



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 179th Year

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February 2016

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GRAND LODGE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION JANUARY 16, 2016



The Grand Lodge office held a school of Instruction on Saturday, January 16, 2016 and the following were present for the school.

Grand Master Eric Smith, Grand Instructor Rich Herring, Grand Secretary Jerald T. Sarnes, Deputy Grand Master Larry Gean, Grand Treasurer Arlan Miller, Grand Representatives Allen Jones and Jim Turner, Grand Marshal Dan Davis, Grand Conductor Rick Baker, Grand Musician Niles Reamer, Grand Guardian Mat Yingling all representing the Grand Lodge. Others in attendance that day were, Hugo Block, Harold Curfman, Ernest Higgerson, Richard Bright, Janet Bruce, John R Stauffer, Ralph Staunch II, Don Klockenga, Janis Klockenga, Judy Sarnes, Jim Bott, Dick Jones, Richard Nowaczynski, Randy Barnes Sr., Billy Barnes, Aaron Rowland, Jeremy Soderstrom, Ken Loos, and Mike Bick for a total of 30 members presents. Everyone that attended the school is eligible to be an instructor unless they choose not to. Grand Lodge will be sending out an official list of Instructors.

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Contributions of current news and articles
pertaining to the welfare of the Independent
Order of Odd Fellows fraternity solicited.

This publication is mailed by the first of the
month, publication and contributions must reach
the editor by the 10th of the preceding month.

WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE
for any news or opinions expressed by
the communications of our correspondents, and
RESERVE the RIGHT to publish NEWS that WE
feel constructive to our Order.



Member of
I.O.O.F. International
Press Association

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Crary	3/07/44
Luella Gentry	3/09/30
Harriet Blakemore	3/16/30
Sharon Tull	3/18/40
Betty Dodson	3/19/31
Eulalla Sweet	3/20/22

IN MEMORIAM

HARVEY SCHROEDER P.G.
1928-2015
Brighton I.O.O.F. #366
60 Year Member

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016

February 6, 2016 - Rebekah
Assembly Board Meeting- Lincoln.

February 27, 2016 - Odd Fellow
Region #2 Mtg. in Farmington 10 a.m.

March 12, 2016 - Rebekah Dist. #16

March 19, 2016 - Rebekah Dist. #29

March 19, 2016 - Odd Fellow
Region #3 Meeting in Mt. Zion 10 a.m.

March 26, 2016 - Grand
Encampment of Illinois at Dupo, Illinois
for Special Session.

April 2, 2016 - G.L.E.A. Roundup
for 2016 has been changed to April 2
from the 4th Weekend in March. The
original weekend is Easter weekend.

April 9, 2016 - Odd Fellow Region
#4 Meeting in Dupo 10 a.m.

April 9, 2016 - Rebekah District
#5 Meeting

April 16, 2016 - Odd Fellow Region
#5 Meeting in Flora 10 a.m.

April 16, 2016 - Rebekah District #19
Meeting

April 23, 2016 - Rebekah District #20
Meeting

April 30, 2016 - Rebekah District
#30 Meeting

May 14, 2016 - Odd Fellow Region
#1 Meeting in Carpentersville 10 a.m.

May 14, 2016 - Rebekah District
#11 Meeting

May 20, 2016 - Rebekah District #1
Meeting

May 21, 2016 - Rebekah District
#6 Meeting - Rebekah Assembly Board
Meeting

June 4, 2016 - Rebekah District
#26 Meeting

August 27, 2016 - Rebekah
Assembly Board Meeting

August 15, 2016 - August 19,
2016, Sovereign Grand Lodge meetings
at Rapid City, South Dakota

September ,2016 - Grand
Master's Trapp Shoot

October 10-11, 2016 - Grand
Lodge Session in Springfield

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

I can't believe it's already February.
January was a VERY busy month and we've
got a full house. So far, the weather hasn't
been too bad but we are all waiting for the
great winter storm to come.

Everyone is staying busy here at the
home as always. With the cold weather,
our activities are our main source of enter-
tainment. A few activities taking place this
month are Bingo, Glam It Up, cooking classes,
coffee socials, crafts and a Valentine's
Day party.

