

ROYAL GRAND CHAPTER, OES, PHA PROCLAMATION AND NEWSLETTER

Flora Simon, Grand Matron

Johnny Carolina, Grand Patron

By the power vested in me as Grand Worthy Matron of the Royal Grand Chapter, I declare all information in this document as being official. Every member of this jurisdiction is to follow the directives as herein stated.

Synopsis of the Royal Grand Chapter 137th Annual Session Feb 24-26, 2022

The 137th Annual Session was one of the most enjoyable and spirit filled grand chapter session in many years. Everyone exhibited the true sisterly fellowship of friendship, trust, and love. COVID-19 rules from Grand Master Wilson were followed and there were no episodes during the three-day event. Two hundred and thirty-one persons registered and 220 were in attendance.

During the banquet on Friday night, the **2021 Poston-Sears Queens** were announced. District #4 was in charge of the Queen's Coronation Program.

All of the chapters below went over the \$15.00 per members on the roll.

- **Queen Sister Lois Gulley**, Morning Star #122, Urbana (Priscilla McMurrain, WM) - \$2,000.00
- 1st Runner-up Toquila LaShaun Brewer, Eliza Murphy #395, Jonesboro (Lititia Carolina, WM)-
---\$1,845.00
- 2nd runner-up WM Hannah E. Crain, Ozark Chapter #295, Fayetteville - \$800.00
- 3rd runner-up Erma Haire, St. Matthew #351, Marked Tree (Tamara McCuiston, WM)-----
\$1,020

These chapters also either meet or went over the \$15/member. I was really pleased with their efforts. The chapters' worthy matron received an honorable mention award.

- Evening Star #374, Helena-----Agatha Truancy, WM----- \$705
- Harmony #40, Pine Bluff ----Zenobia Brown, WM ----- \$630
- Electa-Triumphant #348, Dermott--- Barbara Smith, WM ----- \$575
- State Line #19, Texarkana, Teresa Jones, WM----- - \$570
- Shamrock-Trinity Star, Little Rock, Dionne Fail, PWM- ----- \$555

A list of **elected and appointed officers for 2022** have been emailed to all officers, deputies and worthy matrons. If you have not seen it, contact your worthy matron for a copy of the list. Your name may be on the list as an appointed officer and/or committee member. WM ShaRhonda Jones, #424 volunteered to be the photographers and AM Shamaine Jenkins, #19 the assistant.

Two committees that have begun to meet are the ones working on the RGC Constitution and Bylaws, and the Policy and Procedures. This is the time for all members to review the constitution and bylaws, and policy and procedure manual for amendments, additions, and/or deletions. All suggestion should be forwarded to the committee chairman.

Membership: Information was passed out regarding membership fees. All fees remained the same as last year. There was also a reminder that members must turn 76 years old on or before December 1st, to get the reduction in relief, and documentation of the birthday must be sent to the grand financial secretary. These persons remain as regular members; they are not honorary members.

There continues to be issues with membership applications being sent in incomplete. If you want your certificates, materials, etc. back timely, then you must send in the correct information and fees. If the Grand Office has to call for information or return forms that delay could take 3 months are better.

- For Clarification: You do vote on persons petitioning the chapter to become a member by demitting from another chapter or reinstating.

Century Club Account was made an emergency fund to be used only for a catastrophic emergency. Funds were added this year to bring the balance up to \$15,000. A minimum amount of \$500.00 shall be added annually from relief funds until the balance is at least \$20,000.00. The funds can only be used when approved by the Grand Matron and a three fourth vote of the elected RGC officers.

Building Commitment

It remains to be a requirement that all elected and appointed officers to the RGC must pay at least the \$300 mortgage commitment. If you are an officer and have not paid the fee, you should send in a payment immediately. Call Patricia Jones at 870-413-9481 and she will give you all the ways you can make a payment. Please contact her before June 30, to make a payment. I will check the roster to see if your name is on the list having paid the \$300 or a part of it. Some of you might have paid earlier and stop paying; so, you need to complete the contribution of \$300.

