



# THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838*

*Our 179th Year*

VOL. 64, NO. 1

USPS 258240

January 2016

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## **BUSHNELL LODGE #322 ANNUAL RABBIT SUPPER CAKE AUCTION DEC. 8, 2015**

They always have a cake with the Grand Masters Pin on it. This Year is was Eric Smith Grand Masters Pin. The cake was auctioned off for \$300.00 that evening. The following Grand Lodge Officers were present. Grand Warden, William Maplesden, Grand Representative Jim Turner, Grand Secretary Jerald Sarnes, Grand Master Eric Smith, Grand Treasurer Arlan Miller.



Pictured above are Grand Lodge Officers: William Maplesden, Grand Warden, Jim Turner, Grand Representative, Jerald Sarnes, Grand Secretary, Eric Smith, Grand Master, Arlan Miller, Grand Treasurer.

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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  
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Press Association

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship  
Through Positive Communication"*

## ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Chlyo Kirby	2/01/24
Lela Grissom	2/06/46
Jean Rasmussen	2/07/30
Marie Litteken	2/09/25
Maxine Mayhall	2/09/20
Ellen Knauss	2/17/43
Agnes Meyer	2/21/23
Dorothy Rodgers	2/23/27

## NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

Happy New Year! We welcome 2016 with open arms. We are slowly recouping from the holidays and I think it's safe to say that everyone had a great Christmas. We want to thank the Odd Fellow's and Rebekah's for giving us the opportunity to buy gifts for our residents. It really does put a smile on their faces and they are so lucky to have such a caring and generous organization to make this possible. Everyone was so busy last month we are going to use this month to relax. I'm sure some of us will find the energy to participate in activities and carry on with our monthly duties.

We wanted to let everyone know about our virtual tour that was done a few months ago. This is a great way to take a tour of our home and see everything we have to offer. We hope this will make it easier for families to decide where they would want to place their loved ones. You can get to the tour by visiting our website, [oddfellowrebekeh-home.org](http://oddfellowrebekeh-home.org). Don't forget we have a Facebook page also that keeps everyone up to date and lets friends and family see what staff and residents are up to.

We look forward to another busy month. Until next month - take care and be well.

*Jenna Black  
Community Relations Coordinator*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016

**February 6, 2016** – Rebekah Assembly Board Meeting- Lincoln.  
**February 27, 2016** – Odd Fellow Region #2 Meeting in Farmington 10 a.m.  
**March 12, 2016** – Rebekah District #16  
**March 19, 2016** – Rebekah District #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 Mtg.  
**April 16, 2016** – Odd Fellow Region #5 Meeting in Flora 10 a.m.  
**April 16, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #19 Mtg.  
**April 23, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #20 Mtg.  
**April 30, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #30 Mtg.  
**May 14, 2016** – Odd Fellow Region #1 Meeting in Carpentersville 10 a.m.  
**May 14, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #11 Mtg.  
**May 20, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #1 Mtg.  
**May 21, 2016** – Rebekah District #6 Meeting – Rebekah Assembly Board Meeting  
**June 4, 2016** – Rebekah Dist. #26 Mtg.  
**August 27, 2016** – Rebekah Assembly Board Meeting  
**August 15, 2016 – August 19, 2016**, Sovereign Grand Lodge meetings at Rapid City, South Dakota  
**September 10, 2016** – Grand Master's Trapp Shoot  
**October 10-11, 2016** – Grand Lodge Session in Springfield

## JIM TURNER ENTERTAINS DURING BUSHNELL RABBIT SUPPER



Jim Turner, PGM, Grand Representative was entertaining us again. Jim brought his Banjo to the Bushnell Rabbit Supper and provided music as Lyndall Pigg, PGM looks on.

## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, and express my sincere appreciation for your continuing dedication and commitment to our order. The success of our organization is due to your contributions, both individually and together. Please accept my warmest thanks for all of your efforts.

With the new year upon us, we as members need to work together in our lodges and keep our lodges working together as districts. Get out in your neighborhoods; put on events, invite the public to attend, or put up flyers around town. Show people we are still here and still care about our communities.

