



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 182nd Year*

VOL. 67, NO. 7

USPS 258240

July 2019

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

IARA PRESIDENT PATTY HEIGHTON TESTIMONIAL WEEKEND



Group attending IARA President Patty Heighton Testimonial weekend in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Left to right: SGL Secretary Terry Barrett, Past IARA President Hazel Moore, Past IL Rebekah Assembly Treasurer Cynthia Elam, Past IL RA President DeNelda Davis, Secretary IL Ladies Patriarch Militant Secretary and Past RA President Bonnie Hensley, Past IL LAMP President Clara Kay Nott and her husband Charles Nott.

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
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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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Mary Weber	8/1/26
Sharon Wendel	8/1/39
Janice Brand	8/3/22
Nancylee Allen	8/8/30
Mary Lawyer	8/8/30
Loretta Temples	8/10/42
Michael Maulding	8/12/51
Priscilla Johnson	8/16/25
Juanita Kasey	8/19/24
Julia Shasteen	8/19/36
Judy Mantell	8/24/48
Nancy Long	8/28/37



IN MEMORIAM

MAURICE F. COX

February 11, 1936 - May 23, 2019

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU'S

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah scholarship award. Thank you so much for your generosity. By receiving this scholarship these past few years has truly impacted my college experience in a positive way.

As I complete my education at St. Louis College of Pharmacy, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Without a doubt this scholarship will play a key role in achieving my educational dreams. Because of your generosity, the financial burden placed on me to pursue my education will be relieved. Thank you again for your thoughtful & generous gift.

Sincerely,
Courtney Dieters

Thank you for Scholarship
Odd Fellows Association

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship award! I'm deeply honored to be the recipient of this wonderful award!

Thank You
Abigail Gindlesberger

Dear Illinois Odd Fellow Rebekah
Scholarship Committee,

As I complete my final days of High School, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. As much as I look forward to spreading my wings and experiencing college, I know that my foundation was built with the guidance and love from the teaching staff and community members of CUSD #301. I appreciate all of the times staff members and community members made me smile, provided me encouragement, supported me in learning new things, and encouraged me to make a positive difference in the lives of others by giving back.

As a future Sycamore at Indiana State University, I know I will continue to build on what I've been taught during my 12 years of school. They focus

on community involvement and service, so it will feel like home. I will seek my degree in Dietetics with a focus on chemistry. I would like to obtain my PHD and work as an accredited oncology nutritionist. My goal is to work directly with people and to make a positive difference in their lives. I look forward to the many opportunities college will present to me. It is an exciting time in my life.

Thank you for all you've done and continue to do for the students and community of Tuscola, in addition to the support shown throughout the state. I feel very fortunate to have grown up in such a supportive community. While I dream of big cities and new opportunities, I understand the many gifts our small community has brought into my life. While I hope to explore and try new things, I know that I will make frequent visits home and remain a part of the community I am fortunate enough to call home.

Sincerely,
Sara Kremitzki

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

SUMMER in full swing! We have been ready and waiting for some great sunshine and breezy days. Several of the residents have enjoyed sitting outside soaking up some much needed sunshine. It's amazing what that does for them. They are so blessed with a beautiful view to sit and enjoy.

Remodel is COMPLETE! Oh what a beautiful place for families and residents to enjoy. It is so bright and cheerful, everyone comments on the brightness and beauty.

The month of June was great celebrating Father's Day, Flag Day and we had ALEX's Lemonade Stand for a week. Which was selling Lemonade Shake Ups to raise money for Childhood Cancer Awareness.

In July we will be having our Independence Day Celebration, we'll be doing some Line Dancing demos with optional participation. Debbie Bensley will be here playing piano and singing along with Residents! (They LOVE it). Plus many more activities too numerous to mention.

Until next month- take care and be well.

Danita Starwalt
Community Relations Coordinator

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



A Day in the Life . . .

I'd like to tell you all about one day in the life of the President of the Rebekah Assembly and your Grand Master.

It all started on the morning of May 15th around 6:00 a.m. when I got up and got ready to meet with Donna at a truck stop in Troy. I had asked her to meet at 8:00 a.m., which was really too early, but I misjudged the amount of time needed to drive to Springfield. So, we met and drove up to Springfield, where I found out that we had an hour or more to kill, so Donna suggested that we go to Bob Evans for breakfast. We had a nice breakfast and around 9:40 a.m. or so we went over to the Crown Plaza where we met with other committee members to discuss the upcoming Grand Lodge Session. That business concluded around noon.

