

## Our Plans for 2017



### Symbol: The Rocking Chair

The symbol for 2017 is the **Rocking Chair**. It represents family and tradition. Almost everyone has a rocking chair story to tell. Mine was the grandmother that passed her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday present to her first granddaughter... Me! My first granddaughter knows that one day it will be hers. Growing up, I had faith that my grandmother would honor that promise. And she did. She also taught me about her faith in Jesus Christ and her love of her family. This rocking chair represents faith, family, and friends. These are three things that we must hold close as we traverse this world.

### Emblems:

**Signed petition** – We need to shine our light in our communities and the petition symbolizes our future hope for our chapters. Through signed petitions we increase our family of sisters and brothers and create lifelong friends to share memories and fraternal bonds with. Thousands of new sisters and brothers that will love our Order just as much as we do are in our communities if we simply give them the opportunity to join.

**Book mark** – The bookmark marks a favorite verse in the Bible. It also symbolizes the important pages (events) marked in our lives.

**Pen** - The fountain pen and quill pen embody a desirable degree of ceremony and prestige that lesser pens forego. It is a necessary tool that takes a blank petition to a signed petition that brings new members to our beloved order.

**A School Bell** – It represents the teachers in our lives. They are special people found not just in the classroom. It's the preacher who has explained God's words. It's the parent that held your hand as you learned to walk. It's the Eastern Star sister or brother that helped you perfect the ritualistic work and understand its meaning. These are just a few of the special teachers in each of our lives.

### Fun Emblems:

**WGM – Sock Monkey** – My grandmother gave me my first sock monkey. It was her tradition to give one to each of her grandchildren and it was a tradition I carried on with my grandkids. The sock monkey represents a lighter, more innocent side of life.

**WGP – Hershey Bar** – My favorite candy bar. It's simple and it reminds me that the greatest treasures in life are those that are often very simple; a card, prayer, a hug, a quiet sunrise or sunset on a rocker on the front porch. Our friendships are some of the sweetest memories we hold dear, and often we forget to enjoy them.

### Colors:

**Red:** Red represents love. It is also the color of Electa, the mother station. Red is dedicated to not only my mother but also to those who have filled the role of a mother in the lives of others.

**Green:** Green is a symbol of immortality and is representative of Martha, the sister

station. This color is dedicated to my sisters, both biological and fraternal.

**Blue:** Blue represents fidelity. It is the color of Adah, the daughter station. This color is dedicated not only to the WGM's daughters Heather and Jennifer and WGP's daughter Emily, but also the women that we have guided and loved as our daughters.

**Indigo:** Indigo represents patriotism. It is dedicated to those men and women who have served our country. This color is dedicated to the WGM's father and will be used to represent those male figures that have been father-figures throughout our lives.

**White:** White represents light, purity, and joy. It is dedicated to the innocence of a child and reminds us to keep a childlike brightness in our hearts and spirits. It is also dedicated to our Rainbow girls, Job's daughters, and DeMolay.

**Flowers:**

**Sunflower:** The golden sunflower gently turns its face toward the light of the sun throughout the day. The sunflower should remind us to turn our faces and lives toward our light...our Heavenly Father.

**Daisy:** The daisy, like the sunflower, turns its face toward the light. But more than that, it is a symbol of innocence.

**Single Red Rose:** The single red rose is a symbol of love and friendship. It represents that person in our life that gives us unconditional love. It stands alone with nothing more than baby's breath and greenery.

**Motto:** "Faith, Family, Friends"

**Watchword:** **Faith**  
Family  
Agape  
Inspiration  
Teach  
Hope

**Itinerary Title:** "Rocking Missouri"

**Session Theme:** "Sonrise on the Front Porch" Session

**WGM Scriptures:** Numbers 6: 24-26  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Luke 11:2-4  
1 Corinthians 13:13

**WGP Scriptures:** Joshua 24:15  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15  
Luke 23:34

**WGM Songs:** “In the Garden” / “Love Devine” /” The Old Rugged Cross”  
“How Great Thou Art” / “The Impossible Dream” / “The Rose”

**WGP Songs:** “In Christ Alone”/ “The Sinners Prayer” / We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”/ “The Beautiful Garden of Prayer”/ “Amazing Grace”

**Opening Ode:** “Amazing Grace”

**Closing Ode:** “In the Garden”

**Honored Stations:** Veterans

### **Our Charities for 2017:**

***Shriner’s Hospital*** – Shriners Hospitals for Children has a mission to:

- Provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries and other special healthcare needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment.
- Provide for the education of physicians and other healthcare professionals.
- Conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves the quality of care and quality of life of children and families.

This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin or ability of a patient or family to pay.

***Service Dogs – Support Dogs Inc*** - We want to see our Chapters become engaged publically in the community we serve. The Service Dog projects give us the opportunity for public fundraisers to help provide service dogs to veterans, law enforcement, nursing homes, court rooms and those with medical conditions. General Grand Chapter has voted for this to be our main charity in the community so people can identify Eastern Star with a cause, much like people identify the Shriners with Children’s Hospitals. We want to encourage you to be creative in your fundraising for this project and then share the events and ideas with us so we can share the successes across the state. We encourage you to set a goal to achieve and then work within your community to achieve it. And if you can find a need in your community for a service dog we encourage you to lead your communities into helping those individuals by supporting your Chapter or District efforts and by connecting those individuals with service dog providers and programs.