We are having our annual Valentine's
Day Dinner with the residents and their
families this month. We plan to enjoy some
carved ham, hash brown casserole, green
beans, dinner rolls and dessert. The resi-
dents always enjoy themselves and love
spending time with their family. A big thank
you in advance to the staff that will be com-
ing in to help make this dinner possible,
especially to the kitchen staff that always
makes such a wonderful meal.

We continue to provide the Fellowship
Center with BINGO prizes and they are
always appreciative for the fun prizes we
give them every other month.

Until next month - take care and be well.

Jenna Black

Community Relations Coordinator



*The following was submitted by Judy
Sarnes and was originally from the Nebraska
Cornhusker Odd Fellow Volume 58 No. 10
November 2015 paper and was submitted
by Marge Ruder. The original author or
publication is not known.*

14,566 WORDS

Some industrious individual has counted
the words in the degree work of the subor-
dinate lodge and presents the following
figures.

In the Initiatory Degree, there are 4,588
words in the ritualistic work and 717 words
in the secret work, making a total of 5,305
words in this degree.

In the First Degree, there are 2,975
words in the ritualistic work and 258 words
in the secret work, making a total of 3,233
words in this degree.

In the Second Degree there are 2,522
words in the ritualistic work and 142 words
in the secret work, making a total of 2,664
words in this degree.

In the Third Degree, there are 3090
words in the ritualistic work and 274 words
in the secret work, making a total of 3,364
words in this degree.

Adding these we find there are 13,175
words in the ritualistic work and 1,391
words in the secret work, making a grand
total of 14,566 words in the four degrees.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well with you and your families.

My family and I went to an Odd Fellow function, called Odd Christmas.

Century #492 hosted the event and Rebekah Lodge Fox River #532 joined into help. There ended up being ten families for #492 to support for Christmas.

I watched the children have a great dinner, along with their parents. Santa Claus hands out gifts to the kids. The kids were so excited, they didn't know what to do. Santa, had to tell them to open their gifts. The kids were so happy, they were running around with joy.

So I went back to my table, to finish my dinner. When some children came into the room yelling out. I'm so happy, over and over again.

The Brothers that were sitting with me looked over at me and said, they had lumps in their throats. I told them if you didn't have a lump, you don't have a heart. Some of the parents were crying and thanked us for giving them a Christmas to remember. I AM SO PROUD TO BE AN ODD FELLOW.

I tell you this story to show you we can work with other lodges or other branches of our order. To make a difference in people's lives. Even if it's for one day. I would like every member to feel proud of what our order can accomplish.

If you think you can't make a difference, because your lodge is too little or that's just how you feel, let me give you something to think about. You go to bed, turn out the lights, get all snuggled in bed. A little mosquito buzzes your head all night long. That little mosquito made a difference in your life. You didn't sleep well, all night long.

I would like to leave you with a quote from an Odd Fellow book dated 1888.

The fundamental principle of our association, The fraternity which the Fathers of our order designated the foundation stone of our institution, upon its solid basis the super-structure was to rise, destined safely to repose, as long as time itself, should endure.

Brother and Sisters, please keep fighting the good fight.

In Friendship, Love and Truth

Eric N. Smith

Grand Master of Illinois

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this month's letter I am sitting in a cabin in the Ozark Mountains enjoying some (R&R) alone time with my husband. We were joined for part of our vacation by a couple from our church. We enjoy sharing our away time with family and friends. We also share information on our order with all who spend time with us. At this point we have not obtained any new members but we have planted seeds. No telling what the future holds. Are you sharing you Rebekah/Oddfellowship? We should take every opportunity to share what we are about.

Spring meetings are right around the corner. District Presidents please get you questionnaires sent back. Do you have anything that you would like us to help with? Please include this information on your questionnaire.

