

OES OH State District Officers Association Meeting 2025

On Wednesday August 13, 2025 the OES OH State District Officers Association met at the The Makoy in Columbus for the annual meeting. Members of District 17 supplied coffee, tea, and assorted muffins, nut breads and doughnuts to the early arrivals.

Randi Breibach-Past District 17 President welcomed everyone to the 75th Ohio State District meeting and called the meeting to order.

State President, Amy Wood, welcomed and hoped for everyone a very fun and enjoyable day.

Past President Brenda Slay of District 17 gave the invocation, asking God's blessing upon all in attendance. Ron Hardesty recited a very moving tribute to the flag – as he did for Amy as her Advisor in 2020. It is in its entirety below.

Linda Whitsel, Past District 17 President gave a touching Memorial Service. See below.

Judi Piszczak, VP of the State Association; Debbie Somerlot, AGM and her spouse Fred; Cindy Chadwell, PGM 2022; Scott Riddle PGP, General Grand Chapter Committee Member, Regenerative, Medicine; Amy Young, Grand Conductress; Dennis Evans, Grand Sentinel; Lynda Duhl, State Secretary; Sara Short, State Treasurer, Todd Evans, Associate Grand Patron and his spouse Tracie Evans, Grand Representative of Indiana in Ohio; Cheryl Maslowski, Jr. Past Grand Matron and General Grand Committee Member Eastern Star Journal; Harless Maynard, Jr. Past Grand Patron; Melissa Holmes, Associate Grand Conductress; and Jodi Wilkins, Grand Warder, were seated at the head table.

Recognitions were given to Past Most Worthy Grand Patron, F. Lon Lowery, General Grand Chapter Committee members, Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, Grand Chapter Officers, Deputy Grand Matrons, Grand Representatives; Past State Presidents and Secretaries; and current District Presidents.

District Presidents have received a copy of the minutes of last year's meeting in the packet each received upon registering. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes, so they were accepted as distributed.

The roll call of the districts was completed and there were 249 voting members and 99 non-voting members present.

The Audit Report was given by Suzanne Griffin. The committee consisted of Suzanne, Bonnie Jolliff and Lori McFarland.

Sara Short gave the treasurer's report which will be filed for audit. Amy thanked Sara for all she does for the State Association.

There was one nomination from the floor for State Vice President and was duly seconded. Vicki Echelbarger, a Past President of District 5 was elected as the nominative ballot was voted to be the cast ballot.

Amy thanked Nancy Williams for doing the Audio and Visual for the meeting.

The following special guests gave greetings and remarks. These can be found at the end of these minutes.

Dennis Evans, Grand Sentinel

Jodi Wilkins, Grand Warder

Melissa Holmes, Associate Grand Conductress

Amy Young, Grand Conductress

Cheryl Maslowski and Harless Maynard, Jr. PGM PGP

Cindy Chadwell, PGM and Scott Riddle, PGP

Past Grand Matron, Janice Goerss installed Judi Piszczak as State President giving a wonderful speech as a walk-through of "Nature's Beauty", Sister Judi's Theme.

Vicki Echelbarger was installed as State Vice President, Lynn Miller-Penegor as appointed Secretary, and Sara Short as State Treasurer.

Remarks were made by Judi Piszczak, and Amy congratulated her and wished her well for her year.

Table Grace was given by Shawna Jolly, 3rd VP of District 17.

Upon the completion of the luncheon Debbie and Todd provided details about their year. Their presentation is included below.

Amy thanked her district for their support and Lynda Duhl for agreeing to be her secretary. She thanked her chapter, Level Chapter #109 for making the table centerpieces, Celtic sashes for the minions.

The meeting closed with a benediction by Carrie McGlaughlin, 1st VP of District 17.

A Celtic Wish for You.

May there always be work for your hands to do. May your purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine upon your windowpane, may a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near to you. And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Lynda Duhl
State Secretary
2025

Good afternoon,

It is with a full heart and deep gratitude that I stand before you today as the Grand Sentinel. I am truly honored and humbled by this opportunity to serve in such a meaningful role within our beloved Order.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your confidence in me.

Your support and encouragement mean more than I can express in words, and I accepted this responsibility with great respect for the trust placed in me.

