



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 181st Year*

VOL. 66, NO. 1

USPS 258240

January 2018

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

GUARDIAN #60 WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS RE-INSTITUTED



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
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Lincoln, IL 62656-0248
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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.

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ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marie Litteken	2/09/25
Thelma Whetsell	2/11/24
Agnes Meyer	2/21/23
Betty Harris	2/23/37

100TH BIRTHDAY



Mildred French is pictured receiving a key to the city of Mattoon for her 100th birthday from Mattoon Mayor, Tim Gover. Her 100th birthday was November 11, 2017.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

Happy New Year! We welcome 2018 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 Fellows and Rebekahs 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. The resident's reaction to such thoughtful gifts really is heartwarming.

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

Jenna Black
Community Relations Coordinator



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018

Regional Meetings

Region #1 April 28, 2018 at Rockford

Region #2 February 24, 2018 at Farmington

Region #3 March 10, 2018 at Mt Zion

Region #4 March 3, 2018 at Waterloo

Region #5 April 7, 2018 at Flora

Testimonial

Gen Ken Lasswell testimonial will be held on March 24, 2018 in the Peoria Area.

GE/LEA Roundup

The Annual Roundup for Autistic Fund will be on March 31, 2018 starting at 10 a.m.

Great Lakes Conference

The Annual Conference will be held on Friday, July 27th, Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29, in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area. The conference will be over by 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Trap Shoot

Grand Master's Trap Shoot will be held on September 8, 2018

District Deputy Grand Master's meeting

The annual District Deputy Grand Master's meeting will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at the Grand Lodge office at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Leaders Banquet

The Annual Leaders Banquet will be held on November 3, 2018 and Planning Session will be on November 4, 2018. Place will be determined at a later date.

School of Instructions

Grand Lodge will be held on November 17, 2018 at the Grand Lodge Office in Lincoln at 10 a.m.

Grand Encampment will be held on November 17, 2018 at the Grand Lodge Office at 1 p.m.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Did you remember to check in on neighbors or friends that are alone at this time? Maybe you made some phone calls or sent some cards. This truly does mean the world to some, and it is part of who we are.

It is time to buckle down and get ready for a good year in Odd Fellowship. Spring meetings will be starting soon, please get the list of dates from your secretary and come out and join a few meetings besides your own. This is a great way to share the day with friends and help out one another. We all know we are getting smaller so if we can get others to come to different meetings this will help all the meetings. Let's get those car loads together, you can do it! Let us try and get everyone involved in our meetings and work. We need to be the Hummingbird and start the pollination process by spreading the good news of Rebekah's. There are prospective new members everywhere

we look we just have to encourage and get them interested in who we are and what we do. Let them see both sides of us, the hard-working side and the side that like to have a bit of fun. Once in awhile even we need to have a bit of fun, try getting a bus to shopping trip, play, ballgame or something of the sort. Sell seats on the bus and then have raffles on the ride to where you are going. You can make some money for your charities and have a good time also. Let's come up with some creative ways to get people to learn about our lodges. Tigger always likes to have fun so what kind of fun can you find for him and your new friends.

Along with spring meeting tends to come spring cleaning like the turtle have you planned to clean your house this year. Have you found the right combination to control the weeds of sarcasm, we tried that once already, no that is no good at all, and my all time favorite weed, we always do it that way! If not, this is the time to plan for the coming planting season! We have plenty of time during these cold days ahead to start working on this. Let's send some letters to prospective members and invite them to a day at the beach party, a campfire, who knows what you can come up with! We have imagination all over how about a warm up party! Do you have crafts you like to do and maybe share? Have a craft day invite people with children do a craft and have hot chocolate and cookies. Let me know what you come up with.

What a great Year we are all going to have.

Get those Carloads ready and come one come all and have some fun.

See you on down the road.

In F. L. & T., Sharon

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



To all my Chevaliers & Ladies:

Where has the year 2017 gone? This year has gone by to fast.

During this year I have learned so much as being your President. I have learned how to run the meeting in Lincoln with the help of all my officers and friends - Thank You!

Christmas has gone past and I hope everyone had a Blessful Holiday, surrounded with family and friends. Now we need to make plans for 2018 - getting more members, being more sociable at our meetings and remember the true meaning of being a Rebekah.

Keep kindness in your heart and words of Love and Respect for others.

Remember my Motto-
"Live Each Day as it Comes"

*Chivalrously
Lady Sheila Reamer
Association President*

ROCKFORD LODGE #140 CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE & CHILI COOKOFF CHALLENGE



Members and Guests of Rockford Lodge #140 gathered on December 2 for their 17th annual toy drive to sort and donate toys and diapers to various agencies in the Rockford area. Over 75 boxes of diapers and 400 toys were collected as well and 10 spa bags prepared for those in need of toiletries. At the end of the evening 2 trucks and 1 trailer were loaded and all items collected were delivered to Mother's House Children's Home + Aid. A tour of the new Mother's House facility has given. Thank you to all who attended the evening and donated to make the holidays and upcoming year brighter.