We went straight from the Crown Plaza, along with Dick and Linda Jones, to the Capitol Building, where we were to meet with our State Representative. The session was already in session, so I dropped Dick, Linda and Donna off at the front steps and I went to park the car. After looking for a half hour, I found a parking garage over by the Lincoln Library. (about 1 mile away). There are apparently no cabs in Springfield, so I walked back to the Capitol building and met up with the rest of our people. About this time an aid texted me so that she could locate us and take us to the Gallery. It was quite crowded that day, so we had to take a "secret" elevator up to where we needed to be.

Once seated, we waved to our Representative, Monica Bristow, and before long she read our proclamation regarding the 200th Anniversary of Odd Fellows and the good works that we have accomplished in Illinois. I was really, pleasantly surprised when another Representative from Northern Illinois, Allen Skillicorn, rose and added his most sincere support of this Resolution. This gave us bi-partisan statewide support. This really made my day!

Once the vote on this was concluded (100% Support) we took photos with Rep. Bristow and made our way out.

I force marched my way back to the car, picked up the passengers and by that time we were all more than ready to eat. We found a Steak-n-Shake and refueled.

I took Dick & Linda back to their car and they headed for Jerseyville. Again, Donna & I had a little time to kill, so of course, we headed to the nearest Antique store!

After several great finds that neither of us could live without, we left around 4:30 p.m. or so and headed to Maroa, Illinois where we were scheduled to present a Scholarship to a young lady at her Senior Awards night. We arrived at the High School where we were informed that we would be presenting last since our girl was playing in her last soccer game and would be arriving late.

All went well that night, and Donna and I left that town feeling honored and grateful to the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's for their work in supporting so many youth throughout Illinois.

We got back to Troy where I saw Donna to her car. We both got home a little after midnight. A long day. A gratifying day. A day that made us proud to be members of such a great organization!

Keep up the good PROGRESS!!

Jim Bott, Grand Master

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I find it hard to believe that nine months of my term has passed into history. In approximately three months we will be meeting for the Sessions in Springfield. I hope that many of you will attend. Remember, the dates have changed. The Sessions will begin on Sunday evening, October 6th with the Banquet and Joint Opening followed by the meetings on Monday and Tuesday, October 7th and 8th.

On May 15th the Grand Master and I accompanied by Richard and Linda Jones went to the Capitol to meet with State Representative Monica Bristow for the Proclamation for 200 years of Odd Fellowship on the North American

Continent. Later that day Jim and I traveled to Maroa to present the Glen Coursey Scholarship to one of the Graduating Seniors. It was a good feeling to see so many students obtain Scholarships presented by many different organizations.

On May 18th Audrey, Nann, and I attended District #11 meeting at Lewistown. The attendance was good and the food served by the Christian Church was delicious. Some of the ladies of the lodge had baked homemade pies for dessert and they were wonderful. They had a very nice presentation of my Flag Fund. I added another kitty cat to my cat family and a beautiful Serenity Prayer Plaque. I appreciate all the lodges this year doing all the special things they had done for me.

Rebekah District #26 held their meeting in Troy on Saturday, June 1st. This was a special day as a sister and two brothers were initiated. Sister Marlene Kolbe was initiated for Pride of the West #544, Troy and Brothers Dave Jedlicka and Dave Sheffel for Ruby Rebekah Lodge #263, Jerseyville. We welcome them to our Fraternity. The Assembly Officers put on the degree and Sister Audrey Jones was in charge of the Scenes. What a great job they all did. The Three Little Kittens, namely Audrey, Nann, and June from Juanita #477 presented my Flag Fund and I went home with two more kitties. We were also happy to have two Jurisdictional members with us. These ladies had belonged to the Sims Rebekah Lodge in Sims, IL.

On June 8th I attended the Grand Encampment Session at Dupo where one candidate was initiated. The Degree Team did a great job. It was another great day of Friendship, Fellowship, and good food.

Things are looking up in District #26 where I belong. We have initiated two new members and another who was a member many years ago will be reinstated. Some of our members have become associate members of other Rebekah Lodges. We are trying to help each other and doing this shows support for one another.

July 4th is our Nation's Birthday. The Declaration of Independence was signed two hundred forty three ago on that date. Take time to celebrate this day and give thanks for our great heritage.

A reminder of the 200th Anniversary Picture to be taken on Saturday, July 13th at the State Capitol in Springfield. Please be there by 12 noon, the picture will be take at 2:00 p.m.. We are looking forward to many of you being there.

In closing, remember, "Be happy not because everything is good, but because you can see the good side of everything."

