



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 180th Year

VOL. 65, NO. 4

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ELGIN LODGE #12 DONATES TO FAMILY SHELTER SERVICES IN WHEATON ILLINOIS



On March 18, 2017, Larry Sitkiewicz, representing Elgin Lodge #12, presented a \$1000 dollar check to Liz Sullivan, a volunteer and representative of Family Shelter Services located in Wheaton Illinois. By supporting Family Shelter Services, we are providing help and hope to victims of domestic violence and their families. Every dollar donated helps to furnish life-changing services to victims and their children and allows them to lead violence-free lives. They appreciate our support!

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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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May Myers	5/01/23
Norma Grisamore	5/02/29
Marcelle Nowarita	5/03/25
Marian Armstrong	5/05/25
Imogene Noffke	5/07/21
Norma Pardieck	5/11/25
Rosella Behrens	5/21/26
Frances Dorris	5/26/17
Joy Carlisle	5/30/26
Mary Lou Fitzgerald	5/30/27
Jeanne Martin	5/31/24

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

We are having our annual Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th with the community. The residents are looking forward to helping the kids register for the bikes and baskets we are raffling off for each age group. Everyone has stayed busy stuffing all the eggs for the hunt and we can't wait to watch the kiddo's hunt for them. The fellowship center also donated small Easter bunnies for all the kids, the baskets that we will raffle off for each age group and helped stuff the eggs as well. We were so lucky to have their help.

I have to say I'm so happy that April is here and nice warm weather is on the way. I can't wait to see everyone sitting outside soaking up the sun. Everyone enjoys looking out at our spacious grounds and sitting in our garden

admiring the pretty flowers.

Until next month - take care and be well.

Jenna Black

Community Relations Coordinator

IN MEMORIUM

ANNE LYNN GRAY

11-19-1944 — 3-7-2017

Member of Hopedale Rebekah
Lodge #74

VIRGIE G. CLAUSON

7-14-1916 — 2-25-2017

Member of Hopedale Rebekah
Lodge #74

**GENERAL JOHN FREDERICK
SEALEY**

of South Dakota

11-2-1924 — 3-16-2017

92 years old

REGION #4 MEETING

Region #4 Meeting was hosted by Waterloo IOOF #27. The host lodge officers opened the meeting and then turned the meeting over to the Regional Director Richard Herring, Degree Captain, to pick the staff, to confer the Degrees.



The Initiatory Degree was conferred on 16 candidates from Waterloo Lodge #27. The First, Second and Third Degrees were conferred on a total of 22 candidates.

Mississippi Valley Lodge #1009, three members, and Pioneer #70 three members, in addition to the 16 members from Waterloo #27

The Degree Staff did a commendable job, Officers present from all Units of the Order were: Grand Master Larry Gean, Deputy Grand Master William Maplesden, Grand Warden Jim Bott, Grand Secretary, P.G.M. Jerald T Sarnes, Grand Treasurer P.G.P. Arlan Miller, Grand Representative P.G.M. Richard Herring, Grand Marshal D.G.M. Ernie Higgerson, Grand Chaplain Marlene Koble, Grand Encampment: Grand High Priest Ernie Higgerson, Grand Scribe Jerald T. Sarnes, Grand Treasurer Allen H. Jones, P.G.M., Arlan Miller P.G.P., Grand Representative, Department Council, Major Dan Davis P.G.M. of 2nd Battalion, General Retired Jerald T. Sarnes, Dept. Adjutant, Rebekah Assembly Warden Donna Grable.

Congratulations to Waterloo Lodge for sixteen new members, they also served a delicious fried chicken dinner at noon. Thank you Waterloo Lodge for hosting the meeting and all the members for attending. A good day of Odd Fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Allen H. Jones Reporter

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Well February is gone and we were in Farmington, Illinois for Regional #2 meeting. A good time was had by all with good food and good friends. We had five new members to receive their degree work. Then I went down to Rushville, Illinois on Sunday, February 26th to Pioneer #24 Lodge to celebrate their 170th year celebration. We had cake, coffee, and punch.

On Tuesday, February 28th I was back to Lincoln, IL for Executive meeting. Tuesday night I went to Winchester, IL where we installed new officers for Pioneer Lodge #24 and Illini Lodge #4.

Next Saturday, March 4th, we will be going to Flora, IL for Regional #5. Then on Saturday, March 18th we will be in Waterloo, Illinois for Regional #4. Please make plans to attend one of these meetings to receive the degree work that you may need. We will have two more Regional #3 in Mt. Zion, Illinois and Regional #5 in Sycamore, Illinois. Both of these are in April. April 1st and April 22th.

