



# THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838*

*Our 180th Year*

VOL. 65, NO. 6

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June 2017

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## LAYING THE WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Grand Master Larry Gean, Assembly President Sharon Laundry, Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Encampment Steve Adams, Grand Patriarch Archie Bruce of the Grand Encampment. Lay wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery.

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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship  
Through Positive Communication"*

## ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Lola Catt	7/02/22
Rebecca Commins	7/04/42
George Hardin	7/04/30
Dalton Cobb	7/10/31
Ima Davis	7/15/26
Nancy Thornton	7/17/36
Vera Severns	7/18/33
Ronald Haddock	7/19/29
Nancy Tipsword	7/19/47

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**MARGARET "JEAN" CLAYTON**  
Past President of the Rebekah  
Assembly of IL 1981  
1924-2017  
  
**CORRENE BURCH**  
Member of Arthur Lodge #742  
1924-2017

## NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

What a busy month for the home. National Nursing Home week kept us busy last month as we are happy to have somewhat of a calm month ahead of us.

This month in activities our residents will celebrate National Jelly Filled Donut's day, Flag Day, Father's Day, go on a lunch outing to Denny's, our men's club is going out for shakes and for a drive around the lake, BINGO, nails for the ladies and church services, just to name a few. We are looking forward to our concert on the lawn next month and starting to prepare for that as well.

We are all so happy for this beautiful weather and everyone seems to be spending a good amount of time outside, soaking up the sun. I'm sure we will continue to stay busy throughout the month and enjoying every second of it.

Until next month - take care and be well.

*Jenna Black*  
*Community Relations Coordinator*

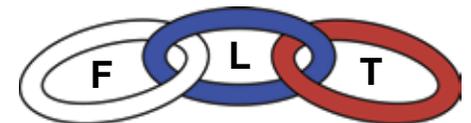
## DARE DAY AT FLOYD HENSON JR. HIGH 2017

Friday, May 5th, at 1:30 p.m. Flora Jr. High School held its DARE graduation. Since 1991 the Flora Odd Fellows have been an active part of the DARE program at the school.

The school has an activity day usually on Tuesday before the graduation on Friday. That is when the lodge brings the t-shirts to the kids in the DARE class and joins in the fun outside with them.

On Friday, for over 25 years PGM, Gr. Rep., Rich Herring has been the guest speaker to the graduating class. The story that Rich tells (called "The Rock") is a true story that relates to the fact that choices have consequences. Back in 1986 an elderly man sold a pretty rock for \$15.00 at a rock and gem show to a gem cutter. Inside there was a 2 million dollar sapphire. Rich relates to the DARE class that both men had the same opportunity with the rock. One made \$15.00 and the other man did a bit better just because of the choices they made.

The entire community knows that the Flora Odd Fellows are very involved with DARE and so much more because they are out there in the public doing things every day.



## GENEVA REBEKAH LODGE #274 LAID A WREATH AT THE ODD FELLOW-REBEKAH LOT AT DODGE GROVE CEMETERY



On May 22 in honor of all buried there. Laying the wreath were Doris McDonald-Noble Grand, Evelyn Kemp-Warden, Shirley Wilkey-Guardian, and Anita Jones-Secretary. Shirley made the wreath.

## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



I'd like to start with thanking you for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master for this year.

I've attended all of our Regional meeting and visited a lot of different Lodges across the state. I would like to see more Representatives at Grand Lodge. Please get your yearly reports in to the Grand Lodge so you will be able to have your Past Grands attended as Reps.

On May 4th found me traveling to Va. for the IOOF Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Sharon Landry PRA, Archer Bruce CP, and Steve Adams GJW along with myself carrying the flowers had the honor of placing flowers at the base of the Tomb.

As we walked into Arlington National Cemetery the sign there said Our Nations Most Sacred Shrine. Please conduct yourselves With Dignity And Respect At All Times, Please Remember These Are Hallowed Grounds.

