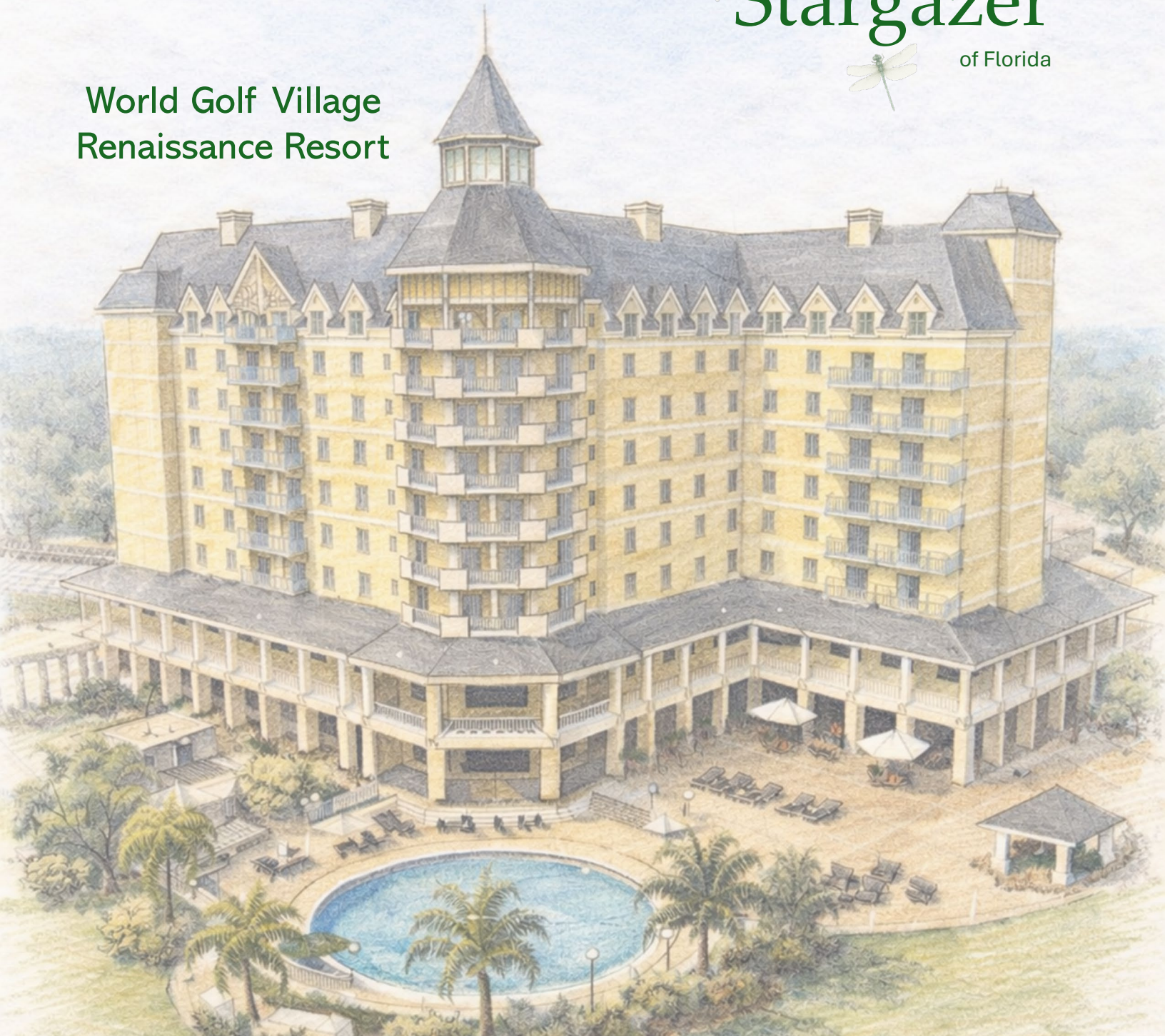




World Golf Village
Renaissance Resort



THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA
Order of the Eastern Star
Cordially Invites You to Attend the
120th Annual Session
"The Wind Beneath Our Wings"

April 14-16, 2026

Volume 23 Issue Three

SPRING 2026



A Message From the Worthy Grand Matron



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we all prepare for our annual Grand Chapter session, I am reflecting on how far this journey has taken me. Soon I will join the ranks of Past Grand Matron of The Grand Chapter of Florida Order of the Eastern Star.