Thought for this month:

Watch your thoughts; for they become your words

Watch your words; for they become your actions

Watch your actions; for they become your habits

Watch your habits; for they become your destiny

Let's all work together

In FL&T

Rebecca Anderson-Maplesden

WHY I BECAME AN ODD FELLOW



I was going through the toughest period of my life; I was in my early 30's and was a full blown Alcoholic! I was trying my hardest to get clean and sober, but I just couldn't. My dad who was an Odd Fellow for 15 years at the time, suggested that I check out the Odd Fellow lodge in Sycamore where I lived. I went there and was greeted with a handshake and smiling faces. I went back a few times and my outlook and attitude on life began to change. I felt like I was a part of something like never before. The fellowship and love from the brothers helped me to open up about myself. The only problem was that I was still an alcoholic. I loved my brothers and what they stood for. As I continued to struggle I asked a brother Rick Baker, who I respected very much, how he was so kind & caring. He told me about his love for the Lord and suggested a church to check out. I started going to church although I was still struggling with my alcohol & demons, I began to feel the love of the Lord and the support of my brothers.

On September 26, 2010, I gave my life over to the care of God, and he relieved me of my alcoholism. I go to church, AA meetings, and I am the Vice Grand of my lodge. I am a better brother because of the men around me. They have supported & inspired me to become a better man. I have also learned from my dad that Odd Fellowship is a way of living & about having integrity.

I have 5 years 3 months clean and sober. I am a better man by living the way an Odd Fellow should live.

I GIVE GOD ALL THE GLORY FOR GETTING ME CLEAN, SOBER & REMOVING THE DESIRE TO DRINK! MY ODD FELLOW BROTHERS FOR SHOWING ME HOW TO LIVE AND BE A BETTER MAN!!!

I AM TRULY PROUD, HONORED & BLESSED TO BE AN ODD FELLOW.

In FL & T

Ralph E. Stauch III, Sycamore #105

IT WAS A VERY MERRY ODD CHRISTMAS



Century Lodge 492 had the honor of a multi-tiered Christmas event. Along with helping 9 families from local churches with Christmas gifts for their 26 children, complete Christmas dinners donated by the local food pantry Fish Food Pantry, (that Odd Fellow Lodge 492 and Rebekah Lodge 532 help throughout the year) and family holiday snack bags, we were able to sneak home with the families full blown stockings for the kids, not just for the joy of the kids but also for the joy and pride of the parents. For our jobs are not only to help others but to also lift them up and help them retain the pride all parents should have no matter their economic status. On December 19th we held a Christmas feast at the lodge, 5 of the families were able to attend plus a last minute family that we had to scramble for, but were able to also help as fully as the others. We would also like to thank the sisters of Fox River 532 that donated their time and hearts in helping with the shopping, wrapping, putting fantastic stockings together and making the lodge beautiful and filled with Christmas spirit. All of our hearts and souls were filled in the joy of watching the children and parents beam with happiness. As our Grand Master said that night "THIS IS WHAT ODD FELLOWSHIP IS ALL ABOUT".



Beautiful star desserts.



The kitchen crew who served the most amazing meal.



Santa's Lil old elves and members of Century Lodge #492 and Rebekah Lodge #532.

SHERWOOD I.O.O.F. LODGE #879 SONS OF SERVICE Serving the Keyesport Area

Sons of Service a 'Bike Club', veterans and sons of veterans, purchased the Sherwood Odd Fellow Lodge Hall in Keyesport and use it as their meeting place.

The Club is five years old and their objective is to help families and children in their communities.

They provided gifts and food baskets for 88 children and 26 families, in the Keyesport area at Christmas.

This club is doing what the Sherwood Lodge did for many years.

Congratulations to these members and families!!!

Lloyd West D.D.C.M

Allen H. Jones P.G.M., Reporter

SONS OF SERVICE PROVIDES CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS article from the newspapers

A group called Sons of Service provided gifts and food baskets for 88 children and 26 families in Keyesport on Saturday afternoon.

The Sons of Service USA NFP Bike Club was founded about five years ago and consisted of veterans and sons of veterans from Bond and Clinton and surrounding counties. They meet in the old Odd Fellows Hall in Keyesport.

Dallas Edwards explained the group has about 20 members and they are dedicated to helping the local community. Activities include an annual Ride for the Kids and a poker run to benefit the American Cancer Society.

An annual scavenger hunt funds the presents for the needy families program each year.

The club has made generous donations to Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children and to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Edwards said that an auction, usually held in October, raised more than \$7,400 this year.

He said that over the last five years, the group has made donations amounting to more than \$100,000.

