

100 Year History of Willamette Court #2

Willamette Court #2 was the second constituted Court in the state of Oregon, following Ionic Court #1 which met in Portland. On May 14, 1921, the dispensation for Willamette Court #2 was read by Deputy Supreme Royal Patron of Georgia, Leon Gibbs of Georgia. Twenty-eight members were obligated that evening and the following top officers were installed:

Miss Anne Whiteaker, Royal Matron
Mr. Wm. Klussman, Royal Patron
Mrs. Lizzie Buyou, Associate Matron
Mr. Gilber Zacher, Associate Patron

The report of the Bylaws Committee was read and the first Bylaws of the Court were adopted. The password was given to the Royal Matron by Mr. Gibbs, who in turned, shared it with the new members of the Court. The grip and the salutation sign were also shared, and members were invited to visit Ionic Court on May 21 to witness the ceremonies of the Order. A practice was scheduled for May 22 and the first regular meeting of the Court was set for the second Thursday in June (June 9, 1921) at the downtown Eugene Masonic Temple. \$160 was collected in funds for the Court, with a motion to bills totaling \$90.22 were paid, leaving cash on hand of \$69.78. Mr. Wm. Klussman was appointed as Royal Patron.

By the end of 1921, Willamette Court had grown to 34 members and was meeting monthly. Fourteen members were initiated in December and the Court continued to grow over the next several years. Minutes were kept from the very first meeting and the tradition of the Royal Matron signing the minutes was noted. Willamette Court has retained the minutes of every meeting of the Court, and those books are on display in the foyer. The first minute books are leather bound books, with beautiful handwriting. As technology advanced, minutes began to be typed onto the pages, then pages were printed onto separate pages, which have been affixed into bound books.

Willamette Court continued to meet each month until June of 1931, when a resolution was presented to discontinue meeting in July and August, which began our summer recess tradition. The resolution passed on June 23 and the first annual Willamette Court picnic was held at the home of HL Bogart on the McKenzie River on June 29th 1931.

During the 1930's, the annual picnic became two or three picnics each summer, and each was well attended. In 1940, the annual picnic was held on July 20-21 at Paradise Camp on the McKenzie. In the years that followed an annual campout was held at various local camps, several at Clark Creek Forest Camp at Big Falls Creek. For many years, Willamette Court hosted an annual Strawberry Social in June and a Hamburger Feed each July and members from other local Courts joined in our fellowship. In August, members attended an annual Grand Court campout at Diamond Lake for many years. Unfortunately, the annual camp out is no longer a tradition, but the Strawberry Social and Hamburger Feeds have been continued, until the pandemic of 2020 slowed down all of our social activities.

In about 1959, the Willamette Court Group Singers were organized. This group was made up mostly of people who enjoyed music and singing, most of who same only for their own amazement, according to the records. They met monthly at various homes and at the little cottage behind the butte (Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park). They visited shut-ins and on special occasions, visited nursing homes and people who were ill and homebound. They practiced our court songs and initiatory songs, as well as having a great time at the meetings.

From the first month they met, members of Willamette Court have traveled to visit other Oregon Courts, as well as Courts in Other states and counties, as their travels took them near and far. Willamette Court has always been represented at the annual Grand Court session, and many members have traveled to attend many Supreme Council sessions over the years. This last year's Grand Court session was held in the Portland area at the Monarch Hotel, and the next Grand Court session will be held at Valley River Inn, here in Eugene, with Grand Royal Matron HL Judy Jones and Grand Royal Patron, SK Alan Kelsay presiding. We look forward to assisting our Grand Royal Matron in assuring that this coming Grand Court Session is most successful.

Members have also received many distinguished visitors throughout the years. On August 27, 1921, SK Arthur Zigler, Supreme Royal Patron, and many members of Ionic Court #1, acting as Supreme Officers, visited to constitute Willamette Court. In the last several years, it has become a regular occasion to have the current Supreme Royal Matron and/or the Supreme Royal Patron attend Willamette Court, which typically holds its March meeting the Monday before or Monday after Grand Court. This visitation gave out of state visitors the chance to visit a local Court, while traveling the Pacific northwest for March Madness, where British Columbia held its annual session the first weekend in March, Oregon held its session the 2nd weekend in March and Washington held its session the 3rd weekend! We are always delighted to welcome visitors to our meetings and social events.