***Masonic Home Outreach & Penny-A-Day Programs*** – The Masonic Home of Missouri started the Outreach Program in 1991. At that time, the Masonic Home of Missouri’s Board of Directors recognized that there was a need to help Missouri Master Masons, wives, widows, and female members of the Order of the Eastern Star throughout the state in their own communities. The program has evolved into nine distinct programs:

Long-Term Financial Assistance, Short-Term Financial Assistance, Children's Outreach, Creating-A-Partnership, Armed Forces, Masonic Family Cares, Social Services, Widows, and Financial Education.

***ABC Youth Leadership Awards (Scholarships to Jobs, Rainbow, DeMolay)*** – In addition to funds from the Missouri OES pin, we will be Building our future by selling sock monkeys and other critters with Sister Marge Carney's ABC pin. To help support specific organizations, members may purchase a critter t-shirt with the specific logo as support for the Rainbow Assemblies, Job's Daughters Bethels and DeMolay Chapters of Missouri, **our ABC's**. By utilizing the fundamental ABC building blocks we can provide support and assistance to our Masonic Youth through scholarships. They hold the key to the future of the Masonic Fraternity and we must emulate a standard they will want to follow when the opportunity presents itself for them to consider joining our organization.

**In-House Charities:**

**Educational Fund Board**

**ESTARL**

**Lois J. Newman Scholarship Fund**

**Masonic Youth Groups**

**Emergency Fund**

**Welfare Fund**

**MoChip**

## Chapter Objectives for 2017

Every Chapter will be working toward the **“Rocking the Order Award”**. We will be working together to keep our Order alive, continue helping in our communities and working with our youth organizations.

It is important that while we take care of our own, we also find time to do good for others as well. The Worthy Matron should appoint someone in each chapter to keep track of their chapter's achievements. Each time we are in your district, we will have one member from the Grand Family collect a report as to how well you are doing working towards obtaining this achievement.

A special certificate will be given to each chapter that participates. This award will be presented during our Grand Chapter in Jefferson City.

### The 16 achievements:

1. Support our Masonic Youth by setting aside a meeting to honor the Masonic youth in your community, or attending one of their meetings or events. If there are no Masonic Youth Groups in your community, then participate by offering support at the Masonic Youth Day in August, 2017 or making a contribution to the Rainbow Grand Assembly, Job's Daughter Grand Bethel, or DeMolay Conclave.
2. Honor the Master Masons in your community by inviting the Masons, their wives and family to the Chapter or District social event. Encourage them to become members of our part of the Masonic Family. You might want to consider providing refreshments before one of your Masonic meetings.
3. Donate toward a local food drive or food pantry, supporting those in need in your community.
4. Participate in recognizing our service men and women or area veterans.
5. Visit, call or send a card, at least four times during the year, to your chapter's “shut-in” members. Let them know they have not been forgotten. You can remember them at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, or on their birthday.
6. Attend five out of the following events:
  - a. your district's Official Inspection
  - b. your district's Official Reception
  - c. a Ritualistic Workshop
  - d. Masonic Youth Day – August 5, 2017
  - e. OES Fun Day – July 15, 2017
  - f. Your district's Fun Day
  - g. 2017 Grand Chapter
7. Hold a proficiency night in your chapter. Have everyone renew their obligation together.
8. Plan a “Homecoming Meeting”, invite and encourage members who have not been attending to come. Maybe meet early, have dinner or refreshments before the meeting.
9. Open your chapter meetings in long form, and no more than 2 times in short form if

you meet twice a month, or 1 times in short form if you meet only once a month. Take pride in the work of our Order.

10. Donate your Friendship Night “coin drill” to the Masonic Home Outreach Fund.
11. Attend a worship service together as a chapter.
12. Designate one of your “coin drill(s)” in January to be donated to the ABC Masonic Youth Project.
13. Hold a memory night in your chapter by honoring the PM, PP and 25 and 50 + year members. Ask them to share a special memory of their year of service and OES event they treasure. It is important that we recognize the accomplishments of those who have given so much to make our Order so great.
14. Hold a special recognition night to honor and encourage those members who have been members for less than two years. Send special invitations to encourage them to attend all meetings, especially this special night
15. Support the WGM’s Charity Projects for 2017.
16. Initiate at least three new members during the year.

## **WGM & WGP Special Projects**

### **Penny-a-Day**

We are asking member to contribute at least \$3.65 to the Masonic Home Outreach project to their chapter secretary either when paying their dues or at a later time. Each member that does will receive a special sticker to be applied to their 2017 dues card. Those members will be entered into a special drawing at the 2017 Grand Chapter Session. The drawing will be held on Monday after members show their Pink Penny-a-Day sticker.

### **ABC Leadership Award for each of the three Masonic Youth Groups in Missouri**

Celebrate the craziness of youth.... Buy a sock monkey or other critter and a t-shirt to honor our youth groups. My grandmother gave each of her grandkids a sock monkey which I still have (survived the fire). That monkey reminds me of my youth and the dreams I had. Help support our youth’s dreams through scholarships.

### **Dine-Out Missouri**

We are having Dine-Out Missouri in April and at least once during the summer. Funds will go to Shriner’s Hospital and ABC Leadership Award. Information as to restaurants and dates will follow.

### **DDGM Sunflower Buckets**

Our DDGMs will be placing Sunflower Buckets at the Chapter or District meetings. Members are asked to drop their loose change into the bucket. This money will go toward the Masonic Home Outreach Fund.