As I (hopefully) move forward next year as your Associate Grand Patron, I want to acknowledge the inspiring leadership of our incoming Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. I look forward to working alongside you both and am committed to supporting your vision, your goals, and the beautiful work that lies ahead of us this year.

Together, we will uphold the values of our Order, foster unity, and ensure that every member feels seen, valued, and appreciated. I promise to serve with integrity, kindness, and a spirit of cooperation as we continue to build on the strong foundation that has been laid before us.

Thank you again for this incredible honor. May we move forward with grace, strength, and a shared commitment to service.

Thank you.

Dennis M. Evans,

Grand Sentinel 2025

August 13, 2025

State District Officer's Association

Remarks

Grand Warder-Jodi Wilkins

Good morning, Sisters and Brothers! It is great to see so many here today. This is truly a beautiful morning!

Today is an exciting day! Today, Sister Debbie and Brother Todd begin to share their plans for the Grand Chapter of Ohio in 2026.

Debbie and Todd, I know you have planned well, and we are all looking forward to hearing your plans and excited to learn a few of your secrets!

I wish you both a wonderful and exciting year filled with many sweet memories. I pray for safe travels for you both and I pledge to you my full and complete support.

Good afternoon, everyone. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the State District Association for the warm hospitality extended to me today. It's always a delightful experience to connect with our Sisters and Brothers, fostering fellowship and reconnecting. This year has been an absolute pleasure, filled with wonderful experiences as I traveled across the state, making new friends and cherishing our Eastern Star Family.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my steering committee, Melissa's Melody Makers, Mt. Healthy Chapter #365, the members of my own District 20, and Districts 19,21 and 22. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our journey. I am incredibly grateful for your contributions in helping me achieve my goal of progressing through the Grand Line. Your dedication and expertise are truly remarkable, and I couldn't have accomplished this without your unwavering belief in me.

Jodi, I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to know and work with you this year. I eagerly anticipate serving alongside you as we diligently weave the labyrinth for the upcoming 2026 Session. May your journey through the Grand Line be filled with success and fulfillment.

Amy and Dennis, I recognize your exceptional teamwork and look forward to the years ahead as you serve this Grand Chapter. Congratulations on your achievements, and I wish you both the best of luck as you embark on this journey together. Amy, I have learned a great deal from working with you this year, and I am deeply grateful for your assistance and the invaluable insights you have shared with me.

Debbie and my fellow Door Knocker, Todd, I eagerly anticipate serving and collaborating with you in the upcoming 2026 Session. To you both, along with Tracie and Fred, David and I wish for an extraordinary year filled with unforgettable experiences. May your travels be safe and filled with joy. As WGM and WGP, I am confident that you will lead our organization with wisdom and success. May your blessings be upon you both. Thank you to everyone, and I eagerly anticipate seeing you all in September. Melissa Holmes, Associate Grand Conductress

Good afternoon, Sisters and Brothers,

What a joy it is to be here with you today! It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and that we will all gather at Grand Chapter in just a few weeks.

This year has certainly flown by, and I have truly enjoyed my travels, meeting so many of you and renewing old friendships.

First, I want to express my gratitude to Medina Chapter for all their love and support since I began this journey. I also want to thank District 4, my dual chapter, Falls Chapter, and the many wonderful members of District 2. Being a Grand Line Officer is a significant commitment, not only for oneself but also for one's Chapter and District.

Jodi, it has been wonderful getting to know you this year, and I look forward to working with you in the coming years. To Melissa and your secret guy-I am sure you will be wonderful together.

As we prepare to launch into the 2025-2026 Grand Chapter year, I can't help but feel that everything is moving a little too quickly for me! However, I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead. AGM Debbie and AGP Todd, I can't wait to see the amazing things you both have planned for your year. Here's to a year filled with good health, great friends, and unforgettable memories on this incredible journey. May God bless you, Tracie, and Fred as you step into this new chapter. Always remember that I am here if you need anything.

In closing, I would like to thank the State Association for all the courtesies extended to me today. Thank you.

Amy Young Grand Conductress

Remarks for the State District Meeting-August 13,2025

Greetings to our State Officers, distinguished guests and my Eastern Star friends, to name a few,

I'm honored to share this fun-filled day with you

Thank you so much for my lunch and giving me a chance to share some thoughts about my son and maybe do a happy dance

What can I say about Todd, my son, and his partner Little Debbie, my friend?