Annual Return Forms Incomplete

All chapters must have an assistant secretary/treasurer listed on the form. About 50% of the forms were returned without a person listed. Also, many forms were returned without the name of the worthy patron. I will be sending an email to these chapters requesting the name of the assistant secretary/treasurer and the name of the Worthy Patron. The worthy matron is to immediately submit the name for both positions. If a worthy patron has not been assigned, you are to contact the worshipful master of your sponsoring lodge. After you contact him and get no results, contact Grand Patron Carolina for assistance.

New Member Initiation Changes

(1) Beginning July 1, 2022, there will be no initiation of a new member until a copy of the approved application has been returned from the GWM. (2) A denied application must be sent to the RGC office with the word denied written across the top. (3) The investigation form must be returned with the application.

These changes are being made because of concerns about sending in the wrong amounts, memberships that are denied, and incomplete forms submitted.

Mid-Year Audit

Mid-year audits will not begin this year as stated in the Deputy's Zoom Meeting.

Beginning in 2023 each chapter must conduct a mid-year audit (6 months) of finances from the date of the last audit in 2022 to April 2023. This audit will be presented to the chapter in May, and a copy sent to the district deputy.

The final audit is given before election & it will be for 12 months not 6.

2022 CAR RAFFLE TICKETS

It is assumed that car raffle tickets should be ready to be distributed in June. This year since we are going to be working really hard to pay off the Grand Lodge/Grand Chapter Building, every chapter will be mandated to sell or buy all tickets. Start now making out a list of persons to ask to purchase a ticket, and set aside \$5.00 for each student you will purchase to complete your sell of the tickets given.

RGC SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship applications have been sent to each worthy matron. The deadline is June 30, 2022. We give three \$500 scholarships to students already in college. We also give two \$500 scholarships to two students graduating from high school this May. The applicants must live in Arkansas, but does not have to be attending school in Arkansas. If you have not received a copy of the application, get a copy from your worthy matron or deputy. This information can be posted on your Facebook page. Some students need this help. Encourage students to apply. Applicant does not have to be a member of the OES or have a relative that is a member of the OES or a Mason.

FUNDRAISERS

(1) Toss the Coin is no longer a Worthy Matron event. It is the responsibility of the entire chapter. The lowest amount I will accept from the chapter is \$150.00. Deadline has been expended to July 31, 2022. Every member should take all their coins during the month of May, June, and July to the chapter meeting for this fundraiser.

(2) The Deputies will collect money for the **Shirley W. Inghram Youth Scholarship** this year. This has not occurred in three years. The deadline for these contributions is December 1, 2022.

(3) Poston-Sears Queen Drive

The Poston-Sears Queen Drive has been in effect for 10 years. According to the latest participation, it has run its course; therefore, this contest will not occur this year.

(4) RGC Fundraiser

Each member on the rooster will pay \$10.00 towards this fundraiser. There is no exempt persons to this ruling. This money is due in the GWM office on or before September 30, 2022. No exceptions!

(5) District Building Fund Donation

The districts have not done anything special in a number of years towards paying for the mortgage. This year, each district is responsible for raising a minimum of \$1000.00. These funds are due in GWM office by October 31, no later than December 1, 2022.

HODGEPODGE NOTES

Members are not to have cell phones out during local, district, or state meetings.

District Deputies Advisors will visit District Meetings this year and will also make some local meetings. They are in attendance to assist as needed and give positive feedback. They are present in an advisory capacity and represent the Grand Matron.

Dress Code: As it turns warm, stocking is still a part of the dress code. Therefore, if you are going to wear sandals and thorns, you must still wear stockings.

District Lecturers will begin conducting a workshop at district meetings.

All 2022 OES and Building fees must be paid in full on June 30, 2022. Financial secretaries start informing the members and collecting fees now. No chapter needs to lose any more members because of delinquent fees.

JUNE 25th OES WORKSHOP

At the Workshop, a statewide OES initiation will occur. A lecture and study session will occur after the initiation. District five will conduct the initiation and study session. The initiation and workshop will begin promptly at 9:00.

Registration forms have been sent to the worthy matrons. Registration fee is \$5.00; onsite \$10.00