Rockford Lodge #140 held it's annual Chili Cookoff Challenge in conjunction with their Christmas Toy Drive on December 2. All in attendance were treated to homemade chili (regular or hot), corn bread and desserts. Winners of the Challenge were Hottest Archie Bruce, Regular - 1st Maureen Cortilet, 2nd Archie Bruce, 3rd Vera Bush. Pictured are left to right: Archie Bruce, Maureen Cortilet, Vera Bush.

LINCOLN ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS #204 DONATE TO FOOD PANTRYS

It has been a yearly project for Lincoln Odd Fellows and Rebekahs #204 to donate to the food Pantries for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lincoln Odd Fellow Noble Grand Mike Starasta donated to Lincoln Logan County Food Pantry the Sum of \$400 to help feed the homeless during Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also made a donation of \$400 to the Holy Family Food Pantry.



First Picture is Mike Starasta and Mr. Newhouse of the Lincoln Logan County Food Pantry.



Pictured is Mike Starasta and Deacon Wendell Lowry of Holy Family Food Pantry.

CENTURY LODGE #492 PRESENTS 5 YR. PIN



During a meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville Noble Grand Nick Caruso (left) presented Brother Fred Jones (right) with his 5 year pin.

CENTURY LODGE #492 BROTHERS RECEIVE 25 YR. JEWELS

During the Saturday, November 11th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville NG Nick Caruso presented 25 year Jewels to 4 Brothers.



Pictured L-R are Brother Jeff Patel, Brother Mike Wilson, Noble Grand Nick Caruso, Brother Michael Martin, PNG, Brother John BJ Goldberg, PGM, PGP.

RUSHVILLE FRIENDSHIP LODGE #24



A Big Buddy Youth Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 9 at the Rushville Princess Theater at 1 p.m. The movie, Star was played for 42 kids, parents and grandparents. The grand slam of popcorn, soda and candy was given to all during the movie. Director Don Schieferdecker and Assistant Director Thursa Edwards helped Santa Claus pass out Dairy Queen ice cream sundae certificates along with candy gift bags to everyone after the movie. Santa also had several kids on his lap while they told him what they wanted for Christmas list and whether they had been naughty or nice during the year. Schieferdecker advises the Big Buddy youth day for January is being set up and the details will be later announced. The Big Buddy youth program is sponsored by the IOOF Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge 24.

ELGIN #12 - ROAD CLEANUP



On Sunday morning December 3rd, Elgin #12 members (from left to right) Mike Melvin, Larry Sitkiewicz, Frank Alvarado, Kevin Masters, Ralph Stauch Jr, Doug Schaeffer, Larry Clavel, Geoff Engel, Justin Koop, Copper (the pooch), Joe Pagone, Jim Turner, Chris Robinson, Mike Schultz, Jeff Koop and Alex Peterson, accomplished another road cleanup on Rt. 31 in South Elgin.

Thank you brothers. Community involvement is what we are about.

RUBY REBEKAH LODGE #263



Cara Sherwood Noble Grand of Ruby Rebekah Lodge #263 had an idea to promote the Order and to help children of the City of Jerseyville shop for their parents.

Cara had everyone in the lodge and her friends donate items of interest that children could use for Christmas shopping and afford. Cara had all the glass items washed and shining, everything else was displayed beautifully. She also made breads, candies, and snacks, all for \$1, except for one table, all those items were \$.50.

Cara had made potato soup, and brownies were brought in for the members of the lodge to eat, while visiting, and working.

Although, the day was not the 'day that Cara had dreamed of, it was an "idea of promoting the Rebekah's and Odd Fellows and helping children by gifts for their parents.' This idea came from an ambitious young Noble Grand, just what our Order needs. Idea's to get our name out in the public. Thank you Cara for a 'great idea and a great day.'

ELGIN LODGE #12 DELIVER CHRISTMAS GIFTS



On a cold blustery December 9th Saturday morning these members, Terry and Sue Peterson, Alex Peterson, John Kirkman, Matt Iverson, Ken Palikij, Geoff Engel, Mike Turner, Larry Clavel and Jim Turner from Elgin Lodge #12 delivered a plethora of gifts to be distributed to local children in our community who may not have the pleasure of experiencing the joy of Christmas otherwise. Being able to step up and accomplish this type of activity is what being an Odd Fellow is about. Merry Christmas to one and all.



Happy New Year!

ODD FELLOW-REBEKAH HOME CHRISTMAS PARTY

Pictured are Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home board members delivering gifts to the residents.



BUSHNELL ODD FELLOWS LODGE #322 GIFT STUDENT WITH AN ALTERNATIVE VOICE

Christmas came early for a student at West Prairie South Elementary in the form of an iPad mini with special communication apps. The student who has limited speech will now have a way to communicate non-traditionally with family and friends. Mrs. Jennifer Percy, a speech pathologist for the West Prairie School District, advocated for her student by submitting a request to the group. It's groups like the Odd Fellows who strive to help people in need who indeed make a difference in our world.



Pictured from L-R: Jennifer Edholm, W.P. South Elementary Principal, Lyndall Pigg, Harold Feikert, and Jennifer Percy, W.P. Speech Pathologist.

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

NEW OFFICERS OF GUARDIAN #60 OF WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

