

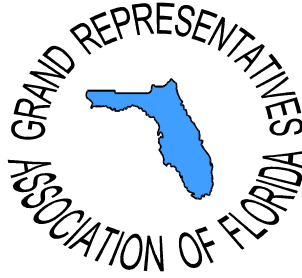
Grand Representatives Association of Florida

President

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Vice President

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Membership Chairman

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Greetings from the President

Hello, my Sisters and Brothers! We hope you are well-rested from your summer recess and are eager to renew your energies to help our Order flourish and prosper. Keep traveling, spreading rays of friendship, and reporting on your adventures with stories and pictures in the Stargazer. Save some time to call or visit our sick and shut-ins. I am sure they would especially enjoy hearing of your experiences.

At this Grand Chapter session we will be honored with a visit from the Most Worthy Grand Matron and other General Grand officers and appointments. As such, we need to prepare for more tables at our annual luncheon. Have you considered hosting a table? This gives you the opportunity to get to know our guests more intimately. After all, who wants to be a lonely face in a big crowd? Please let our Secretary/Treasurer, Sister Valerie Tooma Gray, know if you can host.

There are always opportunities to serve. Just ask! Would you like to serve on a committee? Do you have goodies for our welcome bags? Contact our Vice President, Sister Susan Metcalf, for either of these. Welcome and encourage our new Grand Representatives to join our Association. Applications are on line under the Grand Representatives Association heading and may be sent in with dues to our Secretary/Treasurer, Sister Valerie Tooma Gray. Would you like to be an officer in our Association? Send your resume to our Nominating Committee Chairman, Sister Mary Alice Main. Do you have any suggestions to benefit our Association? Contact me or drop in your suggestion in the box at our Grand Representatives Association membership table. To be considered, they will need to be in the box Sunday evening.

As we “gear up” for more challenges in our busy lives, let us take time to thank God for our many blessings, appreciate the beauty and serenity of nature, and keep smiling- offering that handshake or hug to everyone we meet.

In Star love,

Claudine Rogers

Greetings from the Vice President

I remain honored to be the VP of our group. It seems like yesterday I was a new Grand Representative. Time as always is passing quickly, and we are eagerly anticipating “The Wind Beneath Our Wings” session in April 2026; where we can renew old friendships and make new ones.

A very special welcome goes out to all our New Grand Representatives. Please come by the Grand Representatives Association table at Grand Chapter so we can meet you. There is always need for willing workers. If you have spare time before or during Grand Chapter and would like to help our Association? Perhaps by greeting people, decorating for the luncheon, making corsages, playing music or working on an association committee, let me know. “The more hands we have, the lighter the work.”

I am responsible for our annual memorial service. If you know of a Grand Representative who has passed away since Grand Chapter 2025, please complete the attached form and send it to me. Also, if you know of someone who should be on our emeritus list, please contact me.

In Star Love,

Sister Susan

Greetings from the Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings Sisters and Brothers! I hope you have enjoyed the “Summer Recess” and are ready to get back to Eastern Star business and preparing for our Grand Representatives’ Association Annual Meeting in April of 2026 at our Grand Chapter Session, “The Wind Beneath Our Wings.”

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for electing me to the position of Secretary/Treasurer for the ensuing year in our Grand Representatives’ Association. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve this Association and promise that I will do my best as an officer of it.

As Sister Claudine mentioned in her Greeting, Grand Chapter is around the corner with many dignitaries certainly to attend. Hence, we need to start preparing now to be certain our luncheon, decorations, Grand Representatives’ Table, etc. will be impressive to our visitors and a success for our Association. Remember, your Officers cannot do this alone. We need you, the members to assist however and whenever you can. Thank you in advance to all who will help.

We will need members to host a table at the luncheon at the Grand Chapter Session in 2026. It is my responsibility to keep a list of all those who are willing to host a table for our luncheon. Please text or email be your name so that I may add you to the list.

Please remember and/or remind your chapter to order corsages and/or boutonnieres in advance for the 2026 Grand Chapter Session to honor your Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Grand Representatives, Grand Officers, or anyone else that may be presented on the floor including 50-year members. Or perhaps for someone special.

As Sister Susan mentioned, if you know of any current or former Grand Representative who has passed away or may need to be placed on the Emeritus List, please let her know.

If you have not paid your dues for 2025, you will need to do so as soon as possible. Dues are \$5 each calendar year. (January 1st through December 31st). Please check your membership card as it is your responsibility to ensure that your dues are current. If your dues card expired on December 31, 2023 or before, you only will need to pay one year for

the delinquency and one year for the current year (\$10) to be reinstated. If the expired December 31, 2024, then you only need to pay this year's dues.