Our prayers to give you a great leader has been our goal in the end
From the day we revealed they would be working together to this day of secrets to share

Harless and I knew all was good, and our Order is safe in their care

Todd has a flair for fashion and fun, and a serious side, this is true
His heart of gold and love for our members will allow the best to be shining through

You won't find a harder working quartet-Debbie, Fred, Tracie, and Todd
They plan and double check and ask guidance from our God

I know you are in very capable good hands and my buttons are bursting with pride

Please know I will be in your corner, always rooting, and there on your side.

Much love to each of you as you continue on your journey and lead our Order into a bright future.

Cheryl Maslowski, Jr. PGM

State Officer's Association Meeting

August 13,2025

Remarks by:

Harless Maynard, PGP

Good day, Sisters and brothers. It is a pleasure to be here today and to address this gathering of our district and state officers.

One of the many duties of a Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron is to appoint a brother to the station of "Grand Sentinel". This decision cannot be made lightly. Foremost in their thoughts must be that this brother, if elected to the Grand Line, will be a future Worthy Grand Patron.

When sister Cheryl and I began to consider this appointment, we discussed what qualifications are necessary and desired to make a brother eligible for this distinguished station. Personality, good leadership, planning skills and good ritualistic work are all a must. Will he have the support and understanding from his family? Will he be a good partner and work well with the future Worthy Grand Matron?

As our discussions continued and we began to narrow the field down, brother Todd Evans' name kept coming up. We felt that brother Todd had all the qualifications that we were looking for. He was already well known and respected. His ritualistic work was top notch. And, as a plus, he and sister Debbie were already good friends. Brother Todd has not let us down.

All this being said, I stand here today and say that I am proud to be the "Fraternal Dad" of our brother Todd Evans. I am looking forward to the coming year and to having him serve our Grand Chapter as Worthy Grand Patron.

Harless H. Maynard

2024 Worthy Grand Patron

State Association Meeting
August 13,2025

Remarks of Cindy Chadwell

Thank you madame president.

To our honored guests, our Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons, Grand Officers, Deputy Grand Matrons and Grand Representatives, but especially our State Officers and District Officers across the state, who work to encourage and unite the chapters in our Districts, welcome and thank you for your assistance to our Line Grand Officers.

Associate Grand Patron, Brother Todd. While you aren't exactly my fraternal son, ya kinda are, and I know that our Past Grand Matron Sister Cheryl will understand my wanting to wish you and Sister Tracie the very best in the coming year. I also want to thank you for being there to have our Little Debbie's back right now! God bless you both and give you good health and safe travels.

Associate Grand Matron, Sister Debbie-Daughter!

Wow, did I not tell you this would go quickly? I know I remember sitting up here as a Grand Warder in 2018 and the next thing I knew I was the Associate Grand Matron and waiting anxiously for this meeting and the lunch to end so that Scott and I could share our plans for 2022.

Now, I have done some peeking into your sewing basket. It is well stocked and organized; you have all of your tools. Your scissors, needles and such beautiful thread, and I know that you are working tirelessly to put together a beautiful sampler for us next year.

We are all here today-so excited to hear the plans that you and Brother Todd will share with us after lunch. We know it's just a teaser to keep us wondering about the surprises you will reveal at Grand Chapter, which will be here VERY soon.

But you know that you and Todd have my love and support, and that all of your sisters and brothers are praying for your quick recovery. We are all anxious to work with you and begin to stitch some new beginnings, patch some things that need a little work, and stitch together, just lie a quilting bee, in support of our charities and our communities.

God has brought you through a great deal just to arrive at this day. He is watching over you and your family, so now you just need remember to continue to "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you!" just as we are told in I Peter 5:7. I know that He will give you strength for healing, good health for the future and safe travels as your lead this Grand Chapter in 2026!

State President's Meeting-August 13,2025 Makoy Center, Hilliard, OH

Sister "Little Debbie" and Brother Todd, you are about to start on a journey of a lifetime, (IF ELECTED!), to lead our Grand Chapter of Ohio through the 137th year of our existence. An unforgettable experience, a fun experience with many memories to be made. I wish for both of you good health and safe travels as you go forth to do your assigned duties.