Donna Grable, Assembly President

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Rebekah Assembly President, Donna Grable and I have done a lot of traveling together in the past several months. Everywhere we go is always meaningful.

One of the best was a visit to Maroa, Illinois. We went there to present an Odd Fellow/Rebekah Scholarship to a young lady from Maroa Forsyth High School.

The school had invited us to their Awards Night, where over 70 High School Seniors received special awards as well as many Scholarships. We were allowed to be among the last to present because our recipient was at one of her last soccer games and it was running late. That was ok with me, since the delay allowed Donna and I time to watch all her other classmates come to the stage and receive their honors. I just want you to know that there are some pretty good kids out there in this world!

So, our young lady arrives and we were able to ask her to come up and receive her Scholarship. For her, it was the Glenn Coursey Agricultural Scholarship.

This is a \$1000.00 award that will help to defray the cost of college. In the case of Gabby Spencer, she will be going to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL. There, she will major in Agriculture Science.

Gabby's Ag teacher couldn't have been prouder and revealed that Gabby was one of her best students. I know that Donna and I will be wishing her the best for at least the next four years!

Submitted by Jim Bott GM



On May 9th, Grand Master Jim Bott was honored to travel with Arlan Miller to Canton, Illinois to present an Illinois Odd Fellow/Rebekah Scholarship to High School Senior, John Osborne. This \$1000 Scholarship will go towards his college expenses.

John plans on attending Spoon River Community College for his first two years and then transfer to the University of Illinois, where he will major in Diesel Engineering;

Meeting with John and his parents was a pleasure. In talking with them. I found that not only is John one of the top members of his class, but that he is also a four sport athlete. The more we spoke, the greater faith I had regarding this entire generation.

Best of Luck to John in all his future endeavors.

GUARDIAN LODGE #60 CLEANS UP

On 5/19 Guardian Lodge 60 performed highway clean up on Irving Rd. in Woodstock. We adopted this road at the request of the city because it was the most in need of attention. We pulled about 12 bags from both sides of the 1 mile stretch of road. 8 brothers and 2 family members showed that our community deserves our best work, our modest pride, our earnest faith and our deepest loyalty. In FL&T



Pictured left to right - Brian Piwowar, PG Ken Loos, Larry Kackley, Adam Fucharwicz, NG Chris Zapfe, Wric Becker, PG Eric Smith, Brian Bennett, Megan Bennett. Not pictured Jerry Fuscone.

Here is a simple idea:

Each Lodge should ensure that every PAST GRAND In their Lodge should receive the GRAND LODGE DEGREE.

Every Past Grand should try to attend the Grand Lodge Session.

This would create a greater pool of voices to help run the Grand Lodge.

YOU have a say in what happens for our future.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS



Memento Branch Rebekah Lodge #155 of Farmington, met on May 6, 2019 to award a \$1000.00 Illinois Odd Fellow Rebekah Scholarship to Kaitlynn Vallas of Yates City.

Linda Robinson presented Kaitlynn Vallas her Scholarship. Also Kaitlynn's mother, Mollie Vallas attended the presentation ceremony.

Refreshments were served after the presentation.



Faith Hardwick, a Tuscola Community High School student, was recently awarded a \$1,000 Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship. Laura Davis, Secretary of Tuscola Odd Fellows Lodge #316, at left in the photo, recently presented Faith with an award certificate. Faith plans to attend Parkland College this fall to pursue a degree in dental hygiene.



Sara Kremitzki, 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, recently presented her with an award certificate. Sara has been accepted into Indiana State University, A&S honors program and plans to further her education with a focus in dietetics.

ELGIN #12 HOLDS SHOOT OUT



Erie Lodge presented a scholarship at the Honors Program held at Mater Dei High School in Breese, Illinois on May 24, 2019. Pictured (left to right) are Bob Seiffert, Noble Grand of Erie Lodge, Alexis Patton and Colleen Seiffert, Secretary of Erie Lodge. Alexis Patton was awarded a \$1,000 Erie Lodge Scholarship. Alexis plans to obtain a degree in physical therapy and specialize in pediatric physical therapy.



On Saturday May 4th 2019, Elgin Lodge #12 held its first .22 Caliber Shoot Out. A delicious lunch was included. The weather even cooperated. It was a beautiful day with no rain, which was unusual for this cold rainy spring.

In FLT, Jim Turner

DISTRICT #11 PRESENTATIONS



Before the District #11 meeting held in Lewistown at the lodge hall began and following a wonderful meal, Sandra Coulter and Clara Kay Nott presented Lisa Tunney with her Scholarship Certificate from the Odd Fellow Rebekah Scholarship Fund of Illinois. Pictured are Clara Kay Nott, Lisa Tunney, Sandra Coulter, and Juanita Lasswell, Noble Grand of Lewistown Rebekah Lodge.