Remember, if you wish to be a perpetual member, you only need to pay 20 times the annual dues or more simply stated \$100 and you will receive a membership card stating perpetual. The Membership forms and dues payments (by check) should be sent to me so that your membership is maintained as current. If you provide a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE), I will mail the card to you. Also, if you have a change of address and/or phone number, please complete the membership form and send to me as well.

All current forms may be found at the end of this newsletter. These new forms will be sent to the webmaster to be placed on our OES website under the Grand Representatives' Association link.

In Star Love,

Valerie Tooma Gray

Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings from the Membership Committee

Congratulations to our new Grand Representatives! We welcome you.

Current Members of the association... we ask you to share your love of our group with the Representatives. It's not hard to join and it's not expensive either. Remember it's \$5.00 a year or \$100 for Perpetual membership and you never have to worry about paying dues to this association.

We are diligently working on updating our roster and email group. Check your Grand Representative Dues Card and see if you are current. If not, a form is enclosed in this newsletter. If we do it now before the end of the year, we can relax at Grand Chapter!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Terri Justice, Membership Chairman
Sara Cruz
Sandy Dean
Theresa Nelson

Grand Representatives Association April 7, 2025 - Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The luncheon had 293 registered attendees; 270 members and 23 dignitaries. All tables were decorated by our Grand Representatives as well as other Members. Lunch was marvelous and everyone had a good time. A spreadsheet with assigned tables was posted outside the door and did cut down on confusion with tables. New Representatives were greeted and heartily welcomed.

Love gifts were presented by President Debi Gulbrand to Worthy Grand Matron, Debbie Rosenthal and Worthy Grand Patron, Mike Cleavens. And a donation was made to the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project.

A very moving and loving memorial was presided over by Sister Claudine Rogers, those honored were

Sisters:

Jo Ann Travick, Grand Representative of Washington 2007-2009
Nancy Bice, Grand Representative of Delaware 2015-2016
Valerie Harper, Grand Representative of Kentucky 2014-2015
Cynthia Burke, Grand Representative of Manitoba 2022-2023
Gail Manuel, Grand Representative of Connecticut 2012-2013
Marjorie Lentz Mar, Grand Representative of Maine 1997-1999
John Annie Roberts, Grand Representative of Iowa 1966-1969
Marjorie Van Dine, Grand Representative of Rhode Island 2023

Brothers:

Dennis Sebelist, Grand Representative of New Hampshire 2023-2024
George Goddard, Grand Representative of Scotland 2022-2024
William Cameron, Grand Representative of Arkansas 2013-2015

Our Emeritus Member is Sister Lillian Green, Past President is quite ill. After the meeting, Sister Claudine was advised that Sister Jo Ann Wilder, Grand Representative of California (years not known) had passed 23 February 2025. However, she had not received this information prior, so she was not included in the memorial - she will be recognized at our next meeting.

The Business Meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM. The minutes were presented as previously printed and sent by Secretary/Treasurer, Susan Metcalf. Motion was made and seconded to accept minutes.

Treasurer's report was given by Secretary/Treasurer, Susan Metcalf. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report after discussion of CD rate which will be addressed with the bank to obtain the best possible rate.

Membership Committee report was presented by Terri Justice, Chairman Membership Committee. All new Grand Representatives were welcomed by Sister Terri Justice. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Sister Terri Justice was given a love gift.

Love gifts were given by the President, Sister Debi Gulbrand to Vice President, Sisters Claudine Rogers and Secretary-Treasurer Susan Metcalf. Vice President Claudine Rogers presented Sister Debi Gulbrand with a love gift.

By-laws report is pending. An Advisory Committee is being formed that will review the by-laws and update to reflect the needs of the Grand Representative Association of Florida.

It was suggested that it be allowed for the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Patron to be given honorary memberships to the Grand Representative Association of Florida beginning at the next session.

It was suggested that Sister Terri Justice's love gift should be increased given all of the work she does. We had 270 registered attendees for the luncheon and 23 dignitaries. Love gifts were presented to the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Patron.

Sister Marilyn Lambert was called up and spoke. She was honored to advise us that Sister Jocelyn Hargrove was appointed by the International Representatives Association as the new contact for General Grand Chapter.

Sister Debi Gulbrand, President of the Grand Representative Association of Florida, thanked Sister Mary Ann Holt for all the support she has given the group. She welcomed the new members. Additionally, she thanked Sister Debbie Warkentine for her beautiful music during our meeting.

Sister Tina Poulson reported that she had only one pre-order. She requested corsages and boutonnieres be promoted throughout the year and she will provide this service to the group. She really wishes that more promotion was given to this fundraising effort. She reports old corsages can be given to her for reuse. Her expense report was pending during the meeting - as she is still making corsages. She will continue offering red and white however, if someone wants a specific color, they can always reach out to her and order this. This can be done through Tina directly or through the Secretary of the Association. A report of how many corsages were sold follows - Not available during the meeting.