*Friendship, Love and Truth  
Larry Gean GM*



**FLAG DAY**  
**June 14th**

## ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



How are you all doing? I hope all is going well. I have been working in my gardens and I couldn't help it I planted flowers already. I was hating the dreariness of the last bit of winter and needed some color in my life. So like the turtle I came out of my shell the other day when I saw a few plants for sale at my local store! I now have some great pots of pansy's, daisy's, petunias and other flowers to draw in the hummingbirds. My front garden is sporting it's normal marigolds and zinnias and I still have a flat of impatient's to plant. My pond is coming to life with the few plants that I have floating around in it. The fish are eating the roots and my frog has come up from the bottom and can be seen floating around in my pond pots sunning himself. The birds are loving the sunshine and show up every day to bathe and sing to us. The ducks are showing up to take a swim also. The hummingbird feeders are out, awaiting the arrival of my favorite summer friends. With all this going on in my yard I know the heat of summer is around the corner and I have a big jump on getting my gardens growing. I have seen some bees and butterfly's they are ready to start the pollination process. Just the same at my lodge we are getting the jump on our upcoming projects for the summer. We have chosen a committee for the Christmas in July party and have some great ideas coming in. We have been talking about our fair stand for August and I have personally spoken to some of our non-members that help us every year and they have taken spots on our schedule already!! Wow things are coming together! How about you, are you like Tigger and are getting a jump on your projects? Remember to call members that haven't been to lodge see if you can get them back. As if they have any ideas that you can try. Please make an

effort to contact them as the longer they stay away the easier it for them to never come back. Have a few social meetings but invite someone who is not a member and then spend some of the time talking about your lodge, you must talk about it to get them interested. Ask them for ideas, you never know!!!!!!!

Tigger also likes meeting new friends, I heard through the grape vine that our Sisters in Sycamore have meet some new friends that may be interested in our organization. How did they do that you might ask? They decided it was time for some Spring sprucing up also. They grabbed their tools some bags of mulch and some plants and went to the post office. They didn't mail any letters but they did leave something behind. They raked, weeded, mulched and planted, what busy Rebekah's they were. Just like the hummingbird working hard at their task, and like Tigger they talked to all who came by and asked what they were doing, like the turtle they persisted till the job was done. People where so interested in who would spend their time to do something this nice and not even get paid. Imagine doing this just out of kindness, will it get them a new member, we will have to wait and see. What another great idea, do you know of somewhere you might do something like this? Our Odd Fellows do a sand-box fill every year. There is a number to call and they will put you on the list. When they know how many they have to fill, they go to the quarry and get a truck load of sand and fill the sandboxes for free. What a great way to meet people and if you have a quarry nearby sand is not that expensive.

I want to thank anyone that has come to a Spring meeting that is not theirs so far. I want to thank them also for stepping into unfilled chairs and helping where needed. They can tell you we have had some fun times. The districts we have visited are working hard and doing great things, you should come out and check it out. There are still some meetings left please come to at least one, I promise you won't be disappointed.

Until next time be the Hummingbird – Always keep moving and let your true colors show

Be the Turtle – Speed doesn't matter...Forward is Forward – Come out of your shell

Be Tigger – It's not about how fast you run or how high you climb – But how well you Bounce

*In F, L & T  
Sharon*

## HOLMES RECEIVES ODD FELLOW-REBEKAH SCHOLARSHIP



Miah Holmes, a Tuscola Community High School student, was recently awarded a \$1,000 Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship. Ainslie Heilich, Noble Grand of Tuscola Odd Fellows Lodge #316, at left in the photo, and Laura Davis, Financial Secretary of Tuscola Odd Fellows Lodge #316, at right in the photo, recently presented Miah with an award certificate. Miah wants to become an elementary school teacher and loves working with people.

## SCYAMORE ANGELS REBEKAH LODGE FOOD DRIVE



This was the food that was collected at the Hy-Vee Store to be donated to the Sycamore Food Pantry. People are so generous! Thanks to all that supported.

## TUSCOLA LODGE #316 ADOPTED A HIGHWAY



On May 21st several of the Tuscola Lodge #315 went out to clean the section of highway they adopted.

## RUSHVILLE LODGE #24 DONATES TO TRACK TEAM



The Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge #24 donated the new track sports uniforms complete this year to the Rushville Industry Special Olympics team. Lodge Treasurer, H.O. Bader is shown handing the donation check to team manager and coach Shelly Langeland at the Odd Fellows Hall.

## ODD FELLOWSHIP

### ODD FELLOWSHIP IS NOT

- Merely a beneficial society.
- Just another secret organization.
- An institution without a future.

