



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 182nd Year

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LAYING A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Pictured L-R: Bonnie Hensley Secretary of LAPM, Janet Bruce Grand Matriarch, Deputy Dept Commander, Donna Grable Assembly President, Jim Bott Grand Master.

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW
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GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



to make great decisions on just who deserves our help the most.

My congrats to that entire team for your honest and sincere efforts in forwarding our work!!

There will be several events happening in June that you will want to put on your schedule.

JUNE 8: Encampment Degree Day in Dupo. There is always a good time there, so bring your candidates.

JUNE 14 & 15: AMOS day in Macomb and Bushnell.

JUNE 23: The much anticipated Children's Home Picnic. It has been a long time since we have had a statewide event like this, so plan on bringing your family and be ready for a day of fun.

JUNE 29: LAPM/PM FIELD DAY in PEORIA. Come and learn. We have some very skilled people in Illinois that I always learn skills from. This should be a good day!

JULY 13: Photo event in Springfield. There has been a lot of planning on this, so I'm sure that this will be a great day. I'm really looking forward to this. Load up your cars and meet up downtown for this special Illinois 200th Anniversary event.

*Thanks & in FL&T
Jim Bott, Grand Master*

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

We enjoyed all the celebrations during the month of May, including: National Skilled Nursing Care Week, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. There were numerous activities to participate in. We hosted community bingo, had daily themed dress up days, had a truck stop breakfast available, trivia games for all to participate in, and one day we even had a local restaurant food truck come in for lunch.

This month we will be hustling again due to, fit to serve being here 2 times, D Day, Flag Day, and Father's Day just to mention a few activities for June. It's so heartwarming to see the residents enjoying themselves during events, such as these.

We are ready for the nice warm sunny days to come and stay. The residents love to go out and enjoy the sun and warm weather.

Until next month- take care and be well.

*Danita Starwalt,
Community Relations Coordinator*

Six months of my term is over. Started the seventh month on a high note.

We were honored to be able to go on the Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown, in Arlington, VA. The tradition continued as my partner, Donna Grable, and I proudly laid the wreath of Illinois at the steps of the Tomb. (see photos elsewhere in this issue.)

You cannot measure the admiration that I have for the Honor Guards at the Tomb!

This was the eighth time that I have been to Arlington and I can feel the air around me each time. Something in that air is just different. There are surely Angels by the tens of thousands watching over this small bit of land where so many have been laid to rest. My most humble words can never tell the measure of respect that I will always hold for those that died so that I can live. So that we all could live.

Arlington National Cemetery is the #1 place that all Americans should try to go before it is too late.

In April, I was asked to present a Scholarship to a young man in Canton, Illinois.

This is certainly one of the perks of being a Grand Master!

The Illinois Odd Fellow / Rebekah Scholarship program, since 1985 has issued \$606,000.00 in Scholarships to the youth in our jurisdiction. That is a LOT of money. It also represents a LOT of Illinois young men & women that have been helped as they start their life towards adulthood.

The Scholarship Committee has one of the most difficult jobs in our Order as each year they sift through over 100 applications and they always seem

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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



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Donna Peterson	7/2/36
Rosemary Hogge	7/5/36
Murry Choate	7/8/28
Delores Cobb	7/10/31
Merle Lowry	7/10/31
William Hildreth	7/14/49
Peggy Scott	7/21/29
Effie Pforr	7/22/31

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I have just returned from the Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C.. Grand Master Jim and I accompanied by Janet Bruce, Chief Patriarch of Illinois, and Bonnie Hensley, Secretary of the L.A.P.M. of Illinois were proud to lay the wreath on behalf of the Illinois Rebekahs and Odd Fellows. It was wonderful to have so many states present representing Odd Fellowship. This was the experience of a life time and one I will never forget. It does make one feel good that we honor those loved ones we lost in times of war and those that served that we might live in a free nation. While in Washington I was fortunate to see so many of the Memorials that have been built in honor of the leaders of our country and especially the War Memorials dedicated to those who gave their lives for us. I met many Rebekahs and Odd Fellowes from other jurisdictions and made new friends. I even got my time of shopping in. My thanks to our Grand Master Jim and his lovely wife, Annette, for letting Nan and I ride with them. And to their daughter, Abby, who resides there and was our personal guide. Despite the rainy weather while there, I had a fantastic time and am planning on returning next year.