With the constitution of Colonial Court #5 on June 24, 1927, the final plans were laid and the Grand Court of Oregon was Organized on July 23, 1927 and Constituted on September 24, 1927. , Willamette Court members have held offices within the Grand Court. From Willamette Court, SK Sam R. Mosher served as the 2nd Grand Royal Patron of Oregon Grand Court and HL Minnie Klussman served as the 3rd Grand Royal Matron! In all, Willamette Court has been honored to have seven Grand Royal Matrons and eight Grand Royal Patrons. We also recognize and congratulate an additional eight Past Grand Royal Matrons and six Past Grand Royal Patrons who affiliated or consolidated with our Court after their year of service to Grand Court. That's quite an impressive number of years of service to our Grand Court!

Willamette Court's most distinguished member may be SK Frank Scobert, who served as Royal Patron of Willamette Court in 1925, went on to be Grand Royal Patron in 1934-1935, and then served as Supreme Royal Patron in 1949-1950. His wife, HL Pearl, served as Royal Matron in 1929 and went on to be Grand Royal Matron in 1939-1940. SK Frank's Past Supreme Royal Patron's jewel is currently being worn by HL Dianne Dean, Past Supreme Royal Matron (2015-2016). HL Anne Beaton and SK Wes Aanderud, of Willamette Court, were the Gardeners from

Oregon for HL Dianne and SK Stoney Pavlik that year. Somehow it does not seem a coincidence that HL Dianne chose the pin of SK Frank, and I told her that it forever connected her to Willamette Court. I hope someday she will visit our Court and we can make her an honorary member.

For 99 years Willamette Court stood alone, without another Court coming to join us through merging or consolidation. However, on December 18, 2020, Douglas Court from Roseburg held its last meeting after requesting to consolidate with Willamette Court. Nine years earlier, Roxy Ann Court from Medford had merged with Douglas Court on January 20, 2012. We added nearly 50 members to our existing 45 members to grow our ranks. Although the travel from Medford, Grants Pass and the greater Roseburg area makes monthly travel to and from a Court meeting very difficult, we are so happy to welcome HL Gloria Hooker each meeting. HL Gloria is serving her 3rd year as Grand Treasurer and her experience as a 7-time Royal Matron of Douglas Court (in the last 10 years) make her an invaluable asset to our court. We love all of the members of our Court... and welcome and honor the affiliated and consolidated Past Royal Matrons and Past Royal Patrons.

There are so many people who the Court could honor for their years of dedication and service, and in our program you can see all the members who have served our consolidated Court.

There are a few members that it seems appropriate to recognize. HL Jean Treman is our most senior Past Grand Royal Matron in our Grand Court and this year celebrates her 100 year birthday! HL Jean is the reason I joined Amaranth 46 years ago. She has been a special part of my life and a very special part of our Court. Past Grands HL Florence Straight, HL Elaine Youngquist, SK Dave Sherman and HL Janice Dollries are also still active in our Grand Court and attend meetings when they are able to. HL Lesley and SK Gene Mattson, parents of our HL Nancy Rose, also became members many years before their passing and they added significantly to our Court.

