Project Letter

Greetings Sisters & Brothers!

Now that the lazy hazy days of summer are dwindling and fall is in the air it is time to think about our Projects for the upcoming year.

The Order of the Eastern Star’s world signature charity continues to be “Service Dogs.” It is important to inform our local communities that all money raised stays here in Montana. I am pleased to announce that it appears that we have raised sufficient money to fund the training of a dog here in Montana for an eligible Montana resident. More information concerning this will be forthcoming later in the fall. Currently, our service dog fundraisers are designated to be distributed among three organizations in Montana: K9 Care, Dog Tag Buddies and CCI.

*In lieu of a gift for the WGM at the time of her Official Visit – I would appreciate it if the Chapter would make a donation to the Montana Service Dog fund – LaVerne MacDonald (49) Co-chm & Chris Malgren (#53) Co-Chm.*

We have two raffles this year:

One to raise funds for the WGM’s Special Project “Montana Special Olympics.

The other for the WGP’s Special Project “Regenerative Medicine “ and Masonic Home Grounds Infrastructure.

**Montana Special Olympics** is a nonprofit organization designed to provide year-round, statewide programs of physical fitness, sports training and athletic competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities working with hundreds of volunteers.

It is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer-driven, and sponsor-supported movement with 2,000 athletes registered in 121 programs from 56 Montana Counties. Help transform a **Montana** athlete's life with a gift to Montana **Special Olympics**. Your donation ensures athletes have access to the equipment and training they depend on.

**The WGM’s Special Project Raffle,** chairman Karen Lorenz (#1/3), currently has six prizes: an ornamental clock, the original art work for “Bertie the British Bulldog, an executive golf set, an executive wine set, a beautiful hand made Christmas stocking and set of Christmas ornaments (donated by Linda Knight #132) and “13” pints the baker’s dozen – this is thirteen ½ pint jars of Linda Knight’s scrumptious homemade jams and jellies. We hope to add more items throughout the year. Tickets are 1 for $1 or 6 for $5.00. The drawing will be at 11:00 am on Saturday morning, 20th July, 2024 at Grand Chapter.

**We will be selling “Bertie the British Bulldog” pins $5.00 per pin to raise funds for Heart and Cancer.** Funds will be divided equally between the two. The pins are 1¾” and in colorful hard enamel. Please show your support for these two special causes that are near and dear to my heart since my father died from heart issues and my mother from cancer.

I am very pleased to announce that we will be holding a Golf Tournament on Wednesday afternoon, 17th July, 2024. It will be held at one of the several beautiful golf courses in Butte under the able chairmanship of Mary Brown (17).

WGP’s Special Projects: **Regenerative Medicine and Masonic Home**

**Grounds Infrastructure**

Honoring its mission to support endeavors that will benefit all mankind, the General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star has chosen Regenerative Medicine as one of its philanthropic projects for the 2021-2024 triennial session. Our efforts will support the work of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM) and their research to develop new treatments and therapies to improve the health and lives of patients worldwide.

Regenerative Medicine works to replace or restore function to damaged or diseased tissues and organs and provide treatments for some of the diseases and injuries currently classified as untreatable. Regenerative Medicine is a wide field encompassing not only research, but teaching, equipment design and engineering, and manufacturing; you can do all the research in the world, but if you don’t teach others what you have learned, then there would be very little progress. And there is always a need for new and better medical advances. Young and old, male and female, **Regenerative Medicine** will help everyone.

There will be WFIRM pins available for $5.00 each. These pins are provided by Wake Forest Institute as part of the OES+WFIRM = IMAGINE, Partnership.

The WGP’s other project is to provide some grounds infrastructure at the Masonic Home in Helena, MT., (AKA, primarily tree trimming).

There are many senior trees at the home that are very large and tall, and they need some trimming (removing dead branches, etc.). This work needs to be done by professionals with the proper equipment; we don’t want to have a branch fall and injure one of the residents. The grounds are in good condition, and we want to keep it that way. The residents should be able to enjoy their Home, including the beautiful grounds.

Eastern Star has a long history connected to the Masonic Home starting at its conception, and we shall continue to honor that commitment.

The WGP’s Special Project Raffle is **MEAT** for a chance to win a quarter of beef. Currently two (2) quarters of beef are planned as winning prizes, but if the ticket sales go well, more quarters of beef and/or pork will be added. A baker’s dozen homemade jams and jellies is another prize, and who knows, there may be other prizes as well. The tickets are $5.00 each or 5 tickets for $20.00.

The WGP is also offering an incentive to members who visit chapters in which they are not members. These “TRAVEL PINS” are beautifully designed with the Eastern Star mounted on a blue enameled Montana, with the potential to add five “stars” on the bottom of the pin. Details on how to earn these pins will be forthcoming. This is a great opportunity for members to support each other by promoting the “cheerful companionship and social enjoyment” that we share as Sisters and Brothers, and provides a wonderful chance advance our fellowship as well as to exchange fundraising, membership, or other pertinent ideas.

The OES boutique will continue to flourish for another year under the capable management of Mary Beth Aasterud (#32). This was a great success this past year and raised a record $1,800.00 for the Cinderella Shop at the Masonic Home.

The Youth Baskets were also a great success raising $3,000.00 for youth.

A truly sincere “thank you” to all who patronized these two projects.

Richard and I are looking forward to visiting with you all in your local chapters. We hope that many times you will pause beneath the starry heavens to say a prayer of thankfulness to Him whose Star we follow.

With Star love,

Pamela W.G.M. & Richard W.G.P.