TIPS FOR A STRONG LODGE

1. Strong and Quality Recruitment. It is very important to have on-going recruitment efforts. Set realistic new member goals.

If your recruitment is strong, that means that outsiders believe in what you are doing. Put enthusiasm and importance on the mentoring process-educate new members about the history, purpose and what makes the fraternity important and relevant in their lives and their communities. Make sure to deliver the initiation ceremonies in a dignified and impressive manner. How you perform the initiation ceremonies gives the new members their first impression on how you, as member, value and respect the fraternity. Putting charges to memory makes for an impressive initiation.

Make new members feel welcome, comfortable and useful and make sure that the majority of new members will remain as active members - this is one of the strongest signs that you have a strong lodge. It is also suggested that the Noble Grand assign new members a mentor.

2. Lively Social Life. Nobody wants to continue their membership in a Lodge that is always serious and rigid and dry - incorporate social activities and events. This is much more than dinners, Lodge meetings and initiation ceremonies. This should go beyond the Lodge room. Organize social activities that invite people from the community, both members and non-members alike. Strong lodges have countless events that ensure the morale stays high and members feel happy and relaxed when with the group.

3. Create New Leaders. Develop new leaders. Encourage new members to hold positions in the Lodge and be willing to have new members assume offices and rolls of leadership in your Lodge.

Good Leaders: Expected Characteristics

Should treat others as he/she would expect to be treated.

Be a model of honesty, integrity, and fairness.

Serve the Lodge with dedication, humility, honor and pride.

Prioritize the welfare of the members rather his or her selfish desires.

Set clear and attainable goals.

Provide support and recognition.

Stir members' emotions.

Get members to look beyond their self-interest.

Inspire members to reach the improbable.

Know when to step-up and when to step-out.

4. Active Community Service. Strong Lodges are active in their community

because they want to help and make a difference.

Make the community service events fun and fulfilling. The Brothers and Sisters, as well as community members who can be potential members will want to show up to do their part in making a difference. Don't just hand out a check! Participate in community events where people can see Lodge members working together. Wear t-shirts or hats with the name Odd Fellows and/or Rebekahs and our emblem on it so people will know who we are.

5. Positive Reward System. Strong Lodges should show appreciation and recognition to their members. Each Lodge should organize an awards ceremony to recognize members for their activities in both the Lodge and the community.

These may just be small certificates or tokens but this encourages Brothers and Sisters who make contributions to your Lodge. It inspires members to do their best for the good of the organization and it increases the morale of the Lodge.

Suggested Lodge Annual Awards:

Odd Fellow/Rebekah of the Year Award: Awarded by Noble Grand and/or Past (Noble) Grands at the end of his/her term to a member who showed outstanding commitment to the Lodge and its activities during the term such as:

Membership awards

Proficient knowledge of the Order

Proficiency in discharge of their duties

Exemplary achievement in his or her academic or career

Odd Fellow Veteran Buttons/Jewel Award. Veteran's Buttons are awarded to member(s) for continuous membership and service in Odd Fellows, with the number in the center set to the number of years of membership in the Order. The button begins at 5 years and is available in 5 year increments. A member with 25 years or more years of continuous membership and service is entitled to a Veterans Jewel, with the number in the center set to the number of years of membership in the fraternity. The available numbers are 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or 75.

Merit Jewel Award. The Merit Jewel is awarded to a Brother or Sister for outstanding or exceptional service performed by a member on behalf of the Lodge.

Meritorious Service Jewel Award. A Meritorious Service Jewel may be awarded to an Odd Fellow or Rebekah for meritorious service performed on behalf of Odd Fellowship beyond the usual and customary duties of membership. Lodge or Grand Lodge may recommend the recipient and his or her contributions.

6. Educate the Public. Take advantage of technology, social media, and the internet. If possible, create an attractive website for your Lodge. Post photos and videos on the internet of your Lodge activi-

ties and projects. Inspire other Lodges all over the world to spread the word. When you post something on the internet about your Lodge, you are not only helping your Lodge - you are actually helping Lodges across the world and our Fraternal Order to get our name out in the community and the world. Any good photos, articles, or videos you post on the internet can actually reach thousands of miles and millions of people. The best thing is - it's free! Have someone write articles for your local newspaper so your community knows about your Lodge activities and again it is free!! Remember keep all postings and news article positive.

