



Grand Chapter
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF NEW JERSEY

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James W. Hines
Most Worthy Grand Patron
IN MEMORIAM

February 14, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe that we are beginning to put the finishing touches on our work of art. We have endured some dark times but there have been many bright spots. I have enjoyed every beautiful event, and it is now time to prepare the blank canvas for a new year in our Chapters.

I am truly grateful for the warm welcome in each Chapter and thank you for your kind support all year – not just of me and my Officers, but of each other. It is wonderful to see the attitude of kindness which creates beauty for us all. I am especially thankful to all the State Chairs, assisted by both the District and Chapter Chairs, for promoting and supporting all the Star projects this year. I am so impressed by the clever and hardworking sisters and brothers in our Order! Every effort is so sincerely appreciated, and I look forward to your final reports at Grand Sessions.

The Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons could not have been more helpful and supportive; thank you! You have shared sage wisdom, encouragement, and hints that made a difference.

Our Right Worthy Grand Officers, too, have been incredibly supportive and encouraging, ready to share ideas and support ours. Many thanks to this winning team! Continue to Dream, Create, and Inspire.

Our Worthy Grand Officers were the best. These quite different pieces came together to form a beautiful mosaic. You each did your work with dignity and beauty and yet you still knew how to have a fun time. I am immensely proud of all of you and so grateful that I can call you my kids.

Our Worthy District Deputies have represented us extremely well in their Districts, have kept their Chapters well informed and on the Star Path, and have all been so clever and resourceful in planning their fabulous District Meetings! Thank you! I could not have asked for more!

I certainly appreciate the fine participation of our traveling ambassadors, the Grand Representatives! Thank you all for taking the time to greet us, and for the goodwill you created not only with your jurisdiction, but also within our own state.

Our Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons, you have shown that Eastern Star animates your lives, and I am filled with gratitude and warmth from all your hard work, leadership, participation, and support. Thank you each so much!

To Sister Sharon, I wish only the best for you and "Flat Frank." May your year be everything you wish for. Reach for that brass ring and always enjoy the ride.

It is extremely exciting in all our Chapters now as the Grand Officers for 2024-2025 are being announced. I remind you that our year does not end until the new Grand Officers are installed at Grand Session. Until that time, please continue to consult and work with the Worthy Grand Officers and the WDD's of 2023-2024 and adhere to their instructions.

Now as March approaches our Chapters are holding elections and installations. Remember that voting on suspension for non-payment of dues should be conducted at your first or only regular meeting in March. On election night the Presiding Officer must read Chapter 31 Section 2. "Nomination" to the members before recreation is called and Election Chapter 31 Section 3 immediately following recreation before the election is conducted. Please do not forget to elect one (1) Delegate and two (2) Alternates to the Eastern Star Home to attend the Delegates meeting when held.

I invite you to attend the 154th "Let OES Animate Your Life" Grand Session at Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd. On May 22nd, we will be having our Membership Dinner. I hope that you will join us as we celebrate and share an evening of fun and fellowship. We have a great meal plan. Please consider participating in this as well.

I humbly thank all our members for your support, encouragement, love, and kindness in creating the beauty of this Star year. It has been a year of challenges, but you have helped me keep dreaming. You have created a beautiful atmosphere and inspired me with your warmth...I cannot adequately express my gratitude.

Remember that life is a canvas; go out and paint yourself many colorful days.

In Star Love and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne V Byrne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

Joanne V Byrne
Most Worthy Grand Matron

Attest: Patti L Rhinesmith, PGM,
Right Worthy Grand Secretary