Sheila Reamer giving the Tribute to the Flag.



District #11 President and Assembly President Donna Grable during the meeting and the Presidents Fund presentation...pictured at table: Vice President, Nann Johnson and President Donna Grable, left to right-Lisa Miller, Glenda Postin, Sheila Reamer, Julie Edwards, and Katrina Coulter-Bowen.



Julie Edwards and Melinda Melhouse giving the Memorial.

ROCKFORD LODGE #140 IN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Once again Rockford Lodge #140 and Temple Rebekah Lodge #789 participated in the Young at Heart Parade on May 25 in Loves Park. The theme was honoring our military and lots of red, white and blue bunting along with military branch posters were displayed. Just as the parade began a torrential downpour began and finished as the parade was over. Members and friends handed out water bottles to the police officers and stickers to parade bystanders. After the parade it was off to the lodge hall where members, family and friends dried out and enjoyed a BBQ with all the fixins'. The public relations efforts of the day had 2 people signing applications for membership.



Sisters seating the president: Katrina Coulter-Bowen, Melinda Melhouse, Glenda Postin, and Lisa Miller.

A 30-YEAR TRADITION

“Plant a tree for the one who comes after me”

The Living Legacy program was an idea that formed by Sovereign Grand Master Wilson Berkey as he traveled throughout the jurisdictions he noticed the loss of trees which caused him great concern. So in 1989, he commissioned this project as “The Living Legacy program.” In March of 1990, Wilson Berkey passed away so this project has now become his “Living Memorial.”

The Odd Fellows Lodge #151 of Flora Illinois has been planting trees throughout the community for 30 years. Although most of these trees are at Charlie Brown Park, others have been placed throughout Clay County. “It is their way to give back to the community and beautify the landscape.” Trees fight global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving us oxygen needed for humans and animals alike.

So in honor of Wilson Berkey’s work, our own order of Odd fellows continue his legacy. This year on Monday, May 27th at Charley Brown Park, another tree was planted. This marks the 30th year and the 30th tree the Odd Fellows of Flora have added to beautify our community. This year’s tree was donated by Orschelns. It is a beautiful tulip tree planted on the north side of Park Road right before the turn off for Boat Ramp Drive. Vice Grand Rick Tucker broke ground and planted this tree.

Please take time to drive, walk or ride a bike through the park. The park is a truly beautiful place with a lot to offer.



Mayor presenting Proclamation to Flora Lodge #151. Pictured left to right - Noble Grand Betty Diefenbach, Vice Grand Rick Tucker and Mayor of Flora Mike Stanford.



200 yr quilt square and tree. Pictured left to right - Rick Tucker, Betty Diefenbach, Pat Hassebrock, Dennis Hassebrock.



Flora Odd Fellows banner. Pictured left to right - Matt Diefenbach, Caity Diefenbach, Rich Herring, Ciara Herring, Kelly Logan, Donna Orwig.



Breaking ground - Rick Tucker and Betty Diefenbach.

\$2,653.00 WAS RAISED BY SGL FOR YOUTH

Remember all those jars of change that we filled last year for the Sovereign Grand Lodge? This was the total received for the International Youth Committee (which is chaired by our own Steve Adams!!)

Most people at the SGL agreed that Illinois was responsible for collecting almost 75% of that amount or around \$1,850.00.

This just proves, once again, that Illinois Odd Fellows stand out as leaders among the international community!

Great Job, Brothers & Sisters for answering the call of ODD FELLOWSHIP and PROGRESS!!!



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
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GRAND ENCAMPMENT - SPECIAL SESSION

On June 8th, the Grand Encampment met in Special Session at Dupo for Degree Work. There was one candidate from Jerseyville Encampment #20. David Scheffel received all the Degrees.



Shown here are Donna Grable, Dave Scheffel, Janet Bruce, Grand Patriarch, and Jim Bott.

Thanks to Dupo for hosting this great event.

REBEKAH DISTRICT #26

Rebekah District Meeting was held at Troy. The Rebekah Degree was put on for three new members - Marline Kolbe, David Schaffel and David Jedlicka.

The Rebekah officers did the main parts members did the acting scenes.

Rebekah Officers - Were President Donna Grable, Vice President Nann Johnson, Warden Susan Schove, Secretary Janet Bruce, and Treasurer Carol Day.

President of the District is Mary Welburn. Grand Master Jim