Participate in public parades, community events and conduct public recruitment drives or seminars about our fraternity.

Community Service Award. The Lodge may decide to give community service awards to non-members or members who contributed exemplary service to a group of people or community in need of assistance or help.

7. Active Senior and New Members' Involvement. When older Brothers and Sisters are no longer able to participate, the Lodge loses their wisdom and knowledge. Likewise when younger Brothers and Sisters decide to stop their membership, the Lodge loses their enthusiasm and the Lodge's HOPE for the future. Remember to be understanding of members of all ages. Everyone should feel important and useful in the Lodge.

IN 1788 the poet, James Montgomery wrote. "When Friendship, Love and Truth abound among a band of brothers . . ."

8. Clean and Well-maintained Lodge Building. The Lodge Hall is a reflection of the Order.

Make sure your Lodge buildings are clean and well-maintained. Let your building be of service to its members and the community people at large. Make it a place where members and non-members will feel welcome and comfortable, a place where people could spend their spare time and enjoy the camaraderie and building life-long friendships.

The moment our Members, Lodges, Grand Lodges and The Sovereign Grand Lodge stop striving for excellence in the field of brotherhood, sisterhood and leadership development is the moment we start failing to become one of the best and oldest fraternal organizations in the world. Do not just get members; get quality members who can be good leaders in our Lodges and in the community. Don't just make someone a member. Educate them of our wonderful fraternal history. Impress to them the practical principles of our fraternity and get involved in lodge positions, community projects and social events. In this way, we can be assured there are still wonderful people who can continue hundreds of years of Odd Fellowship.



Eighty-third I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns
May 6-8, 2016, Arlington, Virginia

January 2016

Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Eighty-third Annual Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Members of all units of the Order are encouraged to participate. The Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to provide the following information about this annual event.

The 2016 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 8 at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services will begin at **3:00 p.m.**, followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 4:00 p.m. changing of the guard. **Please note the dates and times the program will be held this year.** The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable Danny M. Wood, Sovereign Grand Master.

The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, at 5000 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22311, will be our headquarters. Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel, at toll-free 1-800-HilTons (1-800-445-8667) or 1-703-845-1010. You **MUST** mention "Odd Fellows Pilgrimage" when reserving your room to receive the special rate of \$115.00 plus hotel tax. (See attached information about hotel accommodations).

The annual Pilgrimage banquet will be held in the hotel on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 7:00 PM. (Advance ticket purchase required - see attached pre-registration form.) A social hour will be held from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. After the banquet, all present will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Honorable Danny M. Wood, Sovereign Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Lodge from the Jurisdiction of Texas; Sister Kathy Shary, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Michigan; General Emil R. Suder, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of West Virginia/Virginia; and Lady Cathy Doub, President, International Association of Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant from the Jurisdiction of California/Nevada.

We recommend that you schedule flights to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), the nearest airport to take advantage of the free shuttle service to the hotel provided by the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The Washington metro area is also served by Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles southwest of the Capital in Northern Virginia. (There is no free hotel shuttle from this airport).

We encourage you to publicize this special annual event in your I.O.O.F. community. The contact information for the various events is listed on the reverse of this page or on the attached forms. We look forward to seeing you May 6-8, 2016 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Eighty-third I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns
May 6-8, 2016, Arlington, Virginia



HOTEL INFORMATION
Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311
1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667)

Reservations are now being accepted and should be made as soon as possible.

The **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center** is the headquarters hotel for the 2016 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. To receive the special rate of \$115.00 plus hotel tax, available for the nights of May 6-8, reservations must be made **no later than March 27, 2016**. You **must** mention the "ODD FELLOWS PILGRIMAGE" when making your reservation in order to receive this rate and to obtain the specially reduced parking rate. The hotel will accept reservations on a space available basis after March 27, 2016, but **not at this reduced price**. Only telephone reservations are accepted 1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667).