### ODD FELLOWSHIP IS

- The strongest fraternal society on the continent.
- A great world-wide united brotherhood.
- A fraternity founded on the basis of universal brotherhood.
- Based on the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.
- No longer an experiment.
- More than a century old as we know it on this continent.
- Endowed with the intellectual vigor, elasticity, adaptability and freshness of perpetual youth.
- The foe of selfishness and ignorance.
- Based upon the purest principles of equality.
- Non-political and non-sectarian.
- A source of comfort in times of trouble and adversity.
- A world-wide force that stands for all that is noblest and highest.
- An everyday guide for conduct, a mantle that should be worn always.
- An organization that favors no man for his wealth and frowns on none for his poverty.
- An ideal that exists in the heart and mind of every genuine Odd Fellow.
- Fulfilling a mission in the world which no other institution has successfully attempted.
- A vitalizing, sympathetic and actuating influence in the lives of all its real members.
- A ministering spirit succoring the needy, cheering the despondent and protecting the helpless.
- The handmaid of virtue and religion.
- Founded on the inspired word of God as revealed to man in the Holy Bible.

### ODD FELLOWSHIP TEACHES

- Wise and serious truths and opens up before its members opportunities for useful service.
- Belief in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe.
- The lesson of fraternity, that all are of one family and therefore brethren.
- The importance of the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.
- The privilege and duty of individual sympathy, mutual assistance and everyday service to one's fellows.
- That humanity was intended to be one harmonious structure.
- That each individual is a unit in that God-made temple.
- Its members how to stand on their own feet, yet walk in step with their neighbors.
- The difference between right and wrong.
- That it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- To impress upon its members a real sense of their obligations to others.
- To improve and exalt the character of man.
- To imbue him with a proper conception of his capabilities for good.
- To enlighten his mind.
- To enlarge the sphere of his affections.

- To promote the general good of mankind.
- To spread abroad the light of morality and fraternalism.
- To eliminate false distinctions among men.
- To lead man to the cultivation and extension of true fraternity.
- To establish peace on earth and good will among men.

## JUNE 14 - FLAG DAY

It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet,  
who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.  
It is the soldier, not the lawyer,  
who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag,  
who serves under the flag,  
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
who allows the protester to burn the flag.

A protest raged on a courthouse lawn,  
Round a makeshift stage they charged on.  
Fifteen hundred or more they say,  
Had come to burn a Flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,  
Cursed it, and called it a dirty rag.  
An OLD MAN pushed through  
the angry crowd.  
With a rusty shotgun shouldered proud.

His uniform jacket was old and tight.  
He had polished each button, shiny and bright.  
He crossed that stage with  
a soldier's grace.  
Until he and the boy stood face to face.

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH,"  
the OLD MAN said.  
"is worth dying for, good men are dead.  
So you can stand on this courthouse lawn,  
And talk us down from dusk to dawn,  
But before any Flag gets burned today,  
This OLD MAN IS GOING  
TO HAVE HIS SAY!"

My father died on a foreign shore.  
In a war they said would end all war.  
But Tommy and I wasn't even full grown.  
Before we fought in a war of our own.  
And Tommy died on Iwo Jima's beach.  
In the shadow of a hill he couldn't quite reach  
Where five good men raised  
this Flag so high.  
That the WHOLE DAMN WORLD COULD SEE IT FLY.

I got this bum leg that I still drag,  
fighting for this same old Flag.  
Now, there's but one shot in this old gun.

## D.A.R.E. GRADUATION



Arthur Grade School held its 30th Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation on Tuesday evening, May 9. Thirty-two fifth graders who completed the requirements of the program received certificates and t-shirts. Some of the students and adults participating in the ceremony are, left to right, Marita Mast, who led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the ceremony; Charlene Smith of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #742; Jaylon Herschberger; Jaydon Yoder; Derrick Schrock, Kendall Burdick, Robert Hostetler; and Police Chief Mike Goodman, who has taught the D.A.R.E. class since 1997. Mast, Burdick, and Martha Herschberger were the winners of this year's poster contest. Herschberger is not in the photo. The program is sponsored by the Village of Arthur, Arthur School District #305, and Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #742 who provided the t-shirts.

## BRIGHTON ODD FELLOW LODGE #366

Brighton Lodge #366 hosted a Degree Day on May 20th, 2017. All four Degrees were conferred on James Gilreath, of Brighton #366, and Marc Norris of Pioneer #70 by a picked Degree Staff, by Degree Captain P.G.M. Allen H. Jones.

The seventeen members present were served a dinner by Audrey Jones, and Linda Jones. The menu was Pasta, Salad, Italian Bread, and Dessert. The meal was enjoyed by all.



Pictured in front row: L-R: James Gilreath, Grand Master T. Larry Gean, and Marc Norris. Pictured in second row: L-R: Grand Secretary Jerald T. Sarnes P.G.M., Grand Warden James Bott, Grand Treasurer Arlan Miller P.G.P., Encampment Grand High Priest Ernest Higgerson, Encampment Grand Treasurer Allen H. Jones, P.G.M.

