White. Motion made by Suzanne Griffin to accept the report, seconded by Linda Zerkle. Motion carried. Report filed for Audit.

**OES Home Project**: President Sherry Kita presented a Love Gift from the Lovelinks to the WGM and WGP for their OES Home project this year which will go to improvements for the Shelter house. They were very thankful for the gift.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Brooke Anderson presented the slate of Officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Rita Bailey, Linda Ayers, and Diane Worchester.

President – Linda Whitesel, #17 - 2018/19 Vice President – Carole Phelps, #20 – 2007

Secretary – Wanda Petrenio, #19 – 2022/23 Treasurer – Sherry Taylor, #12 – 2006

There being no nominations from the floor, the presenter moved that the nominative ballot become the elective ballot. President Sherry Kita advised there was a motion made for the ballot to become the elective ballot and was seconded by Linda Zerkle. Being no discussion from the floor, a vote was taken. Motion carried.

New officers of the Lovelinks for 2025-2026 are:

**President** – Linda Whitesel, #17 - 2018/19 **Vice President** – Carole Phelps, #20 – 2007

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**Secretary** – Wanda Petrenio, #19 – 2022/23 **Treasure**r – Sherry Taylor, #12 – 2006

**Installation of Officers:** PGM Cindy Chadwell, was Installing Officer for Linda Whitesel, President, Carole Phelps, Vice-President, and Wanda Petrenio, Secretary and PGP Brother Bill Taylor installed Sherry Taylor, Treasurer. Junior Past Grand Matron Cheryl Maslowski was Installing Chaplain. The Installing Officers were thanked for a beautiful installation.

**Remarks by new President, Linda Whitesel**: She thanked Linda Ayers for nominating her and to everyone who came to today’s meeting. The Lovelinks theme this year will be “JOY” - “***J***esus first, ***O***thers second, and ***Y***ourself last.” The scripture is “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Linda announced the Fall Meeting will be a Breakfast on Sunday morning at Grand Chapter before the Vespers Service, September 28, 2025. The Chairman for the breakfast will be Marsha Rosser, Dist. # 12 (DGM 2016-17). You will receive an email invitation for the breakfast and meeting about 6 weeks prior to Grand Chapter. The spring meeting minutes and the Fall Invitation will also be posted on the Grand Chapter website and newsletter.

**CLOSING REMARKS and Thank yous:** Sister Sherry congratulated all the new officers, grateful for the opportunity to work with them this year, and wished them a good year. She also thanked the Advisory Board, Linda Zerkle, Suzanne Dick, and Lori Stout for their service; the members of the Lovelinks for allowing her to serve as their president; the committee members who willingly said yes when asked to serve. A special thank you to the Sweet Violets and the Golden Girls for the strong family ties; to District #3 for their love and support; to those who helped with the preparations for today, especially Nancy Flautt, Melody Boyer, Peggy Snodgrass, Jan Herbst, and Linda Lindberg. She introduced Melody Boyer and her team, who prepared the delicious lunch that we all enjoyed. Finally, Sherry advised that Family is not just a word, it’s a feeling and asks that the love of our OES family and this special Lovelinks family keep us close until we meet again.

**Remarks from the Worthy Grand Patron:** Brother Ray Dennis thanked everyone for attending and for the lunch they enjoyed. He thanked everyone for their dedication to the Lovelinks organization. He also mentioned that things like bulletproof vests, lasers, were made by women. In closing he had a bit of a snowman’s wisdom too.

“Never stand between your dog and a fire hydrant and don’t eat the yellow snow”.

**Remarks from the Worthy Grand Matron:** Sister Marla welcomed everyone and thanked them for her meal and Love gift for the OES Home Project and for attending the Lovelinks luncheon. Her closing remarks were “Bloom Where God Plants You.”

Sister Sherry said in the spirit of celebrating family, she wanted to share her mom’s favorite Meal blessing. “We thank you God for happy hearts, for rain and sunny weather, we thank you God for the food we eat, and that we are together.”

Linda Lindberg, (3-2007) completed the meeting with a benediction after which everyone was dismissed for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Petrenio, Secretary Sherry Kita, President