



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 180th Year*

VOL. 65, NO. 1

USPS 258240

January 2017

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

RICH HERRING RETIRES FROM ODD FELLOW REBEKAH HOME

Rich Herring spent 13 years serving the Odd Fellow/Rebekah Home as Treasurer all 13 years!. PSGM Robert Smith presented Rich with a plaque at the annual Christmas Party held at the Home on December 16, and thanked Rich for a job well done.



Pictured L-R: PSGM Robert Smith and PGM Rich Herring.

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW
(USPS 258240) is published monthly by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 845 Wyatt Avenue, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

SEND NEWS TO:
Grand Lodge of Illinois
Editor Illinois Odd Fellow Paper
845 Wyatt Avenue, PO Box 248
Lincoln, IL 62656-0248
Phone: 217-735-2561
Fax: 217-735-2562
E-mail: grandeditor@frontier.com

Directors
Executive Committee
Grand Lodge of Illinois
P.O. Box 248
Lincoln, IL 62656-0248
Web Site: www.ioof-il.org

Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Illinois and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the **GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS I.O.O.F.**, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, Illinois 62656-0248.

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Chlyo Kirby	2/01/24
Wanda Harrison	2/03/34
Jean Rasmussen	2/07/30
Marie Litteken	2/09/25
Rebecca Barrow	2/12/42
Ellen Knauss	2/17/48
Agnes Meyer	2/21/23
Dorothy Rodgers	2/23/27

THANK YOU NOTE



To Officers, members, and friends:
You were all so very thoughtful to remember me on my 80th birthday. This year I was a Thanksgiving Turkey and we celebrated with the kids for a regular "Walton's family gathering". There were even flags in the front yard. All the cards and e-mails were much appreciated. Thanks again.

Gene Curfman, PGM, PGP, PDC

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

Happy New Year! We welcome 2017 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.

The last few months have been filled with tons of family members, visitors and community events and I just wanted to take a moment to brag about our home. There were SO many compliments about our home and how wonderful everyone is here. We had families reach out to us that had loved ones here years ago still so happy and grateful about their experience here at the home. One thing that really stood out to me is when someone said, "they not only took care of my grandmother, but they took care of me and made me feel so comfortable having her here that I didn't have to worry about anything." That right there makes me so proud to be part of such a wonderful place.

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

*Jenna Black
Community Relations Coordinator*

ROCKFORD ODD FELLOWS AND TEMPLE REBEKAHS LODGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE AND CHILI CHALLENGE

Rockford Odd Fellows and Temple Rebekah Lodge on December 3 had their 16th Annual Christmas Toy Drive and Chili Challenge. Toys were donated by members in the surrounding area and presented to representatives from Mothers House, a home for children under the age of 6 years when assistance is needed for such things as doctor visits, no sitter for the parent to go to work. Toys, diapers and formula were donated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017

DATE, BRANCH, MEETING

Feb 18: Grand Encampment, All Degree Day -Sycamore
Feb. 25: Grand Lodge, Region #2-Farmington, IL
March 4: Grand Lodge, Region #5-Flora, IL
March 4: Rebekah Assembly, District #16
March 11: Rebekah Assembly, District #12
March 18: Grand Lodge, Region #4-Waterloo
March 25: Grand Encampment, Round UP at Lincoln, IL Friendship Manor 10 a.m.
April 1: Rebekah Assembly, District #26
April 1: Grand Lodge, Region #3-Mt. Zion
April 22: Rebekah Assembly, District #5
April 22: Grand Lodge, Region #1-Sycamore
April 28: Rebekah Assembly, District #1
April 29: Rebekah Assembly, District #6
May 20: Rebekah Assembly, District #19
June 10: Rebekah Assembly, District #20
June 17: Rebekah Assembly, District #29
June 24: Grand Encampment, Field Meet in Lincoln 10-12 p.m.
June 3: Rebekah Assembly, District #11

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



November 28th - Richard Bright, Richard Hays and I went to Alton, Illinois to the District meeting. A good time was had by all, with good food and to see how they did their meetings.

On December 8th - The Rebekah Lodge #477 will have their district meeting at Granite City, Illinois.

I wasn't able to make this meeting as the Mason Lodge #474 Columbia, Illinois was to recognize me as the Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Illinois Odd fellows. I am not sure what that means, however I will find out.

My next trip will be to Bushnell, Illinois for the Rabbit Supper and Cake Auction on December 13th.

The Christmas party at Mattoon, Illinois will be attended by Bill Maplesden in my place as I have another commitment on the 16th of December.

