

**REPORT OF THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON  
KAREN WILLIS, 2021 – 2022**

**WELCOME**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our “Garden of Friendship” Session, the One Hundred and Thirty-third Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of South Dakota. I extend to you fraternal greetings and hope to have a chance to greet you individually during our session.

**DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate my years of membership in the Order of Eastern Star to my mother-in-law, Juanita Willis, member of Silver Leaf Chapter #96. Without her encouragement, my husband, John and I would not have had the opportunity to meet such wonderful Sisters and Brothers in this organization. We have developed many loving and long-lasting friendships. To Sister Coleen Patmore, wife of Dan Patmore, WGP, you have been my rock. You have done it all for us. To my family and Silver Leaf Chapter #96, Presho who have given us their loving support.

**APPOINTMENTS OF GRAND FAMILY**

One of the greatest pleasures has been to select those individuals who would become our extended family and fill the positions of our appointed Grand chapter offices. These appointments are always done with careful consideration and much to our joy they have far exceeded our expectations. Our Grand Officers bonded at our Grand Family picnic and we became a family. We have had our personal tragedies as well as our personal successes and they have dedicated their prayers and sang praises and truly touched our hearts. WGP Dan and I are honored to have appointed the following Sisters and Brothers to serve our Grand Chapter this year:

Grand Chaplain, Dallas Thompson, Capital City #39, Pierre  
Grand Marshall, Keith Sorge, Juno #44, Vermillion  
Grand Organist, Josephine Green, Roseland #113, Winner  
Grand Adah, Andrea Friedrichsen, Vesper #81, Wessington Springs  
Grand Ruth, Gayle Penn, Queen City #89, Spearfish  
Grand Esther, Jane Hallberg, Matopaha #98, Sturgis and Martha #22, Hot Springs  
Grand Martha, Karen Jacobs, Redfield #19, Redfield  
Grand Electa, Donna Cole, Silver Leaf #96, Presho  
Grand Warder, Kevin Weishaar, Fairview #166, Bison  
Grand Sentinel, John Helms, Queen City #89, Spearfish

**MY BIBLE AND MY GAVEL**

My Bible was presented to me by my 2015-2016 Grand Family. It has traveled with me throughout my four years. I am honored to have it placed on our altar during Grand Session. My gavel was given to me by my family when I was Grand Guardian of South Dakota Jobs Daughters. It is very special as the mallet was made from the marble steps of the first United States Capitol building and the handle is made out of cherry wood from George Washington’s orchard. It has also traveled with me for the last four years and has been used by many Worthy Matrons as I visited their Chapters.

### **IN REMEMBRANCE**

During the past year we have mourned the loss of Brother Kenneth Ireland, PGP; Sister Dee Anderson, PGM; Sister Hazel Rowan, PGM, and Brother Perry Anderson, PGP. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to each of the families and chapters of these dedicated members who will be dearly missed.

### **GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ATTENDANTS**

What would we do without all of you? Bless each and every one of you for all the work that you have accomplished to make this year's Grand Chapter Session wonderful. If everyone could see the amount of work and effort that takes place behind the scenes they would be as amazed as I am. I give my thanks to each of you.

### **HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS**

It is truly an honor that will always be cherished from the chapters. Thank you for these special presentations this year. I am willing to provide any assistance to you in the future should you need my assistance. These will be placed in my memory book.

### **RECEPTION**

We held a receiving line to greet our guests following our installation on October 10, 2021 at the Best Western Ramkota in Pierre, SD. Our formal reception was held on October 30, 2021 at the Dakota Mullen Sturgis Building in Presho. Our Chapters had a beautiful day for hosting this event. Roseland Chapter served the cutest and very scrumptious cupcakes made by Sister Linda Nelson. In addition, Silver Leaf Chapter served a very delicious meal to the Grand Officers.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

The following are events that I attended:

December 12, Eastern Star Home Board meeting via Zoom call in. February 11, 12, 13, South Dakota held the 4 State Gathering (Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota) in Sioux Falls. March 29, Eastern Star Home Board meeting via Zoom call. June 9 & 10, Brother Dan and I attended SD Jobs Daughters Grand Bethel Session at the Arrowwood Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Brother Dan and I brought greetings to the SD Grand Lodge on June 17 at the Best Western Ramkota Conference Center in Pierre. I brought greetings to the SD DeMolay Conclave on July 16 held at the Masonic Center in Mitchell. On August 14, I attended the White Star #16 Eastern Star/Masonic Picnic in White where I was honored to see Brother Robert Osborne, PGP and Sister Cynthia Schick receive their 50 year membership pins.

### **DISTRICT SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION**

We held two district schools of instructions in each district. They were as follows:

District #1 was held on February 5 at Armour Star Chapter #64 in Armour. District #4 was held on February 26 at Fairview Chapter #166 in Bison. District #3 was held on March 12 with Maxwell Chapter #133 hosting at the Masonic Center in Pierre. District #2 was held on March 19 at Starlight Chapter #41 in Mitchell. District #4 was held on April 2 at Friendship #173 in Custer. District #3 was held at Roseland Chapter #113 in Winner. District #2 was held on April 30 at Adah #52 in Clairmont. District #1 was held at Jasper Chapter #8 in Sioux Falls.