Brother Todd, your main duty is to advise and assist the WGM in the discharge of her duties and to preside over the Grand Chapter whenever called upon by her. To talk her down off of any cliffs that she finds herself ready to jump off of! To bring a smile to her face when she is feeling down. To be her sounding board in all matters that come before her, to offer her another view of opinion, yet knowing that the ultimate decision is going to be hers.

Sister "Little Debbie", it's been just a few short years since Cindy and I cornered you on a "Dark & Stormy Night" (it was actually a pleasant autumn evening-but D&S sounds better when setting up the story) at Bellefontaine Chapter's installation with the subterfuge of buying Christmas ornaments. The "deer in the headlights" look on your face was, as they say, PRICELESS!

Shortly thereafter, you got back with us with your acceptance! Yea! (How many days have you had second thoughts about that?).

As we all await to hear about your and Todd's plans for the upcoming year, let me assure you that though everyone will not always agree with what you are planning to do (actually I always figured that just 1 more than half equals 100% in agreement), I say Godspeed, Little Debbie, put your mark on this Grand Chapter and make it your own. You have my complete support and know that Jill and I will do anything that we can to help out along the way on this journey of your life!

Scott Riddle, PGP 2022

Your Proud Fraternal Father

"Ragged Old Flag"

I walked through a county courthouse square
On a park bench, an old man was sittin' there.
I said, "Your old court house is kinda run down,
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town".
I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit,
And that's a ragged old flag you got hangin' on it".
He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down,
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town"
I said, "I think it is"
He said "I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of
That Ragged Old Flag

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there,
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
and It got powder burned the night Francis Scott Key sat watching it,
writing "Say Can You See"
It got a rip in New Orleans, with Packingham & Jackson
tugging at its seams.
and It almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag,
But she waved on though.
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville,
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee and Beauregard and Bragg,
And the south wind blew hard on
That Ragged Old Flag

"On Flanders Field in World War I,
She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun,
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp, and low, a time or two,
She was in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam
and now they've about quit wavin' back here at home
in her own good land here She's been abused,
She's been burned, dishonored, denied an' refused,
And the government for which she stands
Has been scandalized throughout out the land.
And she's getting thread bare, and she's wearin' thin,
But she's in good shape, for the shape she's in.
Cause she's been through the fire before
and I believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning
And we bring her down slow every night,
We don't let her touch the ground,
And we fold her up right.
On second thought
I *do* like to brag
Cause I'm mighty proud of
That Ragged Old Flag"

We have gathered here to remember our dearly departed Sisters and Brothers. Their message to us might be “Remember Me”.

Don't remember me with sadness, don't remember me with tears, Remember all the laughter we've shared throughout the years.

Now I am contented that my life is worthwhile knowing that I passed along the way I made somebody smile.

When you are walking down the street and you've got me on your mind, I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.

So please don't be unhappy just because I'm out of sight,
Remember that I'm with you Each Morning, Noon and Night.

Our message to them might be “Until We Meet Again” .

We think about you always, we talk about you still. You have never been forgotten and you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain
To walk and guide us through our lives. Until we meet again.

Remember, we have but to keep the faith and we too shall join the loved ones gone before.

Linda Whitesel, PM
District 17, Grove City Chapter #502



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2026 Zones

Northeast - Regions A,B, L
Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14

Northwest - Regions C, D, E, M
Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 26

Southwest - Regions F, G, H
District 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Southeast - Regions I, J, K, N
Districts 15, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28

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Meet the Deputy EOP

October 12, 2025 and October 19, 2025

New format
Meeting for entire Zone
Same Program both dates
Meet all DGMs & Dignitaries from your Zone
Meet the DGM's Pages and Aides

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Fall Educational Opportunities

<u>Dates</u>	These are for everyone!
Oct 25, 2025 Lancaster Masonic Center	New this year!
Nov 1, 2025 Canton Masonic Center	Important that your
Nov 8, 2025 Springfield Masonic Center	LINE OFFICERS
Nov 22, 2025 Findlay Masonic Center	attend the Fall EOPs

