



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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Our 181st Year*

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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

**Great Lakes Conference
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Friday through Sunday, July 27, 28 & 29, 2018**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

You are cordially invited to come and join us for information, fellowship and fun at:

Comfort Suites

5775 Coventry Lane

Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Located at the junction of I-69 and US 24, on the southwest side of Fort Wayne.

The total cost of the package includes Friday and Saturday night's lodging, Saturday and Sunday morning's continental breakfast (for those staying at the hotel), Saturday lunch and banquet, and all taxes, gratuities and registration fees. The prices are listed below:

One person per room \$285.00

Two people per room \$185.00 (each)

(You will be on your own for Friday evening's meal. There are a couple of restaurants within walking distance, and several within a short drive.)

Please complete the included registration form, one form per person that will be attending, and stating with whom you will be sharing a room.

There are a very limited number of rooms with wheelchair assessable showers, so mark your form and register early if you need one. This Comfort Suites has recently renovated all their rooms, and the new showers have a small step over edge with sliding glass doors instead of a bathtub, so those with walkers can still use them.

The cost for meals and registration for those that will only attend on Saturday is \$80.00. This includes the lunch and banquet.

All reservations should be mailed so they are received before June 20, 2018, with check made payable to IOOF Great Lakes Conference to: Secretary G.I.C.

222-1/2 West Berry Street

Fort Wayne, IN 46802-2204

AGAIN, THE CUT-OFF DATE IS JUNE 20, 2018
AT WHICH TIME THE ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED

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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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Hutchings	6/01/51
Lonnie Smith	6/01/38
Ronald Grzelak	6/03/41
Martha Attig	6/11/27
James Whetsell	6/11/25
Edward Williams	6/12/22
Norma Nichols	6/13/34
Robert Edwards	6/17/29
Barbara Prather	6/17/59
Jan Mitri	6/23/37
Dolores Walker	6/23/33
Mary Fehrenbacher	6/24/29
Linda Crawford	6/28/38

CELEBRATES 102 YEARS



Irene Wilkerson pictured above with her friend Debbie Dailey recently celebrated her 102nd birthday with friends and family at the Fountains of Granite City Retirement Center where she resides. Irene is a very active member of Juanita Rebekah lodge #477, Granite City and is currently serving as left Supporter to the Noble Grand, Irene is also active in her church and Order of Eastern Star. She still drives and takes herself where she wants to go. She is a joy to be with and loved by all.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" Irene and may God grant you many more.



NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

We have a busy month ahead of us with National Nursing Home week. The theme this year is "Celebrating Life's Stories." We are looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day with a gardening party with residents, family and friends. Some themes for the week will be tourist day, superhero day, jersey day, decade day and charity day and each day will be filled with activities for everyone. Some other activities going on are Prairie Winds coming to perform, a car show and Al Mahan coming to perform as well. We look forward to this week every year.

We are loving this beautiful weather and enjoying the sunshine every chance we get.

Until next month - take care and be well.

*Jenna Black
Community Relations Coordinator*

ROCKFORD LODGE #140 REGIONAL MEETING

On Saturday, April 28th, Rockford Lodge #140 located at 6219 Forest Hills Rd. Rockford IL 61114, will be the location of our next Region #1 meeting, coffee and rolls from 9 to 10 meeting starts at 10 a.m. sharp. The Grand Master and most of the Executive board from Illinois will be in attendance. There will also be members from Elgin, Carpentersville, Woodstock, Sycamore, Orangeville, Galena, Plano and Ottawa in attendance. This is a great event to meet and greet members from other lodges throughout Northern Illinois. All Four degrees will be offered at this meeting.

We do need a head count but if you fail to deliver a head count please don't discourage any one from attending.

*In Friendship, Love & Truth
Jim Turner*

WHAT IS GOOD LEADERSHIP?

