

# IOWA GALAXY



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### Message From the Worthy Grand Matron

Submitted by: Janice Alger

It is my honor to serve as your Worthy Grand Matron. We have completed Grand Chapter and Receptions and many of us are preparing for State School on February 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather caused traveling problems getting to the receptions, only one Reception was postponed.

Over the years our members have supported multiple charities in raising awareness and funds for the Worthy Grand Matrons and the Worthy Grand Patrons' special projects. Brother Carroll and I selected "Dementia Friendly Iowa" as our main Project. This project promotes change and education in communities across Iowa to create a more informed, safe, and respectful place for people living with dementia and their caregivers. Additional information will be provided in the Galaxy this year.

We are excited to share the activities that have been planned. All these projects have a special place in our hearts.  
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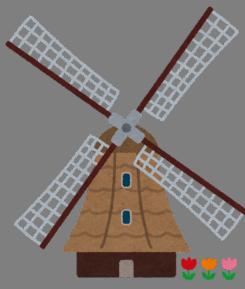
On May 16th, we will perform the Conferring of Degrees at Newton Chapter. Watch for information on Iowa OES Website.

Events that are always fun are Exchanges. During the year we will celebrate with our out-of-state Sisters and Brother with exchanges. There will be the Nebraska/Iowa Exchange; the 5 State Exchange (Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa) and a Minnesota/Wisconsin/Iowa exchange. Information on these events will be published later. Plan to attend at least one of these events, if not all of them, to help us extend our warm Iowa hospitality to our sisters and brothers from the other Grand Jurisdictions.

We will have an OES Trip “Gone to Texas” on May 30 - June 6, 2026. Some of the places we will visit is Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, Alamo, City tour of San Antonio, Mission San Jose, Winery Visit, and Precious Moments Chaple and Gardens. Information may be obtained from Craig Barfgrede, State Project Chairman, your District Project Chairman, for the Iowa OES webpage.

I realize my duties and responsibilities I assumed were great and significant to our growth. It is my commitment to the members of Iowa Grand Chapter to fulfill the duties and responsibilities with grace, humility, and enthusiasm. We need each other to grow and prosper; to provide for our sisters and brothers and help others through our charitable donations. Remember we are in-charge of our lives and happiness. Start each day with this thought, **“It’s a Good Day to Have a Good Day”** and bring your enthusiasm to every event, it is contagious.





## Message From the Worthy Grand Patron

Submitted by: Carol Duysen

Sisters and Brothers,

After our joint reception we had two Grand Officer Receptions and were scheduled to to to Spencer for the Grand Sentinel Reception and Christmas party. The weather cancelled the reception and party.

We finished all Grand Officer receptions in December except the Grand Sentinel. We went to Spencer for his reception and Christmas party on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We want to thank all of the chapters for their supporting our Grand Family at their receptions.

Now we are planning our State School in February. Then it is on to Schools all through March, April, and May. Then we head to San Antonio, Texas, to tour the Alamo and the River Walk area from May 30<sup>th</sup> to arrive back in Des Moines June 6<sup>th</sup>.

We are selling pecans, mixed nuts, cashew for Estarl again this year. We will have some at schools this year.

Carol Duysen, WGP





## Dementia Friendly Iowa

We will be working with the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging for this project.

- Proceeds from the Sale of the Windmill Pin
- Proceeds from the Sale of the Highland Cow Pin
- Proceeds from the Sale of March Sheet Music, Music CDs and USB Drive
- 250th Semiquencecentennial Heritage Fundraiser Event - Saturday, July 18, 2026
- OES Golf Outing at the A.H. Blank Golf Course, Des Moines - Monday, June 22, 2026

## Projects

Every year we have different items for sale to support our Projects. Please take a moment to stop by the Project table to see what is for sale. Even if you do not wear the pins, you will be supporting our Projects.

- Barn Pin and Note Cards will support our two Projects; Children's Cancer Connection and Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Cross pin and March Music support Estarl.
- Cream Can Pin and Worthy Grand Patron's Barn will support Youth.
- Our Challenge Coin and Snowflakes will support Grand Chapter.

The Snowflakes we will use as decorations at Grand Chapter. You will get your Snowflake after our session. Our Project Chairman has a form for you to fill out for the Snowflakes. Buy one in memory or honor of someone.

March music and notecards are all original art work by Kerri. Just take a moment to stop by the table and see our Projects.

# TLC Project

This year the main project is Divided Walker Bags. My own parents used walker bags to carry many needed items. Nancy Niday has developed a pattern she has shared. I have mailed a sample bag and pattern to each district project chairman. In the future, the pattern can also be found on the Iowa OES website. Please take the completed bags to local care facilities.

I do ask that the membership keep track of the numbers and report them to me in September so I can complete a report for Grand Chapter. Please email reports to [sixfrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:sixfrisbie@gmail.com). If your Chapter has other TLC projects, please continue to enjoy and share.

Marjorie Frisbie, TLC



# Chapter News

Greenfield Chapter #91 Eastern Star members awarded 4 Quilts of Valor to 4 members of Crusade Lodge #386, Greenfield on Monday, December 10.





## Centerville Chapter #239 Community Service & Projects

2025 was very busy here in Centerville Chapter. We prepared meals for our Masonic Brothers, Law Enforcement, EMS & Fire, plus with Maple Grove Assisted Living residents and staff we made Blankets for The Kids Cancer Connection, had a cookout and decorated for Christmas and assisted them with getting their Christmas Cards. We wrapped gifts for the kids at Shop with the Sheriff.

Our members provided supplies for blankets, decorating, meals and cards.

It's been such a good year & look forward to 2026.

Submitted by: Vicki Butler, Secretary Centerville Chapter #239





Liberty Chapter Marne had a drive and contributed funds for the New Vision homeless shelter in Council Bluffs. Around 300 items were collected!



In December Greenfield Chapter #91 & Crusade Lodge #365, AF & AM donated \$500 each to the food bank at the Greenfield MATURA office. (file ACNCM).

The 2nd photo: In December, Greenfield Chapter #91 & Crusade Lodge #365 AF & AM donated \$100 each to the food pantry located at the Orient United Methodist Church. (file OUMCFP)

Submitted by: Polly Miller



On January 9, 2026, Council Bluffs Chapter Officers with the assistance of Iowa's WGM Janice Alger, and WGP Carroll Duysen and some of their Tracers Grand Family, Nebraska's WGM Gloria Guern and her husband Allan, Past Grand Matrons from Iowa and Nebraska, Past Grand Patrons from Iowa, Nebraska, and Mississippi, and Past Grand Officers initiated three new members. April D'Louhy is a new member of Council Bluffs Chapter #441 and Richard Hicks and Jamie Jamison became members of Harmony Chapter #25, Council Bluffs.

Submitted by Claudia Hauser



# Notes from the Galaxy Committee

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for the Galaxy!

The deadline to submit articles for the next Galaxy issue will be April 1st.  
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