I was very pleased to attend the District 50 meeting at Bushnell Lodge. The enthusiasm of the Brothers and Sisters was great. They worked together as an extended family and you could feel the strength coming from the room. They took care of business, but had fun doing it. After the meeting, one brother said to me, "This is what Odd Fellowship is all about. This is the way it should be".

I agree with him whole-heartedly, and as I have mentioned before: *Enthusiasm can be contagious. Spread it.*

*In Friendship, Love, and Truth,  
Eric N. Smith  
Grand Master*



## ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Brothers and Sisters,

Hope your Holidays were filled with family, friends and good health.

So far our winter has been uneventful. Hopefully the remainder will not make up for the beginning.

What plans do you have for the New Year?

How about extending an invitation to a meeting? A new person in your office, neighborhood or church. Plan a fun night, have Lodge members take turns telling about their favorite part of being a Rebekah. Our membership is in need. Not only for new members but for all of us. With winter comes the winter dull drums, the not wanting to leave our warm homes and venture out to a meeting. Here's an idea; try a cake or pie walk to spark interest. If you have other ideas, please share them with us.

Remember 2016 is our year to have fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Spring meetings. Can't wait to see your programs.

Let's all work together.

*In FL&L*

*Rebecca Anderson-Maplesden*

## ROCKFORD ODD FELLOWS #140

On December 14, 2015 Rockford Odd Fellows Lodge #140 presented 2 Veteran Jewels. Janet Bruce presented son Steve Adams with his 25 year jewel and husband Archie Bruce with his 35 year jewel.



Pictured left to right is Noble Grand Bill Maplesden, Steve Adams, Archie Bruce.



## FOX RIVER REBEKAH LODGE #532

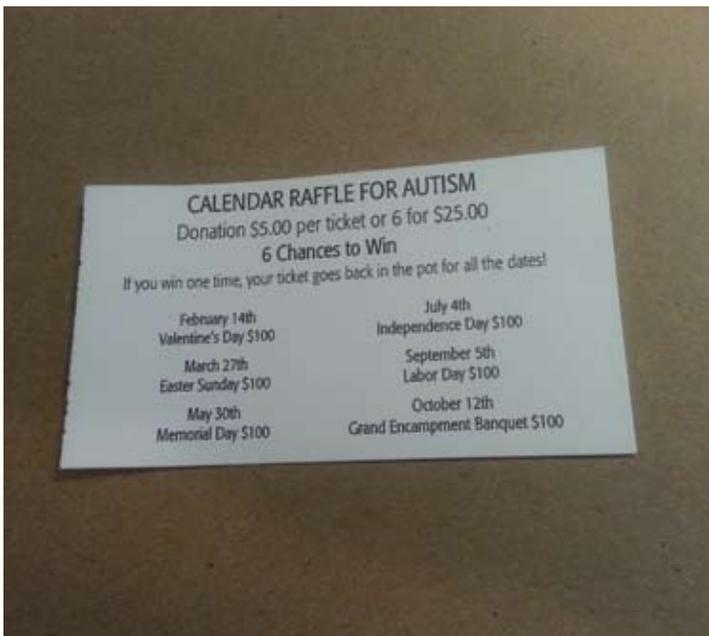


Fox River Rebekah Lodge #532 again had the honor of adopting 8 needy families with 23 children for Christmas. Including a full Christmas dinner from the turkey to the desserts.

We thrive on the hard work and time it takes to put this together, we were able to fulfill all the children's needs with some extra fun items too, including stockings filled with love.

With the extra bonus of sisters spending time together for such a joyous reason. The fellowship is un-comparable. We hope the Christmas efforts of all our sisters and brothers across the state were as wonderful.

## THE 2016 AUTISITC COMMITTEE CALENDAR RAFFLE



Tickets are now available through the Encampments for the Calendar Raffle. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00.

There are 6 chances to win throughout the year. If you win one time your name goes back into the drawing so everyone has a chance to win multiple times throughout the year.

The first drawing is February 14th for \$100.00. You may buy tickets from any Encampment member.