A good leader-

- 1) is content to let others do things;
- 2) willing to impart to those under his supervision, all the knowledge that he has;
- 3) help others by permitting them to learn by doing;
- 4) generates as much enthusiasm for another man's idea as though he originated them himself;
- 5) saves efforts of those under his direction
- 6) gives full opportunity to each person's ability, regardless of race, color, creed, sex or national origin;
- 7) is a good follower;

William G. Caples

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018

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.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Brothers and Sisters, I'm not sure that Old Man Winter wants to give up and let Spring come out to play! I sure hope he gets tired and goes to sleep soon. I think that we all could do with some warm sunny days. If you are like me, you are itching to get outside and work in the yard. I think all I'm dreaming about is playing in the dirt even Russ is starting to get the itch. I will just keep hoping the warm weather is around the corner. For one of your upcoming meetings plan a social event that will take you outside on a warm night or a trip to the park on a Saturday or Sunday just to enjoy being outside in the sun for a while. As the days get warmer and longer remember those that are not able to be outside. There are many ways to bring sunshine and warmth, cards, visits, phone calls are just a few ways to brighten someone's day. I'm sure we all know someone that could use the warmth of a friend.

I once again attended the Round Up in Lincoln, there weren't many present, but we had a fun time and enjoyed the fellowship with each other and still managed to raise some money for Autism. Put the date on your calendar for next year and please plan on attending. It will be on March 30, 2019 mark it now, this is for a great cause and one I hope you will all join me in supporting. We are hoping the poor turnout this year was do to the fact that it was on Easter weekend. It is a great day of fellowship and is open to everyone so invite anyone and be there next year.

Our Spring meetings are going great and I have had a great time visiting with all our members. There are only 3 meetings left but we would love to see you at all of them. Fill up those cars and come join us.

Supporting all of our lodges in their endeavors is something we should all consider doing a bit more of. As we continue to get smaller this is becoming even more important. Some of the things we are doing are great fun, or for a good cause. If you are planning something let's get the word out to all so that we can join in. I have tried to attend more things the last few years and will continue to do so, as it is a time to get better acquainted with our Brothers and Sisters and work together for our lodges. If your lodge is planning something, please send information to our secretary Janet Bruce and she will be able to send information to all the lodges so that if interested we can get (my favorite thing) a car pool going and come join you. We all love to hear about successes that others have had with projects or new ideas for some so remember to pass the word along it may help another lodge.

I hope I see you soon but until then get those gardens planted and keep them clear of weeds so that the flowers can bloom tall and beautiful. The hummingbirds can feed from them, and the bees are able to pollinate them thus helping other gardens to grow.

See you on down the road

In F. L. & T.

Sharon

THE CHILDREN'S HOME GRANT FUND

In 2007 the Children's Home Grant Fund was created to help children throughout the state. The Children's Home Board felt that since we no longer had an Orphanage or a Day Care service in Lincoln it was our way to one help children which is where the money was intended to be used and two to help the local Lodges across the state to get their name out in front of the Public with these Donations. Since it was created in 2007-2017 the Children's Home Board has given away \$149,896.11 to help the Local Lodges throughout the state.

It is starting to be used by a lot of lodges. We have had several lodges apply for more than one grant per year. We are hoping that we get to the point that we only award each lodge one grant per year but as long as we have the money and have requests from the same lodge we have been honoring them. This year we had when we had multiple from the same lodge we held them til the end of the fiscal year before we awarded the second Grant.

The Grant can be found on the Grand Lodge of Illinois Web Site under the members Section under forms. We do not expect to fund the entire amount of the project it is to be in conjunction with your lodges fund raising that we will subsidize the amount.

Children's Home Board

DISTRICT #12 SPRING MEETING



Cynthia Elam was in charge of Sharon's Tiggers' Fund at the District #12 meeting held in Bushnell. Those pictured are those making donations and holding flowers from her garden are: Left to Right- Dorothy Lober, Lyndall Pigg, Linda Kitch, Harold Feikert, Sharon Landry in her garden hat, Cynthia Elam, District President Judy Worthington, and Marla Butcher. not pictured is Bonnie Hensley.