When I was elected, four years seemed like a long commitment, but it is incredible how fast the time has gone. It makes me assess life itself and what I have been saying at the end of every visit to your chapters. As I began my journey, I recall being so apprehensive as to how I would be received as your Worthy Grand Matron. I promised myself never to change who I am as far as my personality. I can't say for certain, but I feel like I've kept that promise to myself and to you. I enjoy meeting new people and bringing a smile and happiness to everyone I meet.

My favorite motto by Maya Angelou is "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." There have been some hard issues along the road that I had to deal with, some that broke my heart, yet I always did the job you voted for me to do.

On a personal level, even though I am no spring chicken, I know I have grown. I've learned everyone isn't going to love you or understand your actions; however, those that love, support, and trust you will never leave your side. Thus, as I traveled around the state and talked to all of you, the members, I feel I have had the love and support of so many and what a wonderful accomplishment this has been for me.

I hope in some small way I have shown you why I accepted this position. It was for my love of the Order and what it stands for; that is, a true, worldwide, fraternal organization, dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness. So, I end my journey where I started and hope you will always remember to live your life like the lesson our daughter has taught us:

Live like that magnificent dragonfly, whose time to fly is so very short. Make the most of every minute. Do something that makes you happy every single day but do that one something every chance you get and that is, be the light in somebody else's life so they will never forget you.

Farewell my friends.

With Star Love forever,

Sandy Leduc

Worthy Grand Matron, 2025-2026



The Wind Beneath Our Wings Session



A Message From the Worthy Grand Patron



Sisters and Brothers of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida,

What an honor and privilege it has been to be your Worthy Grand Patron for 2025-2026 Grand Chapter of Florida, Order of the Eastern Star.

The travels I was able to make around Florida this Grand Chapter year includes eighteen Official Meetings, three Worthy Grand Matrons' Special Projects fundraisers, and the Appointed Officers Teas and Honor Nights. All these events have given me good memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

I will always look fondly at the sixty-one Honorary Memberships I have received over these past few years.

I hope the best for all my Sisters and Brothers and wish you great memories.

Dayle Schrock

Worthy Grand Patron

The Grand Chapter of Florida
Order of the Eastern Star, Inc.
(321) 652-6454 cell

dayle318@hotmail.com

<https://FloridaOES.org>

The Wind Beneath Our Wings Session



Grand Chapter News





OES Give Generous Donation to Local Nonprofits

February 2026

Monticello News: 155+ Years Serving Jefferson County

<https://ecbpublishing.com/order-of-the-eastern-star-donates-35k-to-local-nonprofits/>

— Dayle L. Schrock,
Worthy Grand Patron



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Laura Young, February 18, 2026

The Order of the Eastern Star presented a \$20,000 donation to Second Harvest of the Big Bend at their Eagle's Wings distribution point on Feb. 18. Pictured, left to right, are Eagle's Wings volunteers Kristi Rosende, David Cook, Karen Zarcone, Kathy Gregory, Jo-Ann Arnold; OES Florida Chapter Worthy Grand Patron Dayle Schrock, Second Harvest Marketing and Communications Specialist Ashleigh Kittrell, OES Chapter of Florida Past Grand Matron Donna Schrock, OES Florida Chapter Associate Grand Patron Richard Keepin, OES Florida Chapter Grand Secretary Brenda Keepin and OES Florida Chapter Grand Sentinel Mickey Brown.

Order of the Eastern Star donates \$35k to local nonprofits

Laura Young
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Jefferson County.

The Order of the Eastern Star has donated \$20,000 to Second Harvest of the Big Bend and \$15,000 to the Monticello Opera House as part of their charitable giving program. Presentations were made on Wednesday, Feb. 18, to Eagle's Wings, a twice-monthly local food pantry in the Second Harvest network, and at the historic Monticello Opera House, a treasured arts venue in the heart of

Volunteers from several area churches operate Eagle's Wings out of the First Presbyterian Church on Dogwood Street on the first and third Wednesday mornings every month. On the afternoon of Feb. 18, many of the volunteers joined Ashleigh Kittrell of Second Harvest of the Big Bend to receive the donation from representatives of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES).

During the presentation, OES Florida Chapter See EASTERN STAR page 3

EASTERN STAR

from page 1

Worthy Grand Patron Dayle Schrock, also a resident of Jefferson County, said, "It is our honor to present a check for Second Harvest, which supports our local community here at the Eagle's Wings food pantry."