Congratulations to our new members, this was a 'Good Day of Odd Fellowship', and it was enjoyed by all.

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

## MT. ZION #300 PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRAND LODGE AND LODGE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

### Olivia Gingerich Awarded Scholarship

Olivia Gingerich was awarded a scholarship from the Grand Lodge Odd Fellow & Rebekah Scholarship Committee at the Mt. Zion high school awards evening. Presenting was Mark Dombroski and Jeff Miller of the Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge. Olivia excelled in her studies at Mt. Zion high school and intends go on to higher education.



Pictured from Mt. Zion Lodge #300 Mark Dombroski and Jeff Miller along with Olivia Gingerich who received \$1,000 from the Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship Committee.

### Kelsey Hays & Nick Lewis Awarded Scholarships

Mt. Zion Lodge #300 awarded \$1000 scholarships to Kelsey and Nick students of Mt. Zion High School to help further their education. The gifted money was raised with an annual golf outing sponsored by the Odd Fellows Lodge that is open to the public.



Shown in the picture is Mark Dombroski, Nick Lewis, Olivia Gingerich, Kelsey Hays & Jeff Miller.

## GRAND PATRIARCH



What an honor to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, Virginia May 7th. Along with Grand Master Larry Gean, Assembly President Sharon Landry, and Department Council Lt. Colonel Steve Adams, we were pleased to represent Illinois at the 84th Ceremony for the Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. The day was blustery and cool but that did not stop 47 jurisdictions and the 4 heads of our Order from placing wreaths. Several from Illinois attended, which I believe was one of the largest contingents.

Is your Encampment done planning a fundraiser for autism? With spring here, maybe an encampment garage sale or a raffle would work. Do something, don't be like an ostrich and keep your head in the sand to avoid doing anything, it will eventually catch up to you and you will be left behind.



**FATHER'S DAY  
JUNE 18**

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



The 84th Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns was held on May 7, in Arlington, Virginia, and I was honored to represent the Grand Encampment and present the wreath from Illinois with the Grand Master, Assembly President and my appointed representative for the Department Council Lt. Colonel Steve Adams. If you have never been to this ceremony you must make an effort to attend. It is humbling and makes one feel so proud to honor those who gave their lives for freedom.

The Department Council and Ladies Association of Illinois are to have a joint practice on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. in Havana. Chevaliers wear your Class B uniform if you have one and bring your sword. If you do not have a Class B, wear something comfortable, ladies also. President Sheila and I will assist you in the practice of forming the lines, sword movements, opening and closing, marching commands. We should be done by noon. This is an opportunity for every patriarch militant member to practice and ask questions.

Memorial Day is upon us, show up in uniform at a memorial ceremony and explain what and who we are. Assist another group. Participate.

## ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Dear Ladies and Cheavaliers

Here it is Spring, some days it still feels like winter. This month will be a busy month- graduations from High School. I have a grandson graduating from High School. Odd Fellows adn Rebekahs Scholarships are being passed out.

Soon we will be going to the Great Lakes Conference in Bloomington. I hope there will be a good gathering of members, we need you here in order to keep this meeting going in the future.

I just attended District #5 Meeting with only 16 in attendance. Is it due to the lack of interest in being a Lodge Member that District Meetings who knows how much longer we will have District Meetings. During these meetings we are among friends and learning about what goes on in other Lodges. Go home and tell your Lodge about this and try to get them interested in coming to these meetings.

During the District #5 Meeting I was elected President again. Then I was honored by Wildey #4 LAPM Meeting during my Official Visit. Then soon I will be going to Jerseyville for an Official Visit and Inspection May 10.

Remember my Emblems-- Lighthouses and Angels.

They both will lead you along the right paths of Friendship, Love and Truth, all that are important in our Lodges.

Until next month, take care of you and others and keep everyone in your prayers and thoughts.

*Chivalrously,  
Lady Sheila Reamer  
President*

## 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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## CENTURY LODGE #492



During the Thursday, May 4th Century Lodge #492 meeting Noble Grand Nick (Whiteboy) Caruso presented Brother Lloyd "Skeeter" Stephens with his 20 year pin.



During the Thursday, May 11th Century Lodge #492 meeting Noble Grand Nick (Whiteboy) Caruso presented Brother Gregg "Pornstar" Bowen with his 5 year pin.