### **OFFICIAL VISITS**

The chapters that I visited other than the District Schools of Instruction are as follows: Juno Chapter #44 in Vermillion, White Star #16 in White, Minnehaha Chapter #130 in Colton, Brookings Chapter #15 in Brookings. I was unable to visit Keystone #33 in Yankton so Sister Lavonne Gesling, Grand Conductress, visited them. Sister Grace Bick, Associate Grand Conductress visited Lacotah Chapter #30 in Plankinton.

### **SPRING PRACTICE**

Spring Practice was held on May 21 at Evergreen Chapter #97 in Martin. The day began with the Grand Officers initiation practice, officer exchange march practice, a delicious lunch provided by Evergreen Chapter, and an exemplification of the degrees in the afternoon. The Grand Officers that were able to stay enjoyed a wonderful supper served at the Legion and a very enjoyable stay at the Triangle Ranch Bed and Breakfast.

### **STAR PICNIC/HOME WEEKEND**

The Star Picnic was held in conjunction with the Home Board Corporation meeting on June 4. The Grand Officers stayed after the picnic to spend time with the residents and played Bingo which is always enjoyable. On Sunday morning the Grand Officers hosted a church service for the residents in the chapel.

### **ABSENCE FROM THE JURISDICTION**

Brother Dan Patmore, WGP; Sister Nancy Gonsor, AGM; Sister Sandra Vanneman, PGP, Grand Secretary and myself attended Wyoming Grand Chapter August 3 through 5 in Cheyenne.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

I received a letter from Electa Chapter #5, Sundance, WY requesting a waiver of Jurisdiction for Albert Key of Belle Fourche, SD to join Electa Chapter #5 as this is his family's home chapter. I granted the waiver of Jurisdiction.

### **SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS**

Dispensations were issued to the following Chapters to hold elections and installations at a later than specified by by-law: Martha Chapter #22, Hot Springs; Battle River Chapter #142, Hermosa; Redfield Chapter #19, Redfield; Roseland #113, Winner; Adah Chapter #52, Claremont; Juno Chapter #44, Vermillion; White River Chapter #126, White River; Jasper Chapter #8, Sioux Falls.

Dispensations were issued to the following Chapters to move their meeting locations: Adah Chapter #52 in Clairmont move due to Masonic Building not being access due to city sewer replacement. Lacotah Chapter #30 in Plankinton moved meetings to Senior Citizen Center as they no longer have a Masonic Building to meet in.

Dispensation was issued to Matopaha Chapter # 98 in Sturgis to move regular meeting date.

### **WARRANTS**

The following warrants were processed: 5936 through 6013

### **CONSOLIDATIONS**

The following chapters completed appropriate paperwork to consolidate: Vesta Chapter #1, Watertown; Bethlehem Chapter #13, Arlington; and Bethany Chapter #158, DeSmet consolidated with Brookings Chapter #15, Brookings. Chamberlain Chapter #66, Chamberlain consolidated with Silver Leaf Chapter #96, Presho. Grand River Chapter #162, Buffalo consolidated with Queen City Chapter #89, Spearfish. Ft. Pierre Chapter #90, Ft. Pierre consolidated with Capital City Chapter #39, Pierre.

### **IRREGULARITIES**

The following irregularities were noted:

- \*Reading from the Ritual
- \*Issues with the 990N form (website being down)
- \*Chapters not meeting at the prescribed time and place
- \*Use of old rituals
- \* Required stations per by-law not filled
- \*Reports missing at the time of the official visit

### **GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF SD IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

They are as follows: Alabama – Ed Witherington; Arizona – Louise Baxley; Bolivia – Rosemary Valvo Duran; Sao Paulo, Brazil – Maria Antonieta Bustillos; British Columbia & Yukon – Joe Jackson; Colorado – Carrie Andree; District of Columbia – Elizabeth Virts; Florida – Richard Keepin; Georgia – Marian Plossl; Illinois – Tom Balmer; Minnesota – Elaine Keehr; Missouri – Paula Gray; Nebraska – Claudia Ransiem; New Jersey – Robert McCormick; Ontario - Washington – Amanda George; West Virginia – Donna Himelrick; Wisconsin – Kristie Korducki; Wyoming – Don Heiser, PGP.

### **GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

(Those I chose to represent other states)

Alabama – Eileen Harmes; Arizona – Ellen Hohrbach; Arkansas – William Patterson; British Columbia & Yukon – Ken Fawcett; California – Fran Eide; Colorado – Clarine Rynard; Georgia – Shannon Wright; Idaho – Chris Kaus; Indiana – Sally Scherf; Italy – Jeff Marchetti; Louisiana – Pam Winkler; Manitoba – Cindy Schmidt; Maryland – Alicia McKnight; Mississippi – Deb Langrehr; Nebraska – Angela Pascoe; Nevada – Doug Tipton; New Brunswick – Desirae Stotz; Virginia – Linda Kenyon; Washington – Myrna Hotchkiss; Wisconsin – Rick Wagner.