Kittrell responded, "On behalf of Second Harvest, we would like to thank these wonderful community members for providing \$20,000 to fight hunger in the Big Bend, specifically here in Jefferson County. The impact that Eagle's Wings has made in Jefferson County. It is unfathomable that so many people are in need of the services of Eagle's Wings. We are so thankful for partners like them who are able to show up for their community when they do not know where their next meal is coming from."

Karen Zarcone, a leader with Eagle's Wings, noted that the food pantry had been operating now for 15 years, adding, "You don't have to be a member of any church to be a volunteer with Eagle's Wings, and we're very glad to be able to get food out twice a month to those who need it."

She explained that they are able to distribute donated items from Second Harvest, FarmShare, Flowers Foods, Inc. and other sources. A basic bag typically contains staples such as canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, bread, rice, beans, fresh produce and more. On average, the group serves around 75 households a month, a figure that soared to 600 households when SNAP benefits were temporarily frozen during a recent federal government shutdown.

Kittrell added that Second Harvest serves 16 counties across the Big Bend through more than

120 partner agencies. In 2025, they served 18.9 million pounds of food, with the desire for it to be the fresh, nutritious food that the community needs.

The OES contingent then moved on to the Monticello Opera House, a couple of blocks away. MOH Executive Director Mike Herrin and MOH Board of Directors Secretary Tammy Brookins welcomed them. The amount of the donation had been kept a surprise, and Herrin was visibly stunned by the generous amount revealed on the presentation check.

"Wow!" said Herrin. "The blood is draining from my face. This is fantastic! Thank you so much. We're very, very honored and incredibly grateful. This is well beyond what I had any idea was coming. This is hugely impactful and very much needed, now more than ever. Your timing is perfect. This is going to make a huge difference for our budget and for the year, like for the outcome of this whole season. When you get a nice gift, the money of course is hugely impactful, but it's like the community saying 'We believe in you, and we support you,' and that's also very important for us. It's not an easy business to be in. We really appreciate your generosity and your support of this institution but also your support of the arts and the performing arts in general. Bravo to all of you and your organization. Thank you for including us in your giving budget."

Dayle Schrock concluded with a personal note, "Donna and I are new to the community. We just got a new house out in the country, and we are really enjoying it and the community itself. We are trying to participate in the activities going on around here. We've been to two of the shows [at MOH], and they were great."

OES, a worldwide organization rooted in

Masonic principles, is open to both women and men with a focus on charity, personal growth and community service.



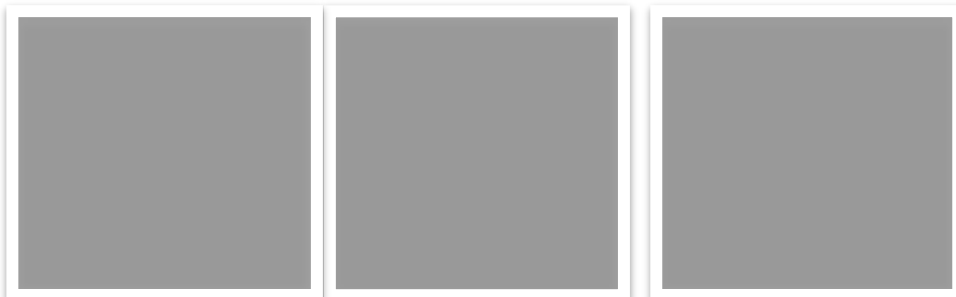
ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Laura Young, February 18, 2026

The Order of the Eastern Star presented a \$15,000 donation to the Monticello Opera House. Pictured on the staircase that rises to the historic upstairs theater are (front row) OES Florida Chapter Worthy Grand Patron Dayle Schrock, MOH Executive Director Mike Herrin, MOH Board of Directors Secretary Tammy Brookins; (middle row) OES Chapter of Florida Past Grand Matron Donna Schrock, OES Florida Chapter Grand Secretary Brenda Keepin, (top row) OES Florida Chapter Associate Grand Patron Richard Keepin and OES Florida Chapter Grand Sentinel Mickey Brown.





Worthy Grand Matron's Cruise January 2026



January 2026

New Grand Representatives

So honored to surprise these beautiful Sisters on the cruise! Karen Leonard, Grand Representative of Kansas in Florida; Lucy Crist, Grand Representative of Massachusetts in Florida and Joan Gilmore, Grand Representative of Minnesota in Florida!