If you would like a visitation in your Lodge just let me know so I may set a time to come visit as my calendar fills up very fast. You can reach me through the Grand Office in Lincoln, Illinois.

Also plan to have your Rep. at Grand Lodge in October. If you need help with your report please let us know ahead of time so arrangement can be made.

*In Friendship Love and Truth
Larry Gean Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Well here I go again, this is the 4th time I have started this letter, but I guess my computer hated what I was writing as it has shut my system down 3 times now and lost what I had done already!! So here I go again. Easter is right around the corner and I hope that the Easter Bunny brings you some good things – Hope for new beginnings maybe with old friends or family, Peace of heart, Happiness and Joy. I hope for all these things for each and every one of us. I hope that in each of our lodges we are promoting all of this and trying to reach out not only to our members but to others that may still be suffering over the long winter. Something was said at District 12 meeting, be kind to others and I believe that should be first and foremost in our hearts and minds. Let us start saying and doing just that each day, for if we start maybe it will just catch on and soon everyone will start being kind! Oh, what a world that would be then.

The first 2 Spring meetings (District 16 in Fairbury & District 12 in Bushnell) our under our belts and before you read this so will the Round Up in Lincoln. Those that were in attendance had a wonderful time and were able to spend time with friends. I even learned something about my hummingbird emblem. Did you know that their wings move in the pattern of the infinity symbol? I sure didn't, but what a neat thing to learn. This signifies Eternity, Continuity & Infinity and isn't that what we want for our lodges? To grow and continue to do good in this world, to teach new members to follow in our footsteps, to keep forever moving in the symbol of infinity. As Sister Cynthia also taught us the hummingbird is known to fly over 2,000 miles to reach their destination. What persistence that pretty

little bird has! If they can do that maybe we can be more persistent in our travels to find new members for our order. I'm looking forward to the Round Up, I had so much fun last year. I hope that I will see many of you there also.

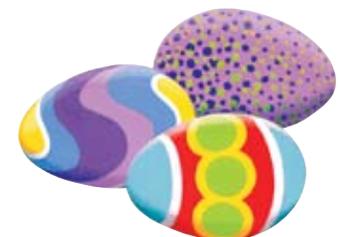
As I sit here typing this letter and watching outside to see if the snow storm is really going to come in I keep hoping that this will be the last storm of the year! I am looking forward to the days getting longer and warmer! I need the sunshine and warmth very badly as I am sure that we all do. Let's hope for the best because with the warm sunshine comes the hummingbirds and the hope for new growth in the gardens. Remember to be like the hummingbird while doing work for our order. Be energetic, loyal, and sincere while having some fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at a few Spring Meetings. Please get your carload together and meet us. There will always be some laughs, good food, many friends and a good time! Please join us.

*In F, L, & T
Sharon*

LODGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge #24 is offering two scholarship grants again this year for students desiring to further their education. Lodge secretary Don Schieferdecker took the new grant application to the Rushville Industry High School office last week so interested students may pick it up at the school counselor's office. Details about the scholarship are listed on the application. Schieferdecker advises the lodge is very supportive of all students wanting to continue on to college or business trade schools and we encourage you to submit an application. The completed applications are to be placed in the mail and sent to the Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge 24, P.O. Box 264, Rushville, Illinois, 62681 by March 31, 2017.





The Great Lakes Conference



Independent Order of Odd Fellows

An Organization for the purpose of Promoting Odd Fellowship in the Jurisdictions of



Illinois



Minnesota



Indiana



Wisconsin



Michigan



Ohio

**The Great Lakes Conference
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
July 28, 29, 30, 2017**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters: You are invited to come join us for information, fellowship and fun.

Place: *The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center
1601 Jumer Drive
Bloomington, Illinois 61704
309-665-5699*

Date: *Friday 28th through Sunday 30th*

Room and Meal Packages:

The total cost of the package includes Friday and Saturday night lodging. Saturday breakfast, lunch and banquet. Sunday breakfast, gratuities and registration fee. Prices below are each person in a room.

<i>One Person</i>	<i>One Bed</i>	<i>\$275.00</i>
<i>Two Persons</i>	<i>One or Two Beds</i>	<i>\$190.00 (each)</i>
<i>Three Persons</i>	<i>Two Beds</i>	<i>\$160.00 (each)</i>

Please fill out a registration form for each person for whom you are making a reservation/registration for. There are a number of Mobility Assessable rooms. Please register early for these and designate your needs on the registration form.

