

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Who among us have not had a family member or close friend – or even oneself – who has been afflicted with cancer. Cancer is a disease that touches so many people, not only the person diagnosed with the disease, but also those who are their support system. There are approximately 10 million cancer survivors in the United States. Thus far, a cure has been elusive.

We are hoping to enlist your aide in supporting one of our most important charities – the Cancer Fund. This year, our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron have selected the patient Care Fund at the University of Wisconsin's Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center as the recipient of our financial donation. As explained on their website, this fund supports the needs of the patients and their families served by the Center. The Patient Care Fund purchases items that can help a cancer patient through the experience of cancer treatment, such as books, CDs, games and rocking chairs, just to name a few. Contributions to this fund will touch the lives of many patients and their families.

Chapters and individual members are encouraged to lend their financial support to this very worthwhile cause. October has been designated as the month for us to focus on our Cancer Fund. This would be a good time to send your donations to Grand Chapter; however, your financial support will be welcomed at any time throughout the year prior to the March 31st deadline.

Attached, you will find a Cancer Risk Activity that may:

- serve as a guideline for members to determine an individual contribution to the charity;
- help individual members assess their anti-cancer risk activities; and
- most importantly, help members make lifestyle changes to reduce their risk for cancer.

Again, completing the Activity during the month of October is suggested, but may be completed at any time during the Grand Chapter year.

While we appreciate your support and participation in Grand Chapter's Cancer Fund, we also encourage members to become involved in local activities. Some suggestions are:

- 1) hold a fund-raiser or donate needed items for the Patient Care Fund at your local hospital's Cancer Center
- 2) invite a speaker from your local Cancer Center to talk about cancer awareness, research, and prevention
- 3) sponsor a particular patient or family by assisting with transportation to appointments for treatment, shopping, home maintenance, etc.

The unique talents and interests of your Chapter members will determine how best you can become involved in your community. Share your ideas and successes with others around the state by sending an article (preferably with pictures) to The Masonic Journal, The Starburst, and the OES website. It is always interesting to see what ideas others come up with!

Fraternally,

Nancy Ryburn
Cancer Committee Chair

Janine Coley
Cancer Committee