*Melissa Richards*  
 President of the Autistic Committee

## MT. ZION LODGE #300 PRESENTS CHECK



The Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300, PNG Kerry Toothman, presented a check for \$2500 to Kim Carlson with the Mt. Zion Community Christmas Children's Fund. The Mt. Zion Lodge continues the tradition of making the donation to the fund, which serves approx. 180 children needing a little assistance throughout the community. The funds are used to provide new clothes, coats, shoes and Christmas presents to the children.

Also, on October 9, 2015 at 8:15 am, Mt. Zion Odd Fellow Lodge member Ethan Gorrell spontaneously emailed a challenge to other Mt. Zion Odd Fellows to raise funds for the Decatur Community Food Drive. By that afternoon, the Mt. Zion Odd Fellows responded and were able to raise nearly \$500. The Decatur Community Food Drive collects cash and food for distribution through area Food Pantries.

*Jon Thomas, Secretary*  
 Mt. Zion I.O.O.F. Lodge #300

## MT. ZION LODGE #300 PRESENTS CHECK TO SPLASH PAD



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 presented a check for \$3,964 on November 16, 2015 to the Village of Mt. Zion for the communities Splash Pad project in Fletcher Park. The Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge held a 5/10K run and a color run and donated all proceeds to the Splash Pad project. The project is being planned by the City of Mt. Zion and supported by the community.

*Jon Thomas, Secretary*  
 Mt. Zion I.O.O.F. Lodge #300

## JANET SUTTON REGONIZED



The Fisher Book Exchange recently honored Janet Sutton from rural Thomasboro for her work as a volunteer. Words of appreciation were hardly enough compensation for the hours spent assisting and greeting the patrons each book day. She was presented a certificate and gift of a porcelain trinket box.

Janet found her way to the exchange as most others do. An item in the local newspapers led her to the corner of Sangamon & Third in Fisher, where this community service project offers a very large selection of books to anyone who enjoys reading.

Each book day a variety of reading material is brought into the exchange by the bag or boxful. With as many as 20 visitors on a good book day, the stacks of books got a little overwhelming for the originator of the project, Nancy Curfman.

The two women quickly became friends and Janet pitched in to weed, sort, and put away into some general categories. Working together the past two years, the two women have added the White Elephant Gift Sales artfully arranging the merchandise in the limited space of the lodge meeting room. The additional project provides funds to assist with the utilities and keep the free book exchange open to the public.

Janet's willingness to help with no thought of compensation prompted the recognition of her service by the friends of the Book Exchange. Janet's appreciation of quality books and a love of reading keep her interest as she returns to rack up more volunteer hours for this community service project.

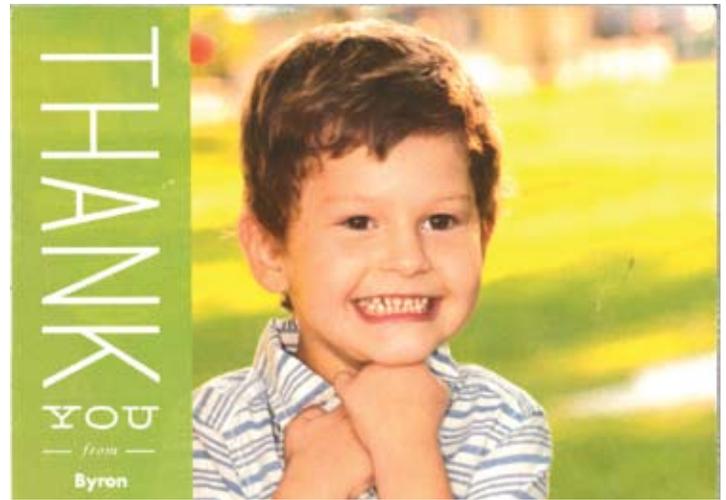
## TEMPLE JEWEL PRESENTATIONS

On December 14, 2015 Temple Rebekah Lodge #3789 presented Rebekah Veteran Jewels. It was a family affair as three jewels were presented. Janet Bruce joined in 1965 and was presented a 50 year jewel, Steve Adams joined in 1990 and was presented a 25 year jewel and Archie Bruce joined in 1999 and was presented a 15 year jewel.