From Willamette Court... several more members could easily be recognized from our last 50 years:

- HL Laulette and SK Eddie Norton, served as Royal Matron and Royal Patron during the 1950s and went on to be GRM (1963-1964) and GRP (1970-1971). They were living legends when SK Wes and I joined Willamette Court in 2001. It was so nice to spend time with them and to glean some of their wisdom!
- HL Ruth Ann and SK Mason Ludwig also were Court stewards. Ruth Ann and Mason were solid and faithful Amaranth supporters for so many years! HL Ruth Ann served her first term as RM in 1969, and then again in 1980, 1993 and 1999! I believe she was the first person to serve a 2nd term as Royal Matron for our Court.
- In the 1980's our members who were household names included Myrtle and Don Phelps, Virginia and Warren Cate, Mary and Bob Wagner, and Vivian Rholl.
- In the 1990's, there was Hazel Hytinen, who recently moved to Washington to be with her daughter. There were Doris and Bob Findtner, Charlene and Danny Glaspey, and Clara and Richard Basil. HL Clara is one of the hardest workers and she has stick-to-itiveness running through her veins! If you want to know about the family of our members, she has their

details, including contact info. HL Clara has served off and on as our Court Secretary and is responsible for some of the best record keeping we have! Thank you, HL Clara!

- And certainly, no one could forget our HL Betty and SK Ivan Rinck!!! Betty and Ivan taught us all so many lessons on how to serve our Masonic family and in doing so, we could serve others and help our communities. SK Ivan served not only in our own Court, but was a PGRP, a Past Potentate of Hillah Shrine, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. HL Betty served also as Queen of Nydia Temple #4, Daughters of the Nile.
- In 2001-2002, SK Wes and I kicked off the new millennium serving as Royal Matron and Royal Patron and hosted the 80th birthday celebration for Willamette Court.

In the first decade of the new millennium, we lost our friend SK Danny Glaspey, but we gained an amazing new HL... HL Barbie! In 2001, HL Barbie was initiated during what may have been the first state-wide initiation that was hosted by Willamette Court. The Grand Officers assisted with the Initiation and we brought in 8 new members that day, from both Willamette and Cherry Court. HL Teri Rollman was one of those initiated... and now HL Teri is a dual member of our Court, after the consolidation of Douglas Court in 2020. We also enjoyed HL Bettye and SK Bob Hagan, and welcomed HL Nancy Rose back to the area along with her husband SK Tom! HL Peggy Levenhagen served her first of seven terms as Royal Matron in 2004! There is no way to keep this good woman down!

We also enjoyed the company of HL Jackie and SK John Lovelace. SK John left us much too soon, but HL Jackie has been a gem and since HL Hazel retired hosting the annual strawberry socials, we have enjoyed the beautiful backyard that Jackie has invited us to share!

In the last decade, we have brought in some new, enthusiastic and wonderful members including HL Josie Skeers, HL Karen and SK Alan Beebe, and HL Margaret Bentley and HL Trysta and SK Edward Duquette. These members have added Amaranth to their schedules in addition to their active participation in Eastern Star. It is wonderful to share the Amaranth story with them and to learn from their experiences and training. Each of these members brings new and exciting ideas to our Court and we could not thrive without their active participation. HL Josie, HL Barbie and SK Alan have also all been recognized both in Oregon and at our Supreme Council meetings by giving tributes to the national flags of their nations... the Philippines, Canada and the United States. There is nothing so stirring as to hear HL Josie sing the national anthem of the Philippines in her native Tagalog. It is truly beautiful! Thank you all for shining for all of us!!!

Celebrations of the Courts milestones were noted along the way. In the history provided at the 50th Anniversary, special recognition was given to HL Sara Hoffer, who served as Secretary for 28 years! Having served as Secretary for many years, I appreciate the contributions HL Sara made to our Court! The 50th Anniversary was celebrated in 1971 and HL Ethelmae Atherton was our Royal Matron. HL Ethelmae later transferred her membership to Emerald Court #28, but returned as a Dual Member of Willamette Court before her death in 2020.

Willamette Court members have long had the spirit of our crowning jewel in the Amaranth Square... Charity... as one of its primary missions. We have participated in local and state events each year, giving back to our community and providing funds for important projects like Gales Creek Camp for diabetic children, the Shriner's Patient Transportation Fund, providing transportation from rural Oregon communities to the Shrine Hospital in Portland, and youth scholarships.