In Friendship, Love and Truth.
Larry Gean



ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Happy New Year to all of you and your families I hope this letter finds you all well, and you were able celebrate with family and friends. With the holidays, over and more cold winter weather on its way are we remembering our shut-ins? Have we checked on elderly friends and neighbors? Please make sure this is something on your to do list. This time of year, is hardest on those that cannot get out and are alone. Make a phone call or a visit, have a social meeting and bring someone.

I have been busy this last month with travel for my job, but I did manage to get in some travel for Rebekah's. As I said I took up the challenge of the chili cook off in Rockford. I tried to get my car load but failed on that account (hopefully next time) but my husband Russ went with me and we had a wonderful time. The load of donations that they collected for their charities was amazing. The chili challenge was against 5 entrants and I managed to get 2nd place. I guess I will be going back next year!! I had a great time visiting with the members and was introduced to 3 of their new members. I also attended the Christmas party at the Odd Fellow Rebekah Home in Mattoon. Remember that we as Rebekah's pay for the gifts that each resident at the home gets. You might take up a special collection or do a fund raiser for this also at some time. If you would have the chance to attend this party and see the reaction of the residents, you will know this is a good thing we do.

As we start the New Year let us make a resolution to be more active in our lodges and Rebekah community. With that said remember Spring meetings will be starting soon. Look at the dates for all of them and get your car loads

together. Can we get the attendance up in other Districts?? Try to attend at least one other meeting besides your own. What a great time for fellowship with other members and a time for exchanging ideas and such. When you discover that new idea for a fund raiser or activity don't hold back! Bring it up, get people excited about it, help head up the committee and get the ball rolling. Remember there are no bad ideas, take a chance try it all. No matter what you are doing it puts your lodge out there where someone will hear about it or see it. This can only help with getting members active and possibly gaining new ones.

As always please send me an email or let me know what you are doing so that I can spread the news. Remember at the beginning of this letter I said I met 3 new members??? Once more the gauntlet has been thrown down by the Rockford lodge! They have 3 new members and are looking to initiate 2 more new members. I believe that the way Steve said he managed to get these members was by talking to them! Have you talked to anyone lately, did you say your 8 seconds about Rebekah's? I challenge us all to make sure that we are talking to people about our lodges and inviting them to join us. Our lodge will be holding an open meeting for our Christmas party. We will be bringing snacks to share and white elephant gifts for Bingo presents. I have invited 3 possible candidates. What are you planning??

Look for details coming about Christmas in July!!!!

In Friendship, Love & Truth
Sharon Landry

President Rebekah Assembly of Illinois



ROCKFORD CHILI COOK OFF AND TOY DRIVE



Rockford Odd Fellows on December 3 had their 16th Annual Christmas Toy Drive and Chili Challenge. Several pots of chili were judged with Archie Bruce winning Hottest, Maureen Cortilet winning 1st and Sharon Landry President Rebekah Assembly winning 2nd in the regular category.

All in attendance enjoyed the chili, corn bread and desserts, leaving only crumbs behind for Santa.

SCHUYLER COUNTY BIG BUDDY YOUTH DAY



Big Buddy Youth Director Don Schieferdecker advises there was an excellent turnout for the Big Buddy Day Christmas party at the Princess Theater in Rushville on Saturday, December 10. There were 38 youth and adults at the program. The Christmas movie Deck the Halls was played at 1 p.m. and the grand slam of popcorn and soda was given to the kids and adults. Mike and Connie Newenham met Santa Claus at the lobby door along with Thursa Edwards, a long time friend and elf of Santa. After the movie was over, Santa passed out Christmas candy and met with the kids for pictures. Chaperones were Don Schieferdecker and Thursa Edwards. Plans are being made for the January Big Buddy Day and the details will be later announced. The Schuyler County Big Buddy Youth Program is sponsored by the Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge 24.

KIDS R ESSENTIAL PROGRAM – PALACKY LODGE #630

Palacky Lodge #630 kicked off its John R. Mrizek Kids R Essential Program by providing two needy families from Brookfield with the ingredients to prepare 2 complete Thanksgiving meals. The two families were identified by a local school social worker, who said that both families were going through a rough patch and who greatly appreciated the generosity shown by the lodge to help provide their families with a memorable Thanksgiving Holiday. Sister Kim Kalousek did all the shopping and Brother Bill Riordan then delivered the feasts to the local school to be distributed. The idea comes from Past Grand Master John Mrizek's grand daughter, Maggie. Maggie, who is 8 years old, found out last year that some of her classmates did not have the opportunity to have a Thanksgiving dinner, so she felt that she should help those families out. So with the help of the school social worker and of course, mom and dad, she went out and bought them all the fixing for a Thanksgiving feast for one of her peer's family. The lodge thought it was a great idea and is now trying to do the same thing on a bigger scale for those in their community. Palacky Lodge has now in contact with two elementary schools in Brookfield and will help provide relief to kids and their families who are in distress.