Pictured left to right is Janet Bruce, Steve Adams, Archie Bruce.

## 4 PAWS



When I was President of the Illinois Rebekah Assembly, and having my Session, I asked that the coin collection be donated to 4 PAWS for Ability, in order to obtain a service dog for an autistic child, hopefully in Illinois.

Well, we started the fund and it grew over the next several years with additional contributions by members, groups, Lodges, individuals, etc. However, it became clear that we would not be able to completely fund a service dog on our own, as the total cost of doing so was getting farther and farther away; the bottom line amount kept increasing.

So with the Assembly's blessing, we closed the account and I forwarded approximately \$8,000 to 4 PAWS.

At first there was no child in their system that was needing a service dog (what a wonderful concept, when you think about that). So our donation was put into a general fund for future use. Soon, Literally within just 2 or 3 days, a child's family approached 4 PAWS looking for help.

Our money, along with other donations, was placed into Byron Mackie's Fund. The Fund reached almost what was needed, it was about \$3,000 short. Within a few days the goal was achieved, and Byron got his dog. Training will begin in 2017.

A Word or two about Byron (this is from a short note his mother sent me):

"Byron is a wonderful little boy with autism, who is non-verbal and struggles with communication. We are trying to get a service dog to help.

When he was a little over two years old Byron was diagnosed with autism, but starting around 18 months old he had lost all the words he had had including Mama, Dada, and Ama (Granma). Concerned by his reluctance to make eye contact and his apparent loss of words, we call Early Intervention for Assistance. Despite the therapy, Byron fell further and further behind.

Now he is four years old and has come a long way, making better eye contact and participating I co-play activities, but he still continues to have limited verbal ability. He often used the word 'doe' in place of go, as in 'ready, set, go.' He learned this word and it's meaning form playing with my sister's dog Myla. She would only fetch the ball when he said go or 'doe'.

We are hoping that more time with a doggie companion would help encourage more words coming forth. Thank you for helping us make his dream a real possibility for Byron!

I want to take this time to thank all of you who helped achieve this goal. You can really say this dream was reached.

I will keep in touch with Byron's family, and keep you informed of the progress, and hope to have pictures for you soon. I have enclosed a Thank You from Byron, so you can see our special child.

*Your in F. L. & T.*

*Carole L. Day*

*Past President, Illinois Rebekah Assembly.*

## FRIENDSHIP MANOR CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR RESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS



Our entertainment was provided by Tom Myers who grew up in Lincoln. He was very entertaining. He had the audience participate with him. He had a couple of ladies volunteer to come up and play the tambourine and bells. He had one song that he got about 12 to 15 help with a song by doing the actions in the song example (fire burns someone shouted it burns-it burns.) (a women screams someone screamed like a woman) it was really cute.



Lucille Miller a resident at Friendship Manor was caught giving Santa a Kiss.



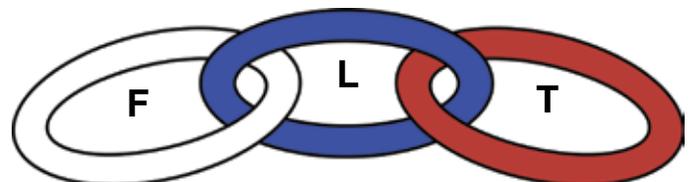
IOOF Housing Board L-R: Arlan Miller, Allen Jones, Audrey Jones, Judy Sarnes, Donna Miller, Jerald Sarnes, Donald Klockenga, & Janis Klockenga.



Sandy Buffington even sat on Santa's Lap. Everyone had a grand time.



Talan McKinney, Kaylee McKinney, & Quinn Davis visited with Santa.



## GRAND PATRIARCH



Well, by now all of you should be full of turkey and the trimmings. Hope you don't get too fat. We can now look forward to Christmas next year. Be sure to save a little for Autism.

I hope that some lodges have been able to get some new members. Star 17 has a perspective new member for the Special Grand Encampment Session at Dupo on the 26th of March, 2016. Hope to see some of you there.