It is imperative that reservations are made as early as possible. Although the deadline to place a reservation is **March 27, 2016**, occasionally in past years the hotel has sold all the rooms set aside for the IOOF Pilgrimage at the reduced rate **BEFORE** the deadline. So, although a person may call to place a reservation before March 27, if there are no more rooms available **AT THAT RATE**, the person will be faced with a choice of **reserving a room at a higher rate**, if any are available, or seeking a room at another hotel. **If you have any problems with hotel reservations, please call Chuck Renninger at 1-301-350-4495 or Jennie Sue Pearson at 1-301-662-0749.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 6, 2016
3:00-8:00 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Saturday, May 7, 2016
8:00 AM-4:00 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

8:00-8:45 AM Check in with Pilgrimage Committee Tour Guide for Mount Vernon Tour (Hotel Front Lobby)

9:00-3:00 MOUNT VERNON TOUR, includes round trip charter bus transportation from the hotel lobby and self-guided tour of the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Ford Orientation Center and the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center; lunch will be on your own at the Mount Vernon Inn or the Mount Vernon Food Court.

5:45-6:45 PM CASH-BAR SOCIAL HOUR, hotel lower level
7:00 PM PILGRIMAGE BANQUET, hotel lower level. **Prepaid reservations required.** (See attached pre-registration form) Open seating. *Dress code for men* - business suit, military uniform, or black tie; *Dress code for women* - street-length dress, dress suit, or formal dress.

Sunday, May 8, 2016 **** Please note later times for all events ****
8:30-10:30 AM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

2:00 PM BUSES LOAD-DEPART
2:15 PM promptly from the hotel lobby entrance.
No cars or buses will be allowed in the cemetery. Commercial parking lot available.
No exceptions

3:00 PM Memorial Service followed by wreath laying after 4:00 PM changing of the guard

**** NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR WOMEN IS PERMITTED FOR WREATH LAYING. ****

Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform
Dress code for women: street-length dress, dress suit or Lady's military uniform.

**** No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, etc.****

Eighty-third I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns
May 6-8, 2016, Arlington, Virginia



Jurisdictional Wreath Order Form

Your jurisdictional wreath **must be ordered directly** from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee. The cost of the wreath is **US \$60.00**. No other wreath option is available. Payment for the full amount (payable to Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee) must accompany this order.

Only one (1) wreath per jurisdiction may be ordered. It may be placed by **no more than four (4)** representatives from your jurisdiction. A jurisdiction with no representative in attendance may order one wreath to be placed by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee's designee.

Questions: Wanda Smith - 1-703-590-1267.

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES MUST ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING DRESS CODES.

or they will **NOT** be permitted to participate in laying a wreath.

NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR FOR WOMEN IS PERMITTED.

Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform.

Dress code for women: street-length dress, suit or Ladies' military uniform

No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, etc.

Reservation Deadline: March 27, 2016

Order forms will NOT be processed without the following information:

Jurisdiction: _____ Person ordering wreath: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

Print the name(s) of the presenter(s) (maximum of 4) participating in wreath laying of your jurisdictional wreath:

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

OR _____ No jurisdictional representative will be in attendance. Please have our jurisdictional wreath placed by the I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage Committee's designee.

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Check # _____

Make check payable to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee & mail to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee
PO Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195

Phone: 1-703-590-1267 - E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com

PRE-REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE OF TICKETS FORM
ONE FORM PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$5.00 per person, pre-registration deadline: **March 27, 2016**.

Registrations postmarked after March 27, 2016 or in-person registrations: **\$8.00 per person**. Any questions about registration? Contact **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee, Treasurer Wanda Smith - Phone: 1-703-590-1267 - E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com**

PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK (upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center)

Open Friday, May 6, 3:00-8:00 PM; Saturday, May 7, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sunday, May 8, 8:30-11:00 AM. Pre-registered participants must pick up their registration envelopes which include the Pilgrimage badge and certificate of attendance and any pre-paid tickets as requested on this form. In-person registrations are accepted. Any tickets still available may be purchased.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE - ONE FORM PER PERSON - (Please copy this form as needed)
PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 27, 2016

Name _____ Phone # _____ Email: _____

Address _____

Jurisdiction _____ Highest Title you want printed on the certificate _____

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. NO REFUNDS.