DUPO LODGE #1009 PRESENTS CHECK



Larry Gean presented Kelly Carpenter Superintendent of Schools from Dupo Odd Fellow Lodge #1009 a check for \$500.00 for our Scholarship Program in Dupo , IL.

FLORA LODGE #151 NEW MEMBERS WITH SPONSORS



Brittany Redenhaur, Rick Herring, Ciaria Herring, Rich Herring and Karen Herring.

TEN NEW MEMBERS INITIATED



Ten new members initiated in on April 7th. 6 for the Flora Lodge, 2 for the Salem Lodge and 2 for the Tuscola Lodge. It was a Great Day.

*Noble Grand
Matthew Diefenbach*



Dennis Hassebrock and Pat Hassebrock.



Jim Diefenbach, Matthew Diefenbach and Betty Diefenbach.

MT. ZION LODGE

On April 16th, the Mt Zion Lodge held a recognition dinner before their regular lodge meeting. The Noble Grand wanted to recognize members and present the 5 and 10 - year membership pins. The membership was treated to Chef Higar's BBQ pork chop sandwiches, baked chicken parmesan, macaroni and cheese, and chips. The food was great and with 42 members in attendance, there was a great deal of fellowship.

In March 2008 the Mt Zion Lodge was struggling with just a few members carrying the load. A group of 19 new lodge members came on board. Those members, with the support of the previously existing members, played an integral role in shaping the future of the lodge, remodeling the lodge and recruiting additional members into the lodge. Of the 19 new

members that came aboard, 14 remain members today. These 10 - year members continue to provide guidance and leadership for our lodge brothers and include 4 Past Noble Grands, the current Noble Grand Shane Sloan, Treasurer, our web designer, numerous "Brothers Odd" band members, fundraiser coordinators for Frosty 5K, Mud Volleyball, Golf Outings as well as possessing various skillsets which have proven useful in maintaining our lodge. John and Justin Wheeler represent the 3rd and 4th generations of Odd Fellows.

The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge will also be honoring Dennis White and Don Hyland this fall. We respect and value all our senior lodge brothers and want everyone to know how much they truly mean to us.



10 year members, first row L-R: John Wheeler, Billy Jacobs, Pat Drum, Jeff Green, Justin Wheeler, Greg Woodrum and Jay Woodrum. Second row: Doug Shafer, Kerry Toothman, Brett Dilbeck, Jeff Miller, Shane Sloan and Mark Dombroski. Not pictured, Steve Meyers.

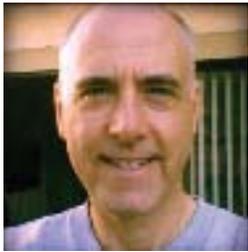


The 5 - year members many of whom were brought into the lodge through the involvement of the above 10 - year members. Some had not received their 5 - year pin from last year and were included. This group also has very active members, including 2 PNG's. Front row: Jeff Mays, Josh Lowder, Paul Higar, Ed Coleman and Brandon Guernsey. Second row: Brian Gee, Dustin Fink and Jon Thomas.



Pictured above: NG Shane Sloan presents Mike Gorrell ('12) and Bob Hawkins ('11) with the 5 - year pins. Soon to be 45 year member, Dennis White, presented the current NG Shane Sloan with his 10 year pin. Also in attendance was Don Hyland, a soon to be 60 year member.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT IF YOUR LODGE IS DIEING OR NEEDS NEW MEMBERS



*Joseph Dowdy
Lompoc Lodge
#248*

In 50 years, the most senior members of your lodge are in their 20s and 30s right now. Your lodge, if it still exists, is going to be run by today's millennial's and their children. Those 20- to 30-somethings with beards and tattoos you see today are going to be the elders. The good news is that they care more about others than you may realize.

Odd Fellows and Rebekah's today are plagued by the trappings of a very old institution that may be very unappealing to those 20- and 30-something future leaders of your lodge. Your



lodge may not have internet access; my lodge does not. Your lodge may be overdue for repairs; my lodge is that way. When 20- and 30-something future leaders visit your lodge, they may not want to invite their friends because the body of the lodge is almost certainly going to be 90% senior citizens. The future leaders of your lodge won't see that future unless they can make it their own lodge with the kinds of things their friends expect. Most lodges today are like a Model T sitting at a Ford dealership waiting for someone to love them for what they are; my lodge is that way to me and I am proud to love my lodge but I'm also 53.