Pictured L-R: Kim Kalousek and Bill Riordan with the baskets of food to be given to two families in distress for the Thanksgiving Feast.

WINCHESTER IOOF PIONEER #70



VETERAN'S DAY 2016



Veterans Day 2016 was quite memorable. One that was filled with laughter and camaraderie. It made me so happy to be a member of this order, enjoying the company of other lodge members that have become friends over the years and to have different groups come together with the same goal.

PGM Eric Smith and myself, joined a group of brothers and sisters at a local Knights of Columbus Lodge Hall, for dinner and a show, raising money to support, and to honor our veterans.

The show "Elvis" was fantastic, and yes, we Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, had no problem joining in, showing our whole hearted support. Elvis recognized Eric and the Village President of Wheeling, IL Dean S. Argiris for the work they do within the community and their specific organizations.



The Odd Fellow Table consisted of Brother Mark and Sister Judy Colliander, Brother Tony and Sister Jan Anthony,

Brother Gregg Bowen and his amazing wife Katie, Brother Aaron Rowland and his lovely wife Racheal (Sparkles), PGM Eric Smith and myself. Thank you all for a great, memorable evening of honoring and thanking all of our veterans, for every single one sacrificed something or all to protect us and insure our freedom.

In FLT
Sister April Smith



TEMPLE LODGE #789 CELEBRATES 100th ANNIVERSARY

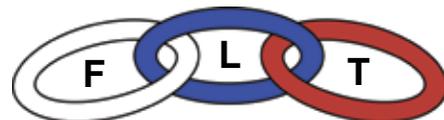
Temple Rebekah Lodge celebrated their 100th anniversary on November 14 with the initiation of two new members, dinner, and a birthday party. The Rockford Odd Fellows were invited and enjoyed the evenings festivities.



Pictured is Noble Grand Steve Adams and new members, left to right, Vera Bush, Steve Adams and Tracy Bush. Temple Rebekah Lodge is looking forward to another 100 years of Rebekah Odd Fellowship.



Pictured are people who attended the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Temple Rebekah Lodge #789.



WINCHESTER LODGE #70 HELPS SANTA ARRIVE TO THE KIDS DELIGHT



On November 26, 2016 Winchester IOOF Pioneer Lodge #70 hosted Santa Claus' arrival into Winchester via an antique Chevrolet Pickup driven by Paul Rueter of Marshall Chevrolet from Winchester. A crowd gathered to welcome Santa and followed Santa into the showroom at Marshall Chevrolet where he could hear the children's Christmas lists.



DISTRICT #78 MEETING

At their regular Meeting on November 28th, District #78 meeting was held. Visitors present were from Brighton I.O.O.F. Lodge #366, Dupo and Troy Lodges.



Officers of all Units of the Order were as follows: Left to Right: IOOF Grand Warden, James Bott, Rebekah Assembly Warden, Donna Grable, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Larry Gean, Grand Encampment Instructor and DDGM #78, Randall Barnes Sr. PGM, and Grand Encampment Treasurer, Allen H. Jones, PGM.

Brighton Lodge elected officers for 2017. Installation will be January 28th, 2017 following the Annual Soup Supper.

Proceeding the meeting a Spaghetti Dinner was prepared by Sister Audrey Jones, which was enjoyed by all. This was a great evening of Odd Fellowship, which was enjoyed by all.

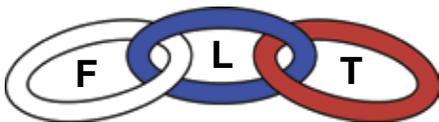
Allen H. Jones, P.G.M., Secretary

MT. ZION #300 MEMBER ED WILKING IN VETERANS HOSPITAL/HOME IN QUINCY



L-R Jim Osborn and Ed Wilking.

Jim Osborn a member of Mt. Zion #300 recently went to visit a brother in the Veterans Hospital/Home in Quincy in December. Jim said Ed didn't recognize him at first but after a while he did and they had a good visit. Ed has been there a few months as he was unable to remain in his home. I'm sure he would welcome cards and visits as he says he doesn't have much company as he is about 3 hours travel time away from his home and friends in Decatur, IL. Ed is a 60 year very active member of Mt. Zion Lodge #300. His address is Ed Wilking, c/o Veterans Home, Markwood 3, 1707 Locust, Quincy, IL 62301. The phone # there is 217-222-8641.