() \$ 5.00 **PRE-REGISTRATION FEE** available until March 27, 2016, after **March 27, 2016**, fee is \$8.00)

() \$ 50.00 **SATURDAY PILGRIMAGE BANQUET - MUST** be reserved and prepaid by **March 27**. Unless there are canceled reservations, **no additional banquet tickets** will be available.

() \$ 40.00 **ARLINGTON CEMETERY TRANSPORTATION TICKETS** - round-trip bus from the Hilton to the Visitor Center; round-trip shuttle from the visitor center to the tomb for Sunday, May 8, 2016 only.

***** NO PRIVATE VEHICLES or BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE CEMETERY AND PARK. PRIVATE VEHICLE AND BUS PARKING IS AVAILABLE FOR A FEE AT THE COMMERCIAL PARKING GARAGE AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY. NO EXCEPTIONS. *****

Check # _____ Amount of check _____

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Make checks payable to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee and send with this form to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee
PO Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195

Phone: 1-703-590-1267 - E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com

PRESIDENT



To: All Auxiliaries

Well, I think winter has finally arrived.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It is with sadness, that I have to report that Lady Judy Brown of Virginia has passed away. She was the travel companion of Lady Judy Gordon. We will miss her at the International Conference. We would like to extend our condolences to her family.

The Auxiliaries should already have held their election in November and now is the time for the installation. Please have a joint installation if at all possible with the Canton. Also please get your reports done and sent to Lady Audrey Jones, Secretary. The check for the per capita tax must accompany the report or the report will not be final until the check is received.

General Jerald has indicated that he has received two Cantons Reports and one will be coming in very shortly.

Lady Judy

GRAND MATRIARCH



Dear Matriarchs and Patriarchs:

Hope you are keeping warm and dry during this crazy winter season.

Valentine's Day will soon be here and hope you are the lucky winner of \$100.00 from our Calendar Raffle. Keep selling your tickets, \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. Remember you still have another 5 chances to win after the Valentine drawing to win \$100.00.

Just a note to remind you that the Round-Up will be held on April 2, 2016 at Friendship Manor in Lincoln.

On Valentine's Day we think of those
Who make our lives worthwhile.
Those gracious, friendly people who
We think of with a smile.

I am fortunate to know you,
That's way I want to say
To rare and special people;
Happy Valentine's Day!

In Faith, Hope and Charity
Jeanette Dajc, Grand Matriarch

TODAY I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*This is an excerpt from Max Lucado's book
"On The Antil"*

Today I will make a difference. I will begin by controlling my thoughts. A Person is the product of his thoughts. I want to be happy and hopeful. Therefore, I will have thoughts that are happy and hopeful. I refuse to be victimized by my circumstances. I will not let petty inconveniences such as stop lights, long lines, and traffic jams be my masters. I will avoid negativism and gossip. Optimism will be my companion, and victory will be my hallmark. Today I will make a difference.

I will be grateful for the twenty-four hours that are before. Time is a precious commodity. I refuse to allow what little I have to be contaminated by self-pity, anxiety, or boredom. I will face this day with the joy of a child and the courage of a giant. I will drink each minute as though it was my last. When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever. While it is here, I will use it for loving and giving. Today I will make a difference.

I will not let past failures haunt me. Even though my life is scarred with mistakes. I refuse to rummage through my trash heap of failures. I will admit them. I will correct them. I will press on victoriously. No failure is fatal. It's OK to stumble. I will get up. It's OK to fail. I will rise again. Today I will make a difference.

I will spend time with those I love. My Spouse, my children, my family. A man can own the world but be poor for the lack of love. A man can own nothing and yet be wealthy in relationships. Today I will spend at least five minutes with the significant people in my world. Five quality minutes of talking or hugging and thanking or listening. Five undiluted minutes with my mate, children and friends. Today I will make a difference.

BE ODD

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

Be Odd. Be so strong that nothing can disturb your tranquility, your peace of mind.

Always talk health, happiness and prosperity to everyone you meet.

Make all your members feel that there is much good in them and that they are needed.

Look at the bright side of everything.

Think the best, believe the best, work for

the best and expect the best.

Be more enthusiastic about the success of your brothers and sisters than you are about your own.

Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to greater achievements.

Wear a cheerful look and give everyone you meet a smile.