Once again, April was a very busy month. Rebekah District #6 was held on Saturday, April 13th at Carpentersville. It was a wonderful meeting. They have so many young members that attend their lodge and work together very well. The brunch they served was delicious. They presented me with a beautiful Coral colored Tea Rose. My daughter has planted it for me at her house as I do not do well with plants. Coming home I drove

through two I-Passes and had to pay for then on line which they equaled more the two charges together. Then on April 27th we went to Arthur for Rebekah District #19 meeting. The Vice President and I were driving down the highway and realized we had gone approximately forty miles too far so we were late. When we got to the meeting we learned that the three sisters coming from the Bloomington area had done the same thing so this was the laugh of the day. We Rebekahs do have fun wherever we go. This, too, was a great meeting, they had so much delicious food.

Rebekah District #11 meeting will be held on Saturday, May 18th at the Odd Fellowship Hall located at 136 N. Adams, Lewistown. Registration will be at 11:00 a.m.; lunch at 11:30 a.m. and meeting to begin at 1:00 p.m.. Send reservations to Sandra Coulter, 566 W. Broadway, Ipava, IL 61441 or call 309-753-8813 or 309-338-1518.

Don't forget to put June 23rd on your calendar. That is the day we will come together to celebrate 200 years of Odd Fellowship on the North American Continent. It will be held at the

Children's Home, 845 Wyatt Avenue, Lincoln, Il. from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.. Fill your cars and come join us for a day of good food, entertainment, Friendship, and Fellowship.

Rebekah District #26 will be held on Saturday, June 1st at the Odd Fellow Hall located at 201 S. Main St., Troy upstairs over A & R Crafts and Paints. Registration will at 9:30 a.m. and meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m.. The Rebekah Degree will be conferred on newly elected candidates. If you have candidates to be initiated, please let me know. We would be happy to include them. The Assembly Officers will be taking part in the Degree Work.

I hope that every member took time to celebrate Memorial Day in a way to pay tribute to those who lost their lives to keep our nation free. We will never forget them.

In closing, remember, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away".

In F. L. T.

Donna F. Grable

Assembly President

EVENTS THIS MONTH

JUNE 2019

- 1 REBEKAH DISTRICT #26, GRANITE CITY
- 8 SPECIAL ENCAMPMENT DEGREE DAY. DUPO
- 11 MUSEUM COMMITTEE, LINCOLN
- 15 REBEKAH DISTRICT #20, HAVANA
- 18 IOOF MANAGEMENT CORP/HOUSING, LINCOLN
- 23 CHILDREN'S HOME 200TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC, LINCOLN
- 25 EXECUTIVE BOARD, LINCOLN
- 28 IOOF/REBEKAH HOME BOARD, MATTOON



FLAG DAY
June 14th

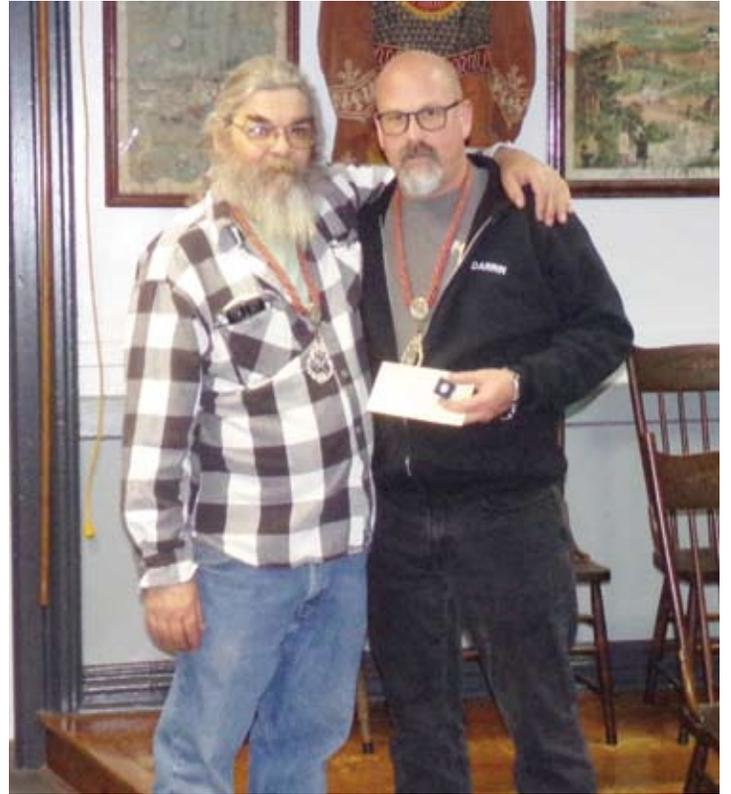


FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 16

CENTURY LODGE #482 CARPENTERSVILLE



During the Thursday, February 28th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville Noble Grand Grant Dudar (left) presented Brother Johnny Howard with a "I Got One" pin for sponsoring a new member.