For more than 40 years, the Order of the Amaranth has partnered with the American Diabetes Association to support diabetes research. Collectively, Amaranth has raised over \$17 million to fund research projects focused on making advances towards a cure for diabetes.

The Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Order of the Amaranth, has supported more than 60 different projects since 2000. Many of these projects have provided critical research that have helped improve treatments and prevention methods, which are directly impacting people at risk for and living with diabetes. These projects have covered the spectrum of diabetes research, focusing on type 1 diabetes, diabetes technology, type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, pre-diabetes and insulin resistance, obesity and complications of diabetes. The scientists leading these projects represent academic institutions across the United States.

All money raised are passed directly to the American Diabetes Association for specific research projects. No fees or overhead charges are applied by any local Amaranth Court or the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. The American Diabetes Association presented Supreme Council Order of the Amaranth the "Charles H. Best" Medal in 1996 for distinguished service in fight to find a cure for diabetes. *Supreme Royal Matron, Honored Lady Sara Ann Seibert and Supreme Royal Patron, Sir Knight Richard D. "Ned" Kelly* were honored to accept the award on the behalf of Supreme Council. The ADA has recognized several Grand Courts for the stellar effort of their members in raising funds to find a cure for diabetes. Oregon was recognized in 2007 for exceeding \$250,000 in total contributions. Willamette Court looks forward to helping propel Oregon Grand Court past its next milestone... the \$500,000 club!

HL Nancy, SK Wes and I enjoyed representing Willamette Court as the most recent GRM and GRP... but I will not be the last GRM from our Court. As Grand Associate Conductress this year, we are excited to see you grow into this new leadership role and we support your endeavors. We wish for you and the Rosebuds the very best in the years to come. Did you want to add something at this time?

NANCY.... SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR ADF

HL Nancy Rose invited HL Charlene Tucker, Vice President of the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, to join her and presented HL Charlene with a check for \$10,000 for the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. This contribution will push Oregon Grand Court past the \$500,000 milestone. Both HL Charlene and GRM Judy gave inspiring remarks following the presentation.

WOW!!!! Thank you, HL Nancy... and congratulations HL Judy and SK Alan on surpassing the \$500,000 milestone on behalf of our Grand Court. HL Charlene... I'm so glad you could be here to share in today's festivities... it was worth the trip huh?

We plan to recognize our 25 and 50-year members with the presentation of a pin and certificate. A list of our 50-year and 25-year members is included in today's program.

At this time, we would like to have the drawing for a vintage cars quilt that was made by Court members. The proceeds for this project will also be donated to diabetes research. HL Clara Basil was the winner of the quilt.

REMARKS...

- *HL Charlene Tucker, ADF Vice-President*
- *SK Alan Beebe, RP*
- *HL Nancy, RM*
- *SK Alan Kelsay, GRP*
- *HL Judy Jones, GRM*

Before we conclude this afternoon, SK Jeff, would you please lead us in the benediction that was given at the end of our meeting.

HLs, SKs, guests... friends all... I want to acknowledge and give special thanks to the Historians and Secretaries of Willamette Court, who, over the years, have provided the annual historical report of the Court's activities from which these remarks are made. Without their steadfast commitment, the records of the Court might have been lost.

It has been a true pleasure and awesome experience to have the privilege of reviewing the records from 1921 to the present, now 101 years since the institution of Willamette Court #2, Order of the Amaranth – the most senior... aw heck... the oldest Court in the Jurisdiction of Oregon!

On behalf of Willamette Court, we thank you for spending the afternoon with us and for helping us make a significant contribution to diabetes research through the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

We wish you safe travels, good health, grand adventures and many happy memories along the Amaranth trail... and may this Court, Order of the Amaranth continue for another 100 incredible years!

Respectfully submitted,
HL Kris Aanderud, PGRM
Secretary, Willamette Court #2

Following the meeting, officers gathered and it was determined that over \$1,000 was raised during today's activities. These funds will be donated to the Grand Court and forwarded to the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. Thank you to all who participated in these festivities and who have supported our work over the years.

Celebrating 100 Years