Meals and registration only package for Saturday: \$65.00

All reservations with a check made payable to: IOOF GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE and mailed to:

*Jerald T. Sarnes
Secretary Great Lakes Conference
320 E. Market Street
Havana, Illinois 62644-1402*

The cutoff date is June 17, 2017 and the rooms will be released at that time.

Theme: Supporting projects of the Order

The Great Lakes Conference 2017
Bloomington, Illinois
Registration Form

Please fill out a form for each person for whom you are making a reservation/registration for: ALL ROOMS ARE NON-SMOKING. Please specify your need for a handicapped room. Please note that your choice cannot be guaranteed. Room selection is on a first come, first served basis. Cutoff date if June 17, 2017.

Please fill out a form for each registrant: (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phones: (Home or Cell) _____

Rooms and Meal and Registration Package. PRICES ARE PER PERSON: (Please circle choice)

One Person - Standard Room	\$275.00	US Funds
Two Persons - Standard Room	\$190.00	US Funds
Three Persons - Two Bed Room	\$160.00	US Funds

**PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR
CHOICE**

Meals and Registration only package for Saturday: \$65.00 - US Funds

Total Enclosed: US Funds \$ _____

Please fill all persons sharing a room: (Maximum of two additional persons)

MT. ZION LODGE #300 RAFFLES OFF 60 GUNS IN 30 DAYS



Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge 300

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
P.O. Box 51 (421 W. Main St.)
Mt. Zion, Illinois 62549

Lincoln Lodge #204
305 Rhoads Av
Lincoln, IL 62656

Date: March 1, 2017

The Mt Zion Lodge #300 has launched yet another amazing gun raffle. If you have members who enjoy guns, we have some very nice ones, to include a 50 cal. BMG. We would like to invite all Lodge Brothers to participate. The tickets are \$100 each, but only a 1,000 tickets are sold. The tickets can be purchased via U.S. mail or on-line by going to www.mtzionoddfellows.org and click on the gun raffle ticket, then follow the directions.

The attached gun list will be raffled off in the month of September 2017. The raffle will use the midday and evening Illinois Lotto pick three numbers, minus the power ball number, to select winners. Each ticket increases your chances of winning and you can win multiple times. We had a single winner win 3 times in our last raffle.

This year we have added an Early Bird prize. Ticket buyers who make their purchase prior to June 1st, 2017, will be eligible for the Early Bird Drawing to be held June 1st. This year we will be drawing for a **Bulldog Model #BD4040B Biometric Gun Safe** and \$300 cash.

If you are a lucky winner, or a very lucky multiple winner, the vendor we use can have the guns shipped to a licensed dealer of your choice for small fee. If you would prefer to come visit, you can come on the 1st or 3rd Monday of the month, collect your gun and join us for fellowship at our regular membership meeting at 7 pm.

Please post this for your members and good luck to everyone.

F.L. & T.

Jon Thomas, Secretary



Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge 300
 Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 P.O. Box 51 (421 W. Main St.)
 Mt. Zion, Illinois 62549



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 would like to thank those who supported our previous raffles. The Odd Fellows support multiple charities and various events in and around the Mt Zion Community with the proceeds from the raffle, as well as other fundraisers we participate in. **We appreciate your support.**

The 2nd Mt Zion Odd Fellows Gun Raffle concluded successfully, with the awarding of 60 guns. Now we have compiled an even better selections of guns for our new **2017 60 Guns in 30 Days Raffle**. We will be giving away 60 guns in 30 days, starting on September 1, 2017 and ending on September 30, 2017. We will still be using the same pick three system for selecting our winning numbers, using the midday and evening pick three from the Illinois State Lottery. Our firearms dealer again this year, will be **The Bullet Trap** in Macon, IL. The Bullet Trap is opened 7 days a week, with weapons related inventory, on site range facilities, training available and accessories.

We are going to be selling 1000 tickets for \$100 each and will have a link available on our website, MtZionOddFellows.org, which will allow for credit card purchases.