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Thank you to all who attended the Department Council meeting in Lincoln. The cantons were well represented and with all the offices which are required within the Department everyone stepped up and made my job to fill those positions and committees much easier.

The canton should have elected their new officers for the coming year, have your battalion commander assist in installing your officers. Contact Department Inspector Jeff Lasswell who assigns an Officer to perform the Inspection of your canton.

Is your uniform up to code? On a meeting night have everyone bring their uniform (if not wearing their uniform), class A and class B, and go over each uniform to ensure the increments are correct. Look in the Uniform Regulation of the Patriarchs Militant if you are unsure.

Wearing your uniform, march in a parade, give a talk at an Odd Fellow lodge or Encampment, to another community group, or assist in a ceremony at a cemetery giving an idea what we are or how to join. Public Relations is the best way to get our Patriarchs Militant unit known.

Lady Sheila Reamer, President Department Association LAPM and I are planning a joint Field Day on June 10, place to be determined. Opening and Closing, sword commands and marching will be done. Mark it down on your calendar.

Information for the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington, Virginia on May 7th is available. Eighty Four years our organization has been privileged

to have this ceremony. If you have never been, plan on attending, it is a very humbling event and one you will remember for your lifetime.

Archie Bruce

GRAND PATRIARCH



I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year not only in your personal lives but within your encampment or LEA. With the holidays behind us let's hunker down and get ready for the best year this year will be.

I want to congratulate all the new officers knowing that you will do your best. Be sure to contact your local District Deputy Grand Patriarch for the installation of your new officers at a time that is best for all concerned.

There is an all degree day **February 18th** in Sycamore being put on by Ellwood Encampment. Doors open at 9 a.m., degrees start at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served for a nominal fee. Anyone who would like to join in with the converging of the degrees are more than welcomed to help, anyone with candidates are even more welcome. Ask someone to join with us today.

The Annual Grand Encampment and LEA Round Up will be held on March 25th at Friendship Manor in Lincoln. Make sure your Encampment or LEA has a fundraiser set up to raise funds for autism, the primary fundraiser of the Grand Encampment and LEA. I suggest we think deeply for additional fundraisers so we can keep up the tradition for the fight for autism.

Let's remember and bring back the times when if a brother or sister slipped we would be there to lift them up where as now we may judge them for their situation. Let's get out there and pick up

someone and do something for them. It's what we do.

Archie Bruce

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Respect for the flag of our country is shown by standing at attention with our right hand over our heart with nothing held in the hands when the Flag is presented and retired.

2. It is customary not to cross between the alter (in the center of the floor) and the Noble grand's station while the meeting is in session except during a ceremony.

3. One does not chew gum during meetings and smoking should not be allowed during sessions. Hats are not worn during a Rebekah meeting.

4. It is recommended that Rebekah Lodge Officers wear appropriate attire for all meetings. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are a part of one of the largest United International Fraternal Orders in the world, and we should act with dignity and respect at all times. Remember, the organization is judged by our actions and appearances.

5. When a new member is admitted the Noble Grand should appoint a committee from the Lodge as a Brother or Sister to inform the new member of unwritten customs, see that they have Ode Cards until our songs are memorized, and assist them in every way possible. (from the Sovereign Grand Lodge précis on protocol and customs).

WHAT ODD FELLOWSHIP MEANS TO ME

Each month we solicit and welcome letters from our readers about a subject of common concern. We begin, in February, with the subject: HOW DO WE IMPROVE OUR SERVICE TO MANKIND AS A FRATERNAL UNITS.

Please send us your thoughts, writing your letter as your heart dictates. Let us have your thoughts and feelings.

Speak from the vantage-point of first hand knowledge. Perhaps you might tell us what it meant to your fraternal brother and sister. Give us your thought provoking ideas! Letters from Rebekahs are also welcome. In your fraternal life, you may have experienced the love, compassion, the deep human feelings as a fellow member, that close fraternal association with members of the Order to whom you can turn in your time of need. Tell us about it! Please send your letters to: Editor of Illinois Odd Fellow Paper P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

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).

Published by the Grand Lodge Office of Illinois, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Illinois Odd Fellow, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656.

Periodical
Postage Paid at
Lincoln, IL 62656
And At Additional
Mailing Offices
USPS 258240

ROCKFORD TOY DRIVE



Rockford Odd Fellows and Temple Rebekah Lodge on December 3 had their 16th Annual Christmas Toy Drive and Chili Challenge. Toys were donated by members in the surrounding area and presented to representatives from Mothers House, a home for children under the age of 6 years when assistance is needed for such things as doctor visits, no sitter for the parent to go to work. Toys, diapers and formula were donated.