If you want to leave a legacy to future generations and grow futures leaders in your town, you need to figure out how



the lives of those future leaders can be enriched by becoming an Odd Fellow. Ask yourself, "What's in it for them?" and then be prepared to not have the right answer.

Getting the correct answer may be

your biggest challenge. You may need to get past all those things you have heard about millennial's being self-entitled and lackadaisical just so that you can get an answer.

And when you find out what they want, you may need to work just as hard as them to grow your lodge and bring in new members; you can't expect them to do it by themselves and only how you see fit. That is a recipe for disaster to take that Model T and tell them it's in their will so good luck.



What you may need to do is to fast track their leadership in your lodge and be willing to put it, both figuratively and

literally, in their hands. Give them the reigns early so that you can be there to coach them and provide context in the way that only a seasoned member can do. You may wonder how you are going to do this and I am telling you that the answer is friendship.

So, let me confess something to you here. I am new to Odd Fellows. I have been in our lodge for about nine months and I have yet to receive my friendship degree. If I am saying something that isn't correct, you will have to forgive me as I am new.

But something I can see, even from my beginners' perspective, is that if you want to be someone's friend then you must set your differences aside. I'm sure there are things about even your best friend from childhood that you don't like and you've set that aside so that you can continue to be friends. No one is perfect and neither is your best friend. So since you have experience setting aside differences, you'll need to do that a lot with your future lodge leaders... And I do believe this is what Odd Fellows are all about.

One of the things I love most about Odd Fellows is that we have rules to set aside many of our differences by avoiding sectarian and political debate. (If only Facebook could do that!) In all the news media, it's very easy to see that the people giving you the news are divided on one side and misrepresenting people on the other side. As someone who worked as a combat correspondent and a broadcast journalist, it is glaringly obvious to me that much of today's news is driven by an agenda rather than by an objective truth. Like two people watching a car crash from different angles, even two people watch-

ing the same thing can't always agree upon who was in the right. And like the story of the blind men describing an elephant they have never encountered, we don't know what we are experiencing because we say what we think we know instead of patiently going all the way around full circle.

The Odd Fellows, because we set aside sectarian and political debate, are in a unique position to teach



our fellow Americans a thing or two about friendship. We know how to hold our tongues when it comes to discussing the kind of things that divide and even break years of friendship and even family relations (which I know from my own experience). In our lodge, I am friends with people that I would not ordinarily be friends with and that is a lesson that is not lost on me. When I think about bringing people to our lodge, I know I may need to hold my tongue and reserve judgment about who I think they are and what they can do for themselves and the lodge. I must listen to them and determine if they see what I see in them or if they can one day. And I am strategic in talking to those who enjoy volunteering and building community around them; those are my kind of people who I think would make great Odd Fellows.

There is something else I can say that I know about prospective lodge members. You can appeal to what we, as Americans, have in common. Americans love to give time and money to worthy causes. Give people a cause and they will step up. Americans are the most generous in terms of giving and, if you ask me, they are closer to being Odd Fellows than they realize. Maybe our generosity stems from the quality of our character as Americans. Who put the glow into the Golden Age of Fraternalism when it became so widely accepted? With one or two out of five people being members of a fraternity, was it the benefits of giving or the benefits of receiving that made it so popular? Brotherly love and friendship and helping the orphan, widow and the sick and those in need are really in our DNA as Americans and so it is also very American to have a friend who "has your back." I think so long as we are clear about what we do that we can be attractive even to millennial's

because we, as brothers and sisters, need to “have each others’ backs” if we are to grow our lodges together.