During the Thursday, February 28th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville Noble Grand Grant Dudar (left) presented Brother Johnny Howard with a "I Got One" pin for sponsoring a new member.



During the Thursday, February 28th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville Noble Grand Grant Dudar (left) presented Brother Joe Incapreo with a "I Got One" pin for sponsoring a new member.

PRESENTING PIN TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Pictured is Donna presenting her pin to the Library of Congress. Both Jim and Donna now have their pin on permanent display at the Library of Congress.

RE-DEDICATION OF S. COLFAX MONUMENT



On April 27, Dick and Linda Jones, along with G.M. Jim Bott, traveled to Indianapolis to witness the re-dedication of the S. Colfax monument as well as the grand opening of the Odd Fellow Museum. Our praises go out to all our Indians Brothers and Sisters that put this day together!

BRIGHTON LODGE #366 CLEANED HIGHWAY #38



On Saturday, April 20th the members of Brighton Lodge #366 cleaned up several miles of trash along the highway. 38 bags of trash were picked up. It was a day of great Odd Fellowship. Thanks to all!

ERIE LODGE #38 AT D.A.R.E. GRADUATION

Erie Lodge #38 donated T-shirts to the Carlyle 5th grade D.A.R.E. Graduation held in Carlyle, Illinois on May 10, 2019.



Pictured are Officer Mark Taylor, D.A.R.E. Instructor, and Bob Seiffert, Noble Grand of Erie Lodge #38, along with students, parents, teachers, family and friends during the D.A.R.E. Graduation.

FLORA LODGE #151 SUPPORTS DARE



Flora Lodge #151 was at Floyd Henson Jr. High to celebrate 200 yrs of Odd Fellowship in North America and 30 years of the DARE program by passing out the new DARE shirts for the 2019 6th grade graduating DARE class.

There were approximately 250 shirts distributed on Friday April 26, 2019. The ceremony was held at 10:30 a.m. in the commons room.

This years Flora Lodge #151 representatives were; Rich Herring, Matt Diefenbach, Rick Tucker, Jim Diefenbach, Donna Orwig and Betty Diefenbach.

Betty Diefenbach, Noble Grand Flora Lodge #151

KENT STALEY PRESIDENT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTED SCHOLARSHIPS



Wednesday morning the two of the members of the local Flora Odd Fellows Lodge #151 (DDGM Kent Staley & Past Grand Master of Illinois Rich Herring) delivered two scholarships to Flora High Schools seniors. Receiving the Scholarships were Chloe McGee and Abigail Gindlesberger. The Odd Fellows in Illinois have delivered over \$600,000.00 in Illinois since the scholarship program began.

ERIE LODGE #38 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP

Erie Lodge presented a scholarship at the Honors Program held at Carlyle High School in Carlyle, Illinois on May 8, 2019.



Pictured (left to right) are Bob Seiffert, Noble Grand of Erie Lodge, presenting to Madison Boatright a \$1,000 Erie Lodge Scholarship. Madison plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED



The Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship program started giving out scholarships in 1985, giving away a total of \$606,000. That is an average of almost \$18,000 per year for 34 years. Mt Zion seniors have benefited from these scholarships in the past and this year, on May 6th, 2019, Vice Grand Jeff Mays of the Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge presented Mt Zion senior, Cade Baker, with a \$1,000 Illinois Odd Fellow Scholarship. Cade intends to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering through the University of Illinois. Cade stated that he hopes to obtain an amazing education at the University of Illinois and use that education for the betterment of humanity. The Mt Zion Odd Fellows are proud to recognize our future leaders such as Cade Baker and the local Odd Fellows Lodge will be making their own additional scholarship awards during the Mt. Zion High School Awards Ceremony.



SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED BY JIM BOTT GRAND MASTER AND ARLAN MILLER GRAND TREASURER

On May 9th, Arlan Miller and I had the honor of presenting an Odd Fellow/Rebekah Scholarship to John Osborne of Canton, Illinois. This young man was quite impressive and is the epitome of our hopes for the future.

I not only congratulate John on his success, But I applaud his parents for raising such a fine young man.



Pictured left to right: Jim Bott Grand master John Osobrne, Theresa & Charles Osborne Jr. and Arlan Miller Grand Treasurer.

LESTER BROTHERS RECEIVE THEIR 45 YEAR PINS

At the April 2nd meeting of Military Tract Lodge #145 of Good Hope, the four Lester brothers were presented their 45 year pins. The Lester family has a long history in Odd Fellowship. Their father Lyman was a 50 year member of Military Tract Lodge, and their mother Darlyne was a long time member of Macomb Rebekah lodge 322. Grand Treasurer Arlan Miller was in attendance and presented the pins.



Pictured left to right are Allen Lester, Roderick Lester, Lyman "Stanley" Lester, Terry Lester and Arlan Miller.

FLORA LODGE #151 HELD 200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday April 27th 2019, Flora Lodge #151 had their normal lodge meeting. This meeting had an element of excitement as Flora Lodge in conjunction with the Salem Lodge gathered together to celebrate. The day before marked the 200th Birthday of Odd Fellowship in North America.

Thee Bi-Centennial celebration begin with the speech by Matt Diefenbach, the Region #5 Director. His speech was about the events occurring in 1819 in North America. This was the same year that birth of Odd Fellows occurred. The first Odd Fellows Lodge was founded by Thomas Wildey and four others in Baltimore, Maryland at the Seven Stars Tavern on April 26th 1819. The order did not arrive in Illinois until 1836 and the first lodge chartered was called the Western Star #1 located in Alton, Illinois. This Lodge is still very active today. The order came to Flora and was chartered in 1895.

We also had a speech from Rich Herring about the state of the order, our purpose and motto which is; "Friendship, Love and Truth" as well as our objective; "To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man". He also expressed how the Flora Lodge is unique in that we have two past Grandmasters: Rich Herring and Clyde Linton. In addition, we also have District Deputy Grand Master: Kent Staley and Grand Regional Director for Region #5: Matt Diefenbach. Rich stated, "Our lodge is truly blessed".

Other guests included a visit from the Mayor Mike Stanford as well as our State Representative Darren Bailey. Darren was kind enough to speak about current events in our state and region. He was asked and graciously accepted the honor of leading us in prayer prior to our meal.

We also we're happy to have other Representatives such as Sandy Smith with Santa Smiles. As well as, Tom Greenwood from the band group: "The Benefits". Last but not least, we also enjoyed fellowship with Salem Lodge members: Brice McGee, Elwood Hayes and Marty Hayes.

We would like to thank all who attended and helped in making the celebration a huge success.

Betty Diefenbach, Noble Grand Flora Lodge #151



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.

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CENTURY LODGE #482 CARPENTERSVILLE CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

Our Celebration began with a proclamation from Village President John Skillman of Carpentersville making this week Odd Fellows Week! During our celebration we received news that one of our brothers, Skeeter came home after a day in the hospital receiving stints and clearing clots from heart. We passed a hat for Brother Skeeter, a Awesome Dinner was served by our kitchen staff, while a couple Brothers brought Brother Skeeter some food.

At 8 p.m. Odd Fellows only retired into Lodge room, here some secret signs of the Order from long ago were demonstrated, then heard testimonials from Brothers Hearts about the Order. A Louisville Slugger Commemorative 200 yr Baseball Bat was signed to be displayed, with the first to sign 74 yr. member Brother Ed Mullard!

Lastly we recreated a photograph taken in Lodge room around 1919.

Thank You to all the Brothers from District #21 that attended this Event.

The theme of this event was: Friendship is our Contest, Love is our Weapon and Truth shall lead us to Victory!!!

All done exactly on the day April 26th and in our same gathering room as our forefathers of Century Lodge #492.

**REMINDER CHILDREN'S HOME
200th YEAR PICNIC AT THE
CHILDREN'S HOME IN LINCOLN, IL
FROM NOON TO 3:00 P.M.**



Century Lodge #492
Carpentersville, Illinois
April 26, 2019