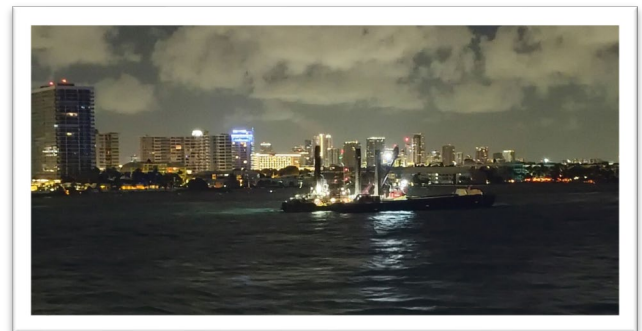
— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron

January 2026

WGM Special Project: Regenerative Medicine

So overwhelmed and happy to find out as a surprise we made \$6,000 for our WGM Special Project, Regenerative Medicine on this cruise. Thank you to all who came to travel with us!

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron



Back in Florida

Arriving in Ft. Lauderdale 5 AM

— Jane Stewart





Grand Representative Appointments



January 2026

Congratulations to our new Grand Representative of Indiana in Florida, Sister Chery Pritt. So deserving!

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron



March 2026

Wonderful evening at Brooksville Chapter attending their meeting and Installation of Officers plus awarding Sister Julie Satre her Grand Representative of Oregon in Florida! Sister Rosemarie Blair gave Sister Julie a beautiful bouquet to celebrate her special night.

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron



February 2026

Congratulations to Annie Scott newly appointed Grand Representative of Georgia in Florida!

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron



March 2026

I was proud to present Sister Martha Evens, Sante Fe Chapter No. 105 her commission as Grand Representative of Saskatchewan in Florida!

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron



February 2026

At the Friendship meeting of Ruth Chapter No. 7 on February 2nd, our WGM Sandy Leduc gave me the honor of presenting Sister Diane Shelkie with a Grand Representative Commission. Sister Diane, Worthy Matron of Okeechobee Chapter No. 128, is our new Grand Representative of Wisconsin in Florida. Congratulations, Sister Diane, and best wishes as you enjoy this very exciting appointment!

— Mary Ann Holt
Associate Grand Matron



March 2026

Congratulations to two new Grand Representatives —Sister Janie Arnold, Grand Representative of New Jersey and Brother Robert Leonard, Grand Representative of South Dakota. They were presented their commission by Sister Judy Wilson, Past Grand Matron!

— Karen Sargent-Rankl
Associate Grand Conductress

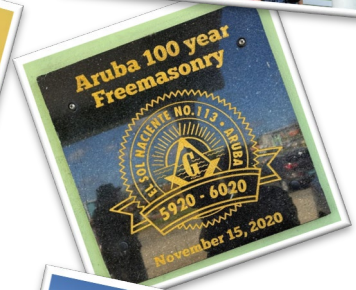


WM Joy Hudson, WM Diane Shelkie, AGM Mary Ann Holt

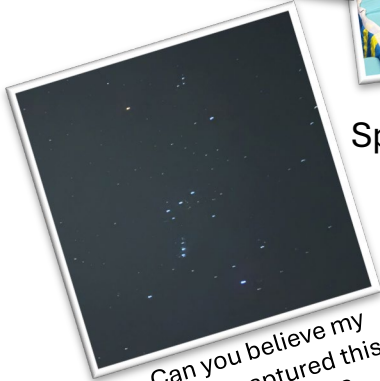




Stargazer Editor's First WGM Cruise!



Special Visit with Aruba Chapter No. 2!



Can you believe my phone captured this picture of Orion?



Home away from home! I felt like royalty!



The power of nature!



Sister Sandy, WGM



Beautiful buildings



One of my favorite pieces of art



Lovely, peaceful church

February 2026
— Carla Girtman, Stargazer Editor



OES Community





Answering the Call for Charity in Action: Our Chapters Donating for Charitable Purposes



December 2025

District 5

Crawfordville Chapter No. 242 prepared food baskets for three local families, along with toys for the children—bringing both comfort and joy during the holiday season.

District 6

Santa Fe Chapter No. 105 extended their generosity to local first responders and children in need, sharing their weekend of giving with their community.

