

# IOWA GALAXY



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### Message From the Worthy Grand Matron

Submitted by: Janice Alger

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I cannot believe the year is half over! The School Season ended in May. All the District Instructors did a good job. It was fun to watch each of our District Instructors perform her work.

I attended the Grand Chapters of Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Attending Grand Chapters in other Jurisdictions is always fun. I was able to renew and make new friendships.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> The Tracers had their first Degrees in Newton. All the Grand Officers were present, but Grand Esther, whose Grandson graduated High School that day. We initiated four into Eastern Star

- Sister Sally Bachman Albia Chapter
- Brother Daniel D’Louhy Council Bluff Chapter
- Brother Michael Kirchner Council Bluff Chapter
- Brother Issac Green Des Moines Chapter Pleasant Hill

All the Officers did a great job. We appreciated all the courtesy given to me and the Tracer Grand Family.

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We departed May 30<sup>th</sup> our trip “Going to Texas”. We had 33 Sisters and Brothers go with us. We visited the following

- Prayer Tower
- Texas Ranger Hall of Fame
- Alamo and Imax Theater “Price of Freedom”
- San Antonio city tour and Mission San Jose
- Mexican Market and a Winery
- Land Rush Memorial and LBJ Ranch & Museum
- Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum
- Buckhorn Hall of Horns and Saloon
- Precious Moments Chapel and Gardens

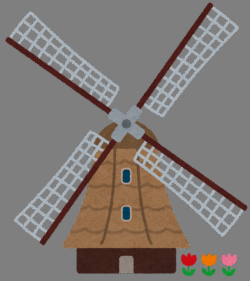
June 27<sup>th</sup> will be the “Who Let the Dogs Out” fundraiser. It will be held at Community Center in Panora. The Committee is busy working on the fun day. All proceeds go the Retrieving Freedom in Waverly. Add this event to your calendar and watch for details on the IA OES Webpage.

Kansas will be hosting the 5-State Exchange in Leavenworth, KS. We look forward to see our Sisters and Brothers from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!

Janice





# Message From the Worthy Grand Patron

Submitted by: Carroll Duysen

Sisters and Brothers,

In March we started our schools and started our fun days. We went to Kansas Grand Chapter April 20<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We then had our Marne school April 25<sup>th</sup>. On April 26<sup>th</sup> we were at Camp Couragous to help with omelet breakfast, then back to Des Moines for the Grand Representative Luncheon. Minnesota Grand Chapter was April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Nebraska Grand Chapter was May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>.

We had our first degree May 16<sup>th</sup> in Newton, with 4 new members for our Iowa OES. We left for our bus trip to San Antonio May 30<sup>th</sup> and returned to Altoona on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Our OES Golf Outing the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Then a fun night with Ankeny New Hope on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Polk City. The next day we will be in Panora for the “Who let the dogs out”.

We will have several fun days in July and then on July 18<sup>th</sup> is our 250<sup>th</sup> Semiquencentennial Heritage Fundraiser in Indianola. That is about it for now.

Carroll Duysen, WGP



# 2026 Projects for Grand Chapter

By Janice Alger Worthy Grand Matron

We are highlighting some of our projects in the Galaxy this year. This is to remind you that there are many projects you can support. In this issue of the Galaxy, we are highlighting the 2 projects available to help Grand Chapter.

We started the Warder and Sentinel's Knock Knock Club. Anyone can join; you do not have to be or have been a Warder or Sentinel. In joining this club, you will receive a Certification of Membership, and a Medallion with Family Tree on it. The Medallion is a good place to display your pins. One privilege of being a member of the club, you can tell a Knock Knock joke anytime and anywhere at an Iowa Eastern Star event. If you attended an Official Visit, you saw how much the members enjoyed participating. This project is promoted by the Tracers Grand Family; all proceeds go to Iowa Grand Chapter.

Also, we are promoting a Save a Dime a Day project to support Iowa Grand Chapter. As members, we know Grand Chapter is a business with income and expenses. With the rising costs of expenses, the ability to maintain a balance operating budget has become more challenging. We are asking you to consider saving a dime a day to support the ongoing operations of Iowa Grand Chapter.

Iowa Grand Chapter has approximately 3,600 members. If each member gave a donation of \$36.50 the projected total could reach \$131,400.00 in a year. To put this in perspective, enjoying a nice meal in a restaurant costs more than \$36.50. To fill your gas tank costs more than \$36.50 and the prices in the grocery store for a few items will cost more than \$36.50. It seems so simple to Save a Dime a Day but look at the difference it could make for our Order.

Let us be like the humble gleaner Ruth,  
Gathering here a little and there a little, we can provide for our future.

# Dementia Friends Iowa

A Dementia Friends Iowa Session was held on April 19 in Council Bluffs. The sessions are designed to help educate about Dementia. Anyone who attends the session becomes a Dementia Friend. The goal of Dementia Friends is to help community members understand dementia and the small things they can do to make a difference for people living with dementia and to increase understanding of dementia and to decrease stigma. We hope to increase empathy in the community as well. If you or your Chapter are interested in holding a session, please contact Claudia Hauser for information by email or phone.

Pictured is the First Class of Dementia Friends

Submitted by Claudia Hauser, Dementia Friends Champion



# TLC Project

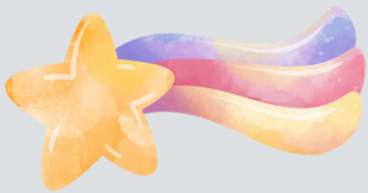
Want to contribute to the TLC project but can't sew? Try crocheting a walker bag! This is a good project to use up those scraps of yarn. I found a pattern on the web and then adapted it to what is shown below. The blue and yellow one was my first attempt, but the pattern I now use is slightly bigger. If you would like to try this, contact Karen Miller at [karfield82@gmail.com](mailto:karfield82@gmail.com) for the pattern.