Receipts: Pre-sales \$15; On site sales \$715; Total \$730; Boutonnieres \$85; Corsages 63 - \$630.

Expenses @ \$300

New business and Election of new officers.

Sisters Claudine Rogers, Vice President and Susan Metcalf, Secretary-Treasurer, were elected by acclamation to President and Vice-President respectively.

Nominees for Secretary-Treasurer, which were being presented by Sister Betty Ford for Sister Mary Alice Main included two resumes - Larry Gillespie and Diane Miller.

There was a lengthy discussion with regard to resumes not being in our by-laws and that floor nominees should be accepted. After this discussion Sister Valerie Tooma Gray was also nominated by Sister Patrice Barker. A brief biography was given by Sister Patrice on Sister Valerie. The election followed and Sister Valerie was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

The floor was opened for discussion. It was requested by Sister Bobbi Elmore that we go back to the brown paper bags at each seat for love gifts. Members are used to this and they were confused by the plastic bags thinking someone had taken an assigned table.

Installation Ceremony followed with Sister Vicki Hunsaker as Installing Officer, Sister Patrice Barker as Marshal and Sister Sharon Marshall as Chaplain.

Sister Claudine gave her opening remarks and appointed her committees as follows:

Budget and Finance Committee: Debbie Gulbrand, Vicki Hunsaker, Roslyn Heath Klenke

By-laws Committee: Mary Ann Holt, Sharon Marshall, Elizabeth McAbee

Nominating Committee: Mary Alice Main, Patricia Barker, Betty Ford

Membership Committee: Terri Justice, Sara Cruz, Theresa Nelson, Sandy Dean

Emeritus Committee: Susan Metcalf

Meeting adjourned at 13:06. The Audit committee report follows.

The Audit committee consisting of Sisters Judy Bellamy, Lisa Owens, and Rosalyn Heath Kenke met after the meeting. Reviewed the books and found them to be in proper order.



GRAND REPRESENTATIVE'S MEMORIAL FORM

Name _____

Appointment Jurisdiction _____

Years _____

Chapter _____

Date of Death _____

Send to:

Susan Metcalf
2981 Ontario Circle East
Melbourne Fl 32935

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES' ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA
2026 CORSAGES AND/OR BOUTONNIERS ORDER FORM**

We will again be selling silk corsages and boutonnieres at "The Wind Beneath Our Wings" Session of the Grand Chapter of Florida, April 14-15, 2026. Recognize your Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Grand Instructor, a special Sister or Brother or even yourself with a gift of flowers.

Three bud silk rose corsage \$10.00

One bud silk rose boutonniere \$ 5.00

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to pre-order your corsage and/or boutonniere and pick it up at Grand Chapter. Please use the order form below for advance orders. We will have a limited number of corsages and boutonnieres on hand and cannot guarantee the availability if a pre-order is not placed.

The corsages and boutonnieres will be available for pickup at the Grand Representatives Hospitality table Sunday through Thursday morning at the World Golf Village Renaissance Hotel during Grand Chapter.

Please note: The hospitality table will NOT be open during any sessions of Grand Chapter.

Deadline for advance orders is March 31, 2026.

----- Cut along this line -----

ORDER FORM FOR CORSAGES AND/OR BOUTONNIERES

Please circle a color choice for either the Corsages &/or Boutonnieres

I wish to order the following from the Grand Representatives Association of Florida:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Circle Color</u>	<u>Amount</u>
_____	Three bud silk rose corsage (\$10.00 each) White Red	\$ _____
_____	One-bud silk boutonniere (\$5.00 each) White Red	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

Your Name: _____

Telephone number: (Home or cell) _____

Mail the completed form and your check for the appropriate amount,

Payable to: Grand Representatives Association of Florida:

Valerie Tooma-Gray
Secretary/Treasurer
213 E Mission Hills Avenue
Temple Terrace, FL 33617-4830

Grand Representatives Association of Florida Membership Dues/Update Form

**Please complete and return to the current Secretary /Treasurer
with your dues or to update any changes.**

Today's Date: _____ New Member: Yes / No Information Update: Yes / No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ (Home or Cell)

Your Chapter Name and Number: _____

State/Jurisdiction of your Appointment: _____ in FL

Years of your Appointment: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Annual Dues: \$5.00/year – How many years? _____ or Perpetual Dues: \$100 _____

Cash or Check No. _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Dues are due in January of each year. Expiration is on December 31st of the year paid thru.

Per our By-Laws, please **include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment**; Or you may pick-up at Grand Chapter.

Please make checks payable to: Grand Representatives Association of Florida.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH.

Mail form and check to:

Valerie Tooma-Gray, Secretary/Treasurer
Grand Representatives Association of Florida
213 East Mission Hills Avenue
Temple Terrace, FL 33617-4830