District 12

Leesburg Chapter No. 84 collected a wonderful assortment of toys, which were forwarded to the Rainbow Girls in Mount Dora and ultimately donated to Toys for Tots. Special thanks to Sister Debbie Rosenthal for assisting with coordinating this effort. What a beautiful way to usher in the holiday season of gratitude and sharing our many blessings

District 15

Queen Esther Chapter No. 4 presented children's books that were distributed by Allison Blanchette to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and Fisher House Foundation in the St. Petersburg area. Following Thanksgiving, members from Bay Area Chapters gathered to label books and stuffed animals for distribution. Allison has faithfully coordinated this effort for nearly 20 years in the Tampa Bay area.

Bethlehem Chapter No. 169 joined in collecting stuffed animals and books for distribution to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and Fisher House Foundation in the St. Petersburg area. Each of these acts—whether large or small—demonstrates the true spirit of our Order. Charity is not simply something we do; it is who we are.

District 17

Crestview Chapter No. 203 donated teddy bears to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, offering comfort to young patients during the holidays.

District 20

Fort Myers Chapter No. 31 made a significant monetary donation to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, and also contributed food and funds to the All Souls Soup Kitchen, supporting those in need within their community.

Lehigh Acres Chapter No. 291 made a generous monetary donation to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, supporting families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured service members through housing and assistance programs. .

—Karen Sargent-Rankl
Associate Grand Conductress





District 13

Cocoa, Harbor City, Canaveral



Harbor City Chapter No. 263 Welcomes Sandy Leduc, Worthy Grand Matron for Official Visit

January 2026

We had a wonderful afternoon at our Worthy Grand Patron's Home Chapter of Harbor city No. 263 where we enjoyed a delicious lunch and had a great meeting. We were so happy to have such a great day with many members in attendance.

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron

— Pat Cooper
Photography Committee





District 14

St. Cloud, Pioneer, Orlando, Mizpah, Pine Castle



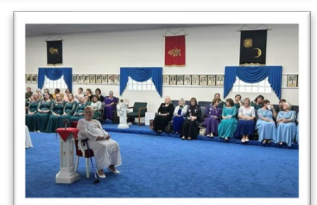
Orlando Chapter No. 131 Warmly Welcomes Sandy Leduc, Worthy Grand Matron for Last Official Visit

January 2026

What an amazing time it was today at Orlando Chapter No. 131 for our last Official Visit. The room was full of fun and laughter and my home Chapter did an amazing job.

I am so proud of my home Chapter and love each of you dearly. Thank you to the members and visitors who joined us today. I have so enjoyed my Visits throughout the state with Brother Dayle and my Grand Family. Thank you to each and every one of you who have supported us. Love to all.

— Sandy Leduc
Worthy Grand Matron





District 17

Crescent, Plant City, Desoto, Annie H. Schineider, Bradenton



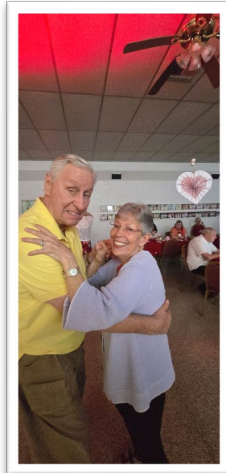
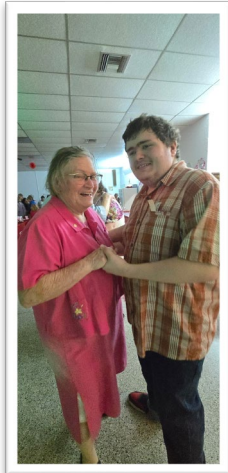
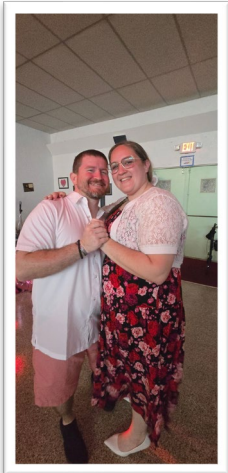
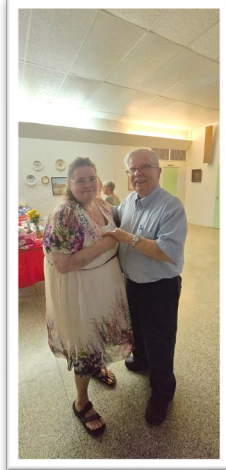
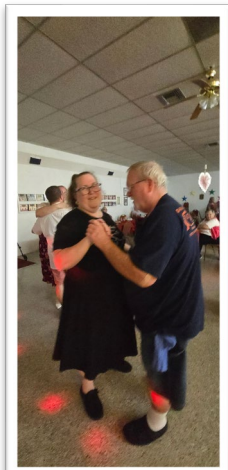
Excitement from New Port Richey No. 117