# Chapter News

In January, members of the Decorah Chapter, Postville met at Lids restaurant in Waukon for a luncheon. Present were Paul and Maxine Horsfall, Bob Leppert, John and Judy Hyman, Andee and Lloyd Billman, Janet Huebner, Judi Krauskopf, Diane Drottz. Also, present Mary PWGM and Luke Reicks New Hampton Chapter, Lawler. Afterward, Brother Bob and Sister Maxine, PG Warder were presented with 60-year member certificates.

Submitted by Judi Krauskopf



At a Valentine's day luncheon, Winterset #180 recently honored a couple long time members. Audrey McDowell 78 years, and Debbie Jones 50 years.

Audrey McDowell, a very cherished member.

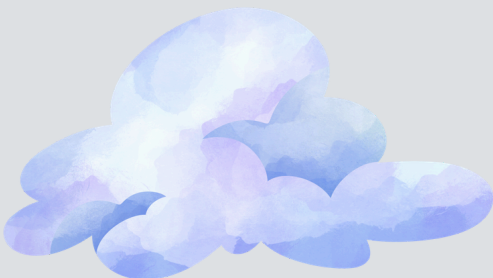
Debbie Jones, past grand organist.



LP Lyle Burkhardt of Waverly Chapter #353 was honored at the Chapter's Stated Meeting on March 14, 2026, when WM Robin Gaines and WP Brad Renner presented Brother Lyle with a Quilt of Valor as a Thank-You for his long-standing service to country, community, and Chapter.

WM Robin gave a brief history of the Quilt of Valor Foundation, and PGM Mary Reicks added appreciation and many thanks to the numerous Chapters and members throughout our jurisdiction whose labors of love and quilting skills produce the Quilts of Valor that are presented to our deserving veteran members.

Submitted by: Amy Lindell



At Jessamine Chapter's Stated Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>, Sister Carrie Bitterwolf received a Grand Representative appointment. She is now the Grand Representative of Iowa in Idaho, and her certificate was signed by Iowa's Worthy Grand Matron Janice Alger and Grand Secretary Jean Koss, Past Grand Matron of Iowa. The certificate of appointment and pin were presented by Carrie's daughter, Heidi Bitterwolf, Jessamine Chapter's Associate Matron. Heidi had kept the appointment a secret while the chapter was dark in January and February. It was a delightful surprise and made for a very special evening!

Pictured: Carrie Bitterwolf, left, receives the Grand Representative appointment of Iowa in Idaho from her daughter Heidi Bitterwolf, at right, at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting in Iowa City. Heidi serves as Jessamine Chapter's Associate Matron.



## Unity Chapter #58 OES Mason City

A member of Unity Chapter #58 Mason City OES, Bobbijo Duncan, has received a notable award for her work at Hoover Elementary in Mason City.

### **Celebrating leaders who make Iowa schools stronger**

We're proud to honor Bobbijo Duncan, behavior interventionist at Mason City Community School District as our Iowa School Mental Health Hero of the Month. From helping students build self-regulation skills to creating safe, supportive spaces rooted in trust, Bobbijo brings calm, connection, and hope when it matters most. Her work extends beyond the classroom—strengthening relationships with families and helping lead initiatives like the Hoover Riverhawk Market Pantry to meet basic needs with dignity and care.

Thank you, Bobbijo, for helping every student feel seen, supported, and ready to learn.





# Job's Daughters BETHEL NO. 5



LEADERSHIP • FRIENDSHIP • SERVICE

NEWSLETTER



May 2026

QUAD CITIES, IOWA



## BETHEL HIGHLIGHTS

Bethel No. 5 is excited to launch our new website: [qcjobsdaughters.org](http://qcjobsdaughters.org)! This helps us connect with our community, share events, and welcome new families.

We continue to hold regular meetings focused on leadership, learning, and teamwork. We are proud of our Daughters and grateful for your support—visit our site to see what's happening in Bethel No. 5!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



*Rechartering*

to be held on June 14, 2026  
at the  
Davenport Masonic Center

*Email* [qcjobie@gmail.com](mailto:qcjobie@gmail.com) for  
more information

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BETHEL



We welcome prospective members to learn more about Job's Daughters and Bethel No. 5!

To visit or join—virtually or in person—please go to [qcjobsdaughters.org](http://qcjobsdaughters.org) for information, events, and how to connect with a Bethel near you.

## SERVICE IN ACTION



Bethel No. 5 members enjoyed spreading kindness throughout the Quad Cities by donating books to Little Free Libraries, helping share the joy of reading with children and families in our community.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Whitney V., our current Honored Queen, continues to exemplify leadership, service, and dedication to Bethel No. 5.



## REMINDERS

Join us for dinner at Culver's in Bettendorf on May 18 from 5–8 pm to support our Share Night—proceeds help benefit Bethel No. 5 activities and events!

*"Virtue is a quality which highly adorns woman."*



# Notes from the Galaxy Commitee

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for the Galaxy!

Please send all submissions to the Iowa Galaxy email: [iaoesgalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:iaoesgalaxy@gmail.com).

We kindly ask that you include both the text and any photos you'd like featured in your email submissions. Thank you for your understanding and continued contributions!

Galaxy Committee Members: Victoria Means, Janelle Miller, and Deb Shroeder