And that brings about my final point I want to bring up. We can either invite people to our lodge and watch them struggle to figure out who we are and what we’re about and have untrusting ideas about passwords and handshakes and secrets or we can be found in the community doing what we say we are about. And if you feel that you are too old or too tired to volunteer in your community then it may be too late for you and your lodge; I’m not saying this to be unkind but to spur you into action. Let me tell you why it is so important to be found by these future leaders in your community making a difference.

My daughter, who is 10 years old, sells toys. How she sells toys is to go where kids are (like farmers’ markets) and then play in front of them. The kids see the toys and they get their parents to buy them. And my daughter charges three times what others charge for the same toys. The parents don’t always buy but she moves on and keeps playing. She even hands out those toys on occasion, so the kids (who have parents who don’t buy) aren’t sadly empty-handed. In one night, my daughter has made over \$100 for three hours of work because I told her that all she needs to do is go out and play and kids will want to do what she is doing. If you think about how this applies to Odd Fellows, it could be the best way to “sell” someone on Odd Fellowship; just apply the same principle. Get your lodge together as a body and go somewhere together, do something that others would want to do and let that be the thing that draws them to join you. And you could also consider that going individually where others are; and having fun there will also draw in others to be your friend. Truly, a stick in the mud is not a good friend. And if you really want to go all out, take a look at what no one else is doing in your community that someone should be doing and let that be what draws them in; this is what I consider the true definition of leadership and it is the best way to get people interested in you.

Odd Fellows was all about helping others who needed help when it became so enormously popular. Nothing has changed in that respect. The future of your



lodge depends on how willing you are to take action. You don’t always have to do the work yourself because you can always partner with other non-profits but you can’t just be a bump on a log and expect movement in your lodge. You can try to reproduce projects that succeed like other lodges are doing. You would be surprised how a simple flyer can expose someone to Odd Fellows and leave a great impression. Ultimately, the winning formula that you choose to follow will be up to you. It’s time to experiment and risk failing until you get the hang of it. This is your opportunity to focus on doing something to attract those future leaders. As my daughter would tell you, fun is irresistible. Have some fun and others will find you fun to be with. Be of service and others will join you if it is in their heart to serve. Be the role model for those future leaders of your lodge because no one else is going to do it for you.

Heart In Hand, Independent Order Of Odd Fellows, Ioof, Joseph Dowdy, Millenials, Model T, Odd Fellows, Oddfellows

PUBLISHED BY AINSLIE

Ainslie is a Tattoo Artist and co-owns Vintage Karma in Tuscola, IL. He is an Odd Fellow and founding member and Past Grand of Tuscola #316 which is right above the tattoo studio. Ainslie is also a member of Owl Creek Rebekah #91, Champaign Encampment #68, and Zonar Canton #18, all of Fisher, IL. He is also on the Grand Lodge of IL IOOF Web Committee and the Sovereign Grand Lodge Communications Committee and built/maintains their websites and Facebook Pages and is a founder of the Heart in Hand blog. When he is not tattooing or Odd Fellowing he built/maintains the official website and Facebook page for guitarist G.E. Smith and helps keep the fans connected. View all posts by Ainslie.



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



I trust all cantons have installed their officers and are planning for their inspection. Contact me if you need an inspection officer.

The Department Council and Ladies Association of Illinois are to have a Field Meet and joint practice on Saturday, June 30 at 10 a.m. in Havana. Chevaliers your Class A uniform is preferred but you may wear your Class B, 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, marching commands. We are also practicing the Decoration of Chivalry Ceremony. We should be done by noon. This is an opportunity for every patriarch militant member to practice and ask questions.

Archie Bruce



May 13, 2018

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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BEN HUR LODGE CHARTER ORGANIZATION FOR BOY SCOUT TROOP #190



Earlier this year, Ben Hur Lodge became the Charter Organization for the newly formed Boy Scout Troop 190 in Spring Grove. On March 19th, the lodge was invited to the troop's Court of Honor, which is a very special event for the troop. Ben Hur Lodge is very proud of the scouts and honored to be a part of their adventure.

Gregg Bowen

Noble Grand

Odd Fellows - Ben Hur Lodge 870