February 2026

New Port Richey No. 117 has been busy the last couple of months. We began with a New Years Day brunch and then Tea with Twist on January 17. (What fun the models were with their T outfits!) A Valentine's Dinner Dance was held on February 15. The food was amazing and the DJ got lots of people dancing.

We are installing a first time Worthy Matron with a full core of officers on March 21 at 7 PM. We are excited for our future and hope to see everyone at Grand Chapter.

— *Kathy Hertzog*
Worthy Matron, Elect



Meet the Candidates





Candidate

for
Grand Secretary

Brenda Keepin
Wewahitchka Chapter
No. 229

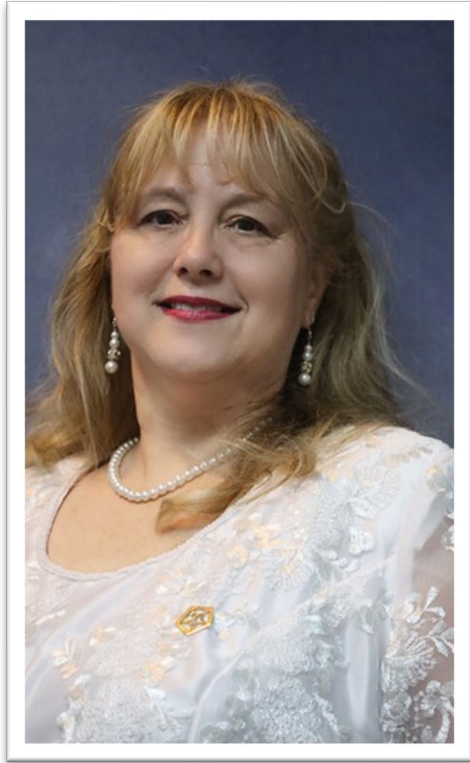


Candidate

for
Grand Treasurer

Margaret Nathurst
Fort Myers Chapter
No. 31

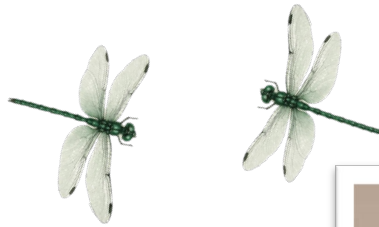




Candidate

for
Associate Grand
Conductress

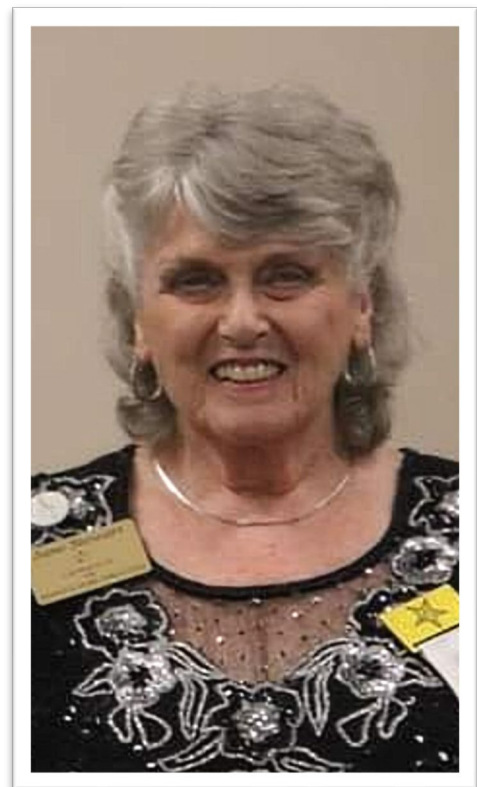
Rhonda Allen
Orange Park Chapter
No. 226

