



NELLIE CUSTIS CHAPTER NO. 169



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Anna L. Taylor, Worthy Matron Terry L. Bledsoe, Worthy Patron

This is the second newsletter for this term. We hope this newsletter finds you and yours in good health. Below are the activities going on in the Chapter.

OFFICIAL VISIT

District 41 Official Visit will be held at Springfield Lodge on Saturday, August 15th, at 2:00 PM. The Chapters represented will be Martha Washington Chapter No. 42, Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169, and Unity Chapter No. 201. The School of Instruction for the Official Visit will be held on Saturday, August 8th, at 4:00 PM. If you are not an officer, your attendance would be appreciated in support of the Chapter.

BIRTHDAY BASH

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are focusing on fun and fellowship this term. In line with that, we celebrated our country's 250th Birthday on July 10th. With the help of several of our outstanding officers, we were able to have a well-planned and orchestrated event. We had a great turnout, and everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening. Members from the LODGE, DeMolay, other Chapters, and guests attended. We even had the Past Grand Patron and his wife from Virginia Beach! We served hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and ice cream for dessert. The highlight of the evening was the entertainment. My brother, Rupert Harmon, brought his karaoke machine and several people (including him!) sang! If they didn't sing at the mic, they would sing along to the songs! Sisters Janice Clark, Ruth Meagher, and Jill Russell seemed to have fun singing at the mic. All three have melodious voices. The evening was such a hit that no one seemed to want to leave!! A few people asked if we could do it again next year!



SUPPER CLUB GROUP:

We are continuing with the Supper Club Group again this term. Sister Susan Geisler, Group Chair, organized the first outing at Milano's Restaurant in April. We had a good turnout and enjoyed the meal and company. The second outing was at Spartan's Family Restaurant in June. The dinner at Spartan's, organized by Sister Lisa Andrews, was a fundraising event that yielded \$40 for the Chapter. That's not bad. We were able to eat dinner together and make money at the same time!! We intend to keep this going in September. We will let you know when and where we'll meet again.

PAINT PARTY

We are planning another fun event in September. Sister Jill Russell is organizing another Paint Party at the lodge on September 11th, from 6 to 9 PM. The cost is only \$20 per person for an evening of fun and fellowship! You don't have to be able to paint (like me) to join in the fun. The instructor, Monica, and Sister Jill will teach you how to paint. If you plan to come, please RSVP by September 4th to Jill Russell at 571-331-2532 or Jilzcatz03@gmail.com.

FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

In June, we honored Sister Pat Harrison as she celebrated FIFTY years of service in the Order of the Eastern Star. During her time in the Eastern Star, she has been a dedicated and loyal member of our Chapter and Grand Chapter. Throughout the years, she held several important roles. She served as Worthy Matron three times (1978-79, 1984-85, and 1995-96), Grand Representative of Nebraska in Virginia from 1998 to 2000, Assistant Lecturer for the District from 1996 to 1998, and held numerous other Grand Chapter appointments over the years. She and her husband, Marcus, traveled across the Commonwealth attending other Chapter meetings and Official Visits. Her most significant contribution was serving as our Chapter Secretary for 20 years!! In recognition of that dedication, the members of Nellie Custis Chapter No. 169 elected her Secretary Emeritus at the stated meeting on March 18, 2020. She was later presented with a Certificate of Recognition on December 13, 2021. While she is no longer active, she occasionally attends meetings and events.



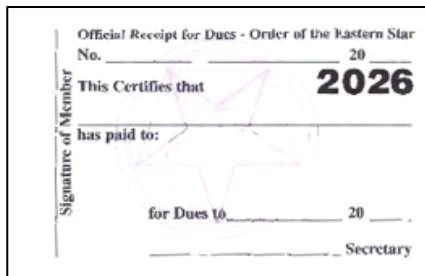
SICKNESS

Please keep Brother Jim Moculski in your thoughts and prayers, as he was recently placed in Hospice care. Prayers are also welcomed for his wife, Sister Susan Geisler, who is his caregiver.

SAD NEWS

Sister Zenaida Marecello, a nineteen-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, was called home to be with the Lord on April 29, 2026. While she was not an active member in recent years, she participated in the Chapter's events whenever she could. Please keep Sister Zenaida in your thoughts and prayers.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Is the year on your current Dues Card different than this picture? If so, you need to contact the Secretary and find out what you need to do to get one that looks like it. We are halfway through 2026, and before long (September), we will be sending notice for 2027. Bob Bartruff, Secretary. Text me at 270-735-5718 or email: chip7962@gmail.com

WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS

We still have 45 Commemorative White House Ornaments of the Declaration of Independence left to sell. All the special ornaments are sold out. Please help Sister Susan Geisler sell the remaining ornaments. If you have any questions, please contact her at 703-300-5677.

PECAN SALES

It's almost time to start ordering the DELICIOUS Mascot Pecans. I will probably place the order in early fall, so please start thinking about what kind and how many bags of pecans you'd like.

FUTURE EVENTS

Augst 8	4:00 PM	District 41 School of Instruction
August 15	2:00 PM	District 41 Official Visit
September	TBA	School of Instruction
September 11	6:00 PM	Paint Night at the Chapter
September 16	7:30 PM	Rob Morris & Obligation
October 21	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Honoring Chaplains
November 18	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Honoring Veterans
December 16	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Christmas
January 20	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Honoring Past Matrons and Past Patrons
February 17	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Valentine's Celebration
March 17	7:30 PM	Stated Meeting - Election of Officers

We hope to plan some additional events during the remainder of this term. We'll keep you posted! In the meantime, we hope to see you in Chapter in the Fall!

Star love,
Anna Taylor, WM and Terry Bledsoe, WP