Spend so much time improving yourself that you will have no time to criticize others.

Be too big for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, avoid trouble by being too happy for it to appear.

BE ODD!

I SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS WORLD BUT ONCE, ANY GOOD THEREFORE THAT I CAN DO, OR ANY KINDNESS THAT I CAN SHOW TO ANY HUMAN BEING LET ME DO IT NOW, LET ME NOT DEFER NOR NEGLECT, FOR I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.

MAGIC HILL

Do you remember the MAGIC HILL.

When you were young.

And all that is left is the old Windmill.

When Dad on the back porch.

Call out Jamie, Jake and Johnny.

The sun had set and the day was done.

To the house we race on a fast run.

He said boys it is time to clean up,

There is school tomorrow.

And off you go, after you get up.

But before you, there is cows to milk,
Wood to chop, and feed the chickens.

Put water in the trough,

Down the country road we ran,

To the one room school house.

For our lessons to learn.

Reading, writing and arithmetic.

And some times taught with the yardstick.

The day was short if you work hard.

And home you ran for there were chores,

Before you retired.

On Saturday we would play our games.

To the woods on a vine we would swing.

and maybe if we talk to Dad just right.

He would let us go to the movie tonight

The house is gone and all is still,

But there are memorable on that Magic Hill.

by John F. Brown

Treasure of Illini Lodge #4 IOOF

Valentine's Day

Snowflakes falling form designs

Of Lace to edge your Valentine

Blue is added from the skies-

A color touch to match your eyes

The sun of afternoon is cold,

Yet tints with warmth in glints of gold.

Red that leaps in glowing flame

Of joy, at mention of your name.

The beat of winter wings of dove

And other birds to sing my love

Will complete this work of art

With this exception, Dear - my heart.

-E.Cole Ingle

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As the mailing list for the ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW is published and corrected by the Grand Lodge Office, please send all changes of address and names of deceased members to the Grand Lodge Office.

Write to: GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, IOOF, P.O. Box 248, LINCOLN, IL 62656-0248.

Send "In Memoriam" to P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

The Illinois Odd Fellow

The Illinois Odd Fellow (USPS 258-240).

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50/50 DRAWING FOR GRAND MASTER'S FUND

Randy Barnes Sr. did a 50/50 drawing and half of the money was to go to the Grand Master for his projects for the year and the other half to the individual. They raised \$130 with \$65 dollars going to each. Dan Davis was the Winner and he donated his winning to the Grand Master for his fund.



Picture of Grand Master Eric Smith and the Grand Marshal Dan Davis with the winnings of the day.

TUSCOLA ODD FELLOW LODGE #316 LIKE INK

April 3, 2016. The Tuscola Odd Fellow Lodge #316 will be having a fund raiser. They will offer 5 different Odd Fellow mini tattoo's for \$30 each. Tuscola Lodge is located at 110 W. Sale Street Tuscola IL. Join them for a Tattoo or just to support them.

A colorful graphic with a purple border. It features several balloons in red, yellow, green, and blue. The text is centered and reads: "BUSHNELL LODGE #322 WILL CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY March 20, 2016. They will have an open house. Look for more details next month. Save the date. Join them to help them celebrate."

BUSHNELL LODGE #322 DONATES TO BUSHNELL POOL

The Bushnell Odd Fellows Lodge #322 recently presented a check for \$5,000 to benefit Bushnell's swimming pool. Lodge member, Steve Pigg, explained that the money was from a grant at the state level the lodge applied for earlier this fall, part of the group's ongoing support for the pool project. It's the second time the pool has benefited from a grant from the lodge. "The pool is getting older and it needs a lot of maintenance," Pigg said. "They are working on a new concession stand and the deck needs work. This is a community asset and our lodge is contributing because there aren't a lot of options for young people today. We feel this is really important to Bushnell." Accepting the check were Tina and Kevin Crawford on behalf of the Pool Committee.



Pictured left to right are Blake Burton, H.O. Bader, Norma Pigg, Leroy Graham, Paul Gossett, Leroy Kitch, Marcia Gossett, Jason Simmons, Lyndall Pigg, Tina Crawford, Greg Fayhee, Harold Feikert and Kevin Crawford.