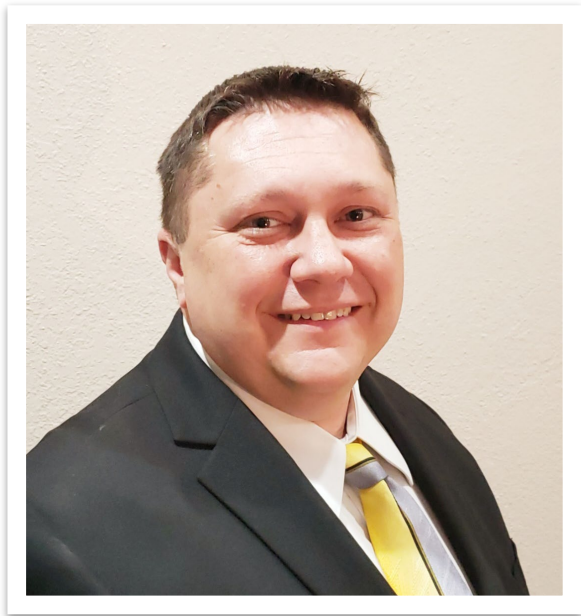


Candidate

for
Associate Grand
Conductress

Jane Stewart
Desoto Chapter
No. 201





Candidate

for
Grand Sentinel

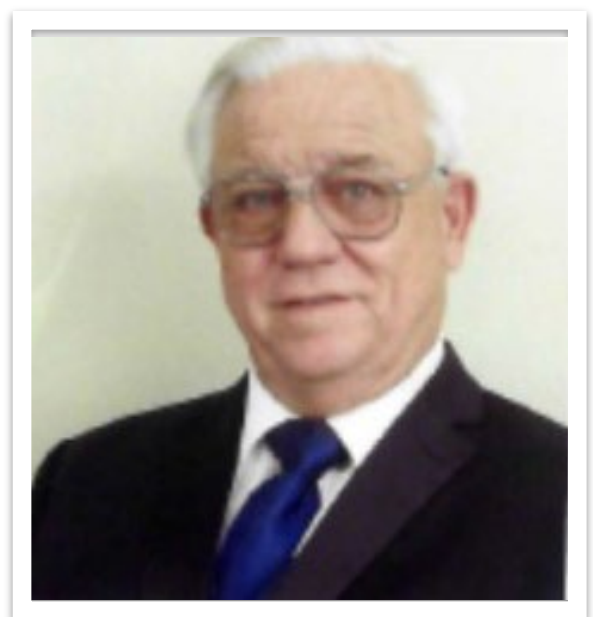
Daniel Allen
DeSoto Chapter
No. 201

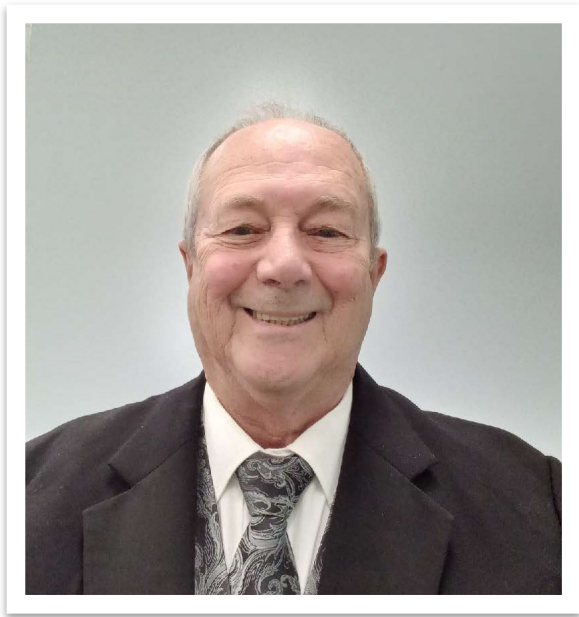


Candidate

for
Grand Sentinel

Michael Harrison
Harbor City Chapter
No. 263





Candidate

for
Grand Sentinel

Bruce Ward
Bethlehem Chapter
No. 169



*Announcements and
Classifieds*



Be sure to visit “The Official Grand Chapter of Florida OES Facebook Page” for other photos and news!

Check out the Florida Grand Chapter webpage:

<https://floridaoes.org>

Read the Eastern Star Journal on the Florida Grand Chapter webpage:

<https://easternstar.org/for-members/journal/>





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**All emailed items should be submitted as a
.jpg, .pdf, or in GoogleDocs/MSWord/plain text.**

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Issue 2 – Winter Edition	NOV 30, 2025	DECEMBER
Issue 3 – Spring Edition	FEB 28, 2026	MARCH 2026



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