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WGM/WGP's OES Home Project

**THREADS OF THE EARTH:
WEAVING AND GROWING TOGETHER**

**Creating Raised,
Accessible
Garden Beds for
All Residents**

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Charity Donations

Chapter Installations: ESTARL
 Fall EOPs: WGM/WGP's Home
 Project:Threads of the Earth
 Spring Exemplifications:
 GCC Alzheimer's Project
 Receptions, Visitations, Anniversary:
 Regenerative Medicine
 Chapter Inspections: District
 Charities
 WGM/WGP's Music: Benevolence Fund

Benevolence
 10%
Cancer 15%
Dyslexia Center 15%
Education 15%
Historic Landmarks 5%
OES Home
 15%
Service Dogs 10%
Youth
 15%

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Special Donation

October Donation
 Supporting Breast Cancer Awareness
 Ohio Health Arthur G. H. Bing, MD, Cancer Center's
 Mobile Mammography



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Driving Hope

Mobile mammography directly addresses barriers routinely preventing women from receiving an annual exam by:

The Need
 Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer we treat, with one in eight women developing breast cancer in their lifetime. Early detection combined with high-quality treatment is the most effective tool to decrease mortality and direct medical costs for care.

Evidence-Based Results
 Follow up surveys with our patients found the following: 30% would not have received a screening with out the mobile unit. 90% would be more likely to have an annual exam if a mobile unit was regularly available. 17% needed additional testing due to abnormal findings.

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Driving Hope...Across the State



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Special Donation

February Donation
 For
 Heart Fund

We are asking that during the month of February that we honor GCC Committee Member, Margi Wheeler, by designating your Sunshine Collection(s) to the Heart Fund or make a Special Donation to the Heart Fund.



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2026 Programs

CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT

We will again be holding the Ohio Chapter Achievement Program this year which will run from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026. We have decided to add a new section this year that focuses on ritualistic excellence.

NEW Section Centered On Ritual Work

Includes Ritual competition, Circle of Knowledge, Practices and Chapter Review

NEW Chapter Ritual Review

- Voluntary Program
- Have a PGP come in to review
- Not shared with your inspecting Officer
- Used to improve ritual work

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2026 Programs

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

One of the basic tenets of our order is the charity work that we do. As we weave together the threads of our charitable work, we want to encourage chapters to not just donate money to their community but to give of their time and energy. The Excellence in Community Service Award can be earned by any chapter who meets the criteria.



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2026 Programs



Visitation and Activity Punch Card

Attend an event and get a punch. Once you have 10 punches, turn in your card to a Deputy Grand Matron. All completed cards will be entered into a drawing at the 2026 Grand Chapter Session for a Gift Card.

Punches can be earned at the following eligible activities

Installations
 District Meetings
 District Fundraisers
 Exemptions
 Statewide Charity Events

Individual Chapter events, practices, committee meetings, and similar activities are NOT eligible.



Eligible Activities

Installations & Inspections
 Circle Meetings & Activities
 EOPS & Charitable Events
 Masonic Charity Events
 Masonic & Non-Masonic
 Masonic & Non-Masonic

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Other 2026 Programs

- ❖ **Heroines of Our Star Membership Program**
- ❖ **Masonic Youth Membership Program**
- ❖ **Ritual Competition**
- ❖ **Circle of Knowledge**

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2026 Important Dates

Celebration of the Stars

April 18, 2026

All Occasions
 Catering, Waldo

OH-MI Night

May 9, 2026

Sauder Village,
 Archbold

Charities Extravaganza

June 27, 2026

OES Home, Mt.
 Vernon

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WGM/WGP's Trip: A Stitch in Time

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WGM/WGP's Trip: A Stitch in Time



MONTICELLO



VIRGINIA BEACH



COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG



GREENBRIER RESORT

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WGM/WGP's Trip: A Stitch in Time



7 DAY – 6 NIGHT

Celebration of America's 250th Birthday as we visit Monticello, Williamsburg, Virginia Beach and the Greenbrier.

THE TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round trip deluxe motorcoach (limit 2 buses)
- 1 Night at Monticello, 2 nights Williamsburg, 2 nights Virginia Beach, 1 night at the Greenbrier.
- Admission tickets to Monticello and Williamsburg and tour at Greenbrier
- 6 breakfasts, 1 afternoon tea and 1 dinner

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