I visited Elwood Encampment in Elgin on Wednesday, December 9th accompanied by G.L. Jeff Lasswell, Past Grand Patriarch/Department Commander; Juanita Lasswell, Grand Inside Sentinel; and Smokey Lasswell. They received us and gave me the Honors of the Order. They have a lot of enthusiasm for the Encampment and they do a great job of raising money for Autism. In fact, they seemed to have made 175% profit on all their fundraisers which is Awesome. We enjoyed homemade vegetable soup and Mexican corn bread prior to the meeting. It was delicious and hit the spot.

I was received at my home Encampment Star 17 in Canton, IL on Thursday, December 10th and given the Honors of the Order. They had their normally scheduled meeting and Officers for 2016 were elected. Those officers will be installed at our January 28th, 2016 Meeting. We learned, from Jerald, that there is a movement to correct our bylaws and put us in alignment with the Sovereign Lodge. Our Grand High Priest should be an appointed position and not an elected position, and the Sr. Warden should be the Number 2 position. We had finger food following our meeting.

Again I thank you and remind all of you to come to the GELA Roundup on the Saturday, April 2, 2016, so that we can have, and do something for Autism.

Juanita, Smokey and I certainly wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2016.

*R.L. Ken Lasswell*  
**GRAND PATRIARCH**

## PRESIDENT



To All Chevaliers and Ladies:

Where has the time gone. Christmas has come and gone and we are already in the New Year. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and my hope is you have a Happy New Year.

I hope everyone had time to spend with your family because that is what the Holiday Season is all about, spending time with your loved ones.

Now it is time to have your election and installation of officers and get your reports filled out and returned to Lady Audrey.

I know that General Jerald has been getting phone calls on the dues increase for the Patriarch Militant and this is not his fault. Their dues were increased by \$8.00 and this was voted on at the General Military Council in Texas this past August. Again put the blame on the General Military Council and not to General Jerald.

*Judy*

## BRIGHTON ODD FELLOW LODGE #366



Brighton Odd Fellow members, assisted by Brighton Boy Scout Troop #39, Leaders, Parents and Scouts, did a Community Service by picking up trash on two miles of Highway 111, south of Brighton on Saturday, October 17, 2015.

The Lodge members thank the Scouts for assisting them in this project. The Scouts have helped do this for the past several years.

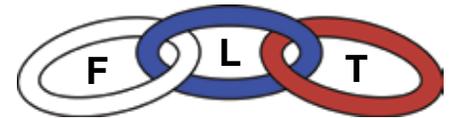
*Allen Jones, Secretary.*

## GENE BURTON RECEIVES HIS 70 YEAR PIN

Eric Smith Grand Master presents Gene Burton for Browning II with his 70 year pin at the Bushnell Rabbit Supper on December 8, 2015.



L-R: Eric Smith Grand Master and Gene Burton member of Rushville #24.



## 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.

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## ELLWOOD ENACMPMENT #173

On December 9, 2015 Ellwood Encampment #173 hosted Grand Patriarch Ken Lasswell with a dinner prior to the meeting. Patriarch Ken gave a very inspirational talk on membership and gave ideas on how to approach Odd Fellow members about the Encampment branch. Also in attendance at the meeting for Chief Patriarch Steve Adams final meeting of the year was Grand Master Eric Smith, Department Commander Jeff Lasswell and Matriarch Juanita Lasswell.



L-R Department Commander Jeff Lasswell, Grand Patriarch Ken Lasswell, Chief Patriarch Steve Adams and Grand Master Eric Smith.

Ellwood Encampment Chief Patriarch Steve Adams' project for 2015 was a jar filled with fishing lure and equipment. Guess the number of items in the jar "Fishing for Autism" and win a \$100.00 gift card. On December 9, 2015 the contents were counted for a total of 195. Winner with a guess of 193 items was Jim Turner of Ellwood Encampment. Patriarch Turner donated the gift card back to the Encampment for autism. A total of \$350.00 was collected for autism.



L-R Winner Jim Turner, Grand Patriarch Ken Lasswell and Chief Patriarch Steve Adams.