Date	Time	Gun	Date	Time	Gun	Date	Time	Gun
9/1	Midday	Glock 30 .45 ACP	9/11	Midday	Colt 1911 .45 ACP	9/21	Midday	Marlin 1895 45-70
9/1	Evening	Remington Versamax 12 Ga. Camo	9/11	Evening	Henry Golden Boy Military Service Tribute	9/21	Evening	Winchester Super-X Pump Defender 12 Ga.
9/2	Midday	Ruger Super Redhawk .44	9/12	Midday	Glock 43 9mm	9/22	Midday	Beretta 92FS 9mm
9/2	Evening	Browning Citori 12 Ga.	9/12	Evening	Thompson Center Venture .308	9/22	Evening	Mossberg 835 Turkey/Deer Combo 12 Ga.
9/3	Midday	Ruger SR-22 .22	9/13	Midday	Browning 1911 .380	9/23	Midday	S&W M&P Compact 9mm
9/3	Evening	Daniel Defense M-4 300 AAC	9/13	Evening	Thompson Sub-Machine Gun 45 ACP (Kahr Arms)	9/23	Evening	Colt AR-15 5.56
9/4	Midday	Sig Sauer P226	9/14	Midday	Ruger Blackhawk .357	9/24	Midday	Browning Buckmark .22
9/4	Evening	Remington 11-87 12 Ga.	9/14	Evening	Remington 700 .270	9/24	Evening	Ruger AR-15 5.56
9/5	Midday	Glock 23 .40	9/15	Midday	S&W Bodyguard .380 w/laser	9/25	Midday	Taurus Judge .45/.410
9/5	Evening	Remington 870 Express Combo 20 Ga.	9/15	Evening	Browning A-Bolt .308 w/scope	9/25	Evening	Henry Big Boy .44
9/6	Midday	Browning Hi-Power 9mm	9/16	Midday	Glock 19 9mm	9/26	Midday	Glock 42 .380
9/6	Evening	Ruger 10/22 Takedown .22	9/16	Evening	Mossberg AK-47 .22	9/26	Evening	Browning BPS Hunter 12 Ga.
9/7	Midday	Remington 1911 .45 ACP	9/17	Midday	Springfield XDS .40	9/27	Midday	Walther PPS .40
9/7	Evening	Henry Golden Boy .17	9/17	Evening	Savage A17 .17HMR	9/27	Evening	Weatherby Vanguard .30-06
9/8	Midday	Ruger LC9S 9mm	9/18	Midday	S&W Shield 9mm	9/28	Midday	Ruger SR1911 .45 ACP
9/8	Evening	Browning Auto-5 12 Ga.	9/18	Evening	Savage 11/111 .243	9/28	Evening	Ruger Mini-14 .223
9/9	Midday	FN Five-Seven	9/19	Midday	Colt Defender SS .45 ACP	9/29	Midday	Kimber Micro 9mm
9/9	Evening	S&W M&P .22	9/19	Evening	Marlin 336 30-30	9/29	Evening	DPMS AR-15 5.56
9/10	Midday	Glock 20SF 10mm	9/20	Midday	Ruger GP-100.357	9/30	Midday	S&W 500 .500
9/10	Evening	Mossberg 500 Tactical 12 Ga.	9/20	Evening	Remington 870 Youth 20 Ga.	9/30	Evening	Bushmaster .50 BMG

The Raffle will start Wednesday September 1st 2017. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.

- Raffle participants must be 21 years of age or older to purchase a ticket and I am at least 21.
- Winning ticket numbers will be determined by the Illinois Lottery "Pick 3" drawing every noon-time and evening, excluding Fireball number, through September 30, 2017.
- Every ticket sold will be eligible to win twice each day of the drawing.
- Each raffle winner is responsible for obtaining all required permits, licensing, training or other requirements required to purchase/own a firearm. (Must have a valid FOID card in Illinois)
- All NFA rules/laws apply
- Any extra charges (ex. Shipping, out of state transfer fees, etc.) will be the responsibility of each winner.
- All tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- 3 attempts will be made to contact the winner, at which time the prize will be forfeited. All prizes forfeited will become the property of the Mt Zion Odd Fellow Lodge.
- Each participant is responsible for notifying Mt Zion Odd Fellow Lodge of any changes to their contact information.
- If 500 tickets are not sold, a single winner will be determined by a 50/50 drawing, date TBA
- All guns are purchased through the The Bullet Trap. The Mt Zion Odd Fellows #300 reserves the right to make substitutions of equal or greater value if the designated gun is not available for whatever reason.
- There is no state or federal laws prohibiting me from possessing or owning a firearm.
- I am not under indictment or information for a felony, or any other crime, where the judge could imprison me for more than one year, or subject to an order of protection or any other court order that prohibits me from possessing a firearm.
- I understand that if during the course of the raffle, I become ineligible to possess a firearm, the prize will be forfeited and my payment will not be refunded.
- I agree not to hold the Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge, any of their members, the The Bullet Trap, any of its employees, or any other individuals involved in the raffle liable for any reason related to the raffle.
- This raffle is void where prohibited.

I hereby acknowledge that I fully read and understand the above statements, and that they are true and correct. I understand that if there is any change in my contact information, or my status to lawfully possess a firearm, I must notify the Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge#300, P.O. BOX 51, Mt. Zion, IL. 62549 in writing.

By signing below, I understand, acknowledge, and agree to all of the above statements and terms.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Ph# _____ - _____ - _____

PLEASE
COMPLETE EACH LINE
& PRINT NEATLY

Ticket Sold by: _____

Ticket# _____

*****DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE*****

Date Rcvd: ____/____/____ Weapon Rcvd: _____

Signed: _____ Issued by: _____

REGIONAL MEETING AT FARMINGTON



REGION #5 MEETING IN FLORA



ENCAMPMENT ALL DEGREE DAY

By the time you read this the Grand Encampment Ladies Encampment Auxiliaries Round Up for Autism will have been held in Lincoln. I will give you a complete accounting and run down of all the fun and camaraderie everyone who attended had in next month's issue.

The All Degree Day held in Sycamore on February 18 was attended by 20, with 3 taking the encampment degrees. Thank you to the Sycamore lodge allowing us to use their hall, Rick Baker who headed up the degree paraphernalia set up and all who assisted in taking charges and the Rebekahs for serving lunch.

The winds of spring came in like a lion throughout our jurisdiction causing damage in several communities. Even though we are the encampment branch of the Order, we all belong to an Odd Fellow or Rebekah lodge and took an oath to help our fellow man. When you assist someone in your community, be sure to mention the encampment branch and our support for autism.

Has your encampment or auxiliary held a fund raiser for autism? Send me the particulars and I will make sure to include them in my letter. All funds collected are now sent to the Grand Encampment of Illinois.



Degree staff February 18 for the Encampment All Degree Day in Sycamore.



Grand Patriarch Archie Bruce with Don Christiansen, Mat Yingling and Charlie Bremmer, candidates for the Encampment All Degree Day in Sycamore.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



As the new Captain of your Canton begins their year, show support by attending regularly and having the floor movements during your meetings. It is easy to just sit around a table and pay the bills or answer correspondence, but our unit of the Order is set up as a military unit and as such you should be practicing the sword movements, marching, the correct commands, etc. Is every member's uniform up to date and everything placed correctly? Use the Uniform Regulations to check this out. Bring your uniforms to a meeting, lay them on a table for everyone to check, sometimes we miss the little details. Order from the Department Adjutant any items you need.

GRAND PATRIARCH



By the time you read this the Grand Encampment Ladies Encampment Auxiliaries Round Up for Autism will have been held in Lincoln. I will give you a complete accounting and run down of all the fun and camaraderie everyone who attended had in next month's issue.

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ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Dear Ladies & Chevaliers:

During the month of March we have Lent, St. Patrick's Day, and the beginning of Spring.

Lent we should remember how special this holiday is to us Christians, leading up to Easter.

St. Patrick's Day a day for everyone to act Irish or wear Green!

First Day of Spring - a time for milder weather, no more snow!

Remember those who can not get out and send them a card during these up coming holidays, letting them know you are thinking about them. Make up a care package or basket filled with holiday trinkets or a cute cared, and then tell them about what its like being a Rebekah, invite them to your meetings, seeing how our meetings go is better than telling them about it.

May you experience the meaning of Lent, St. Patrick's Day and think SPRING!

Remember my Aim - Together we can achieve our goals in Life.

HAPPY SPRING!!

*Chivalrously,
Lady Sheila Reamer
Association President*

BIG BUDDY DAY YOUTH GRANT

Schuyler County Big Buddy Day youth director Don Schieferdecker received a check for \$3,500.00 from the Rushville Friendship Lodge #24 at the IOOF lodge meeting on February 24. Lodge Noble Grand Anne Bader presented the check with lodge treasurer H.O. Bader present.



Schieferdecker advises the lodge check will be used to help support the Big Buddy program youth activities. The Schuyler County youth program is sponsored by the Rushville Odd Fellows Lodge #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.

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

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BIG BUDDY YOUTH DAY



There were 15 in attendance at the Schuyler County Big Buddy Day youth trip to Going Bonkers in Quincy on March 18, 2017. The youth outing was from 11 am to 3 pm. A lunch of pizza and soft drinks was held and free game tokens were passed out to the kids. Chaperones were Don Schieferdecker, Thursa Edwards, Joe and Patty Dorsey and Michelle Queen. Transportation was provided by Becky Pruden with the Two Rivers Regional Council and their youth van and Don Schieferdecker. Plans are being made for April and the details will be later announced. The Big Buddy Youth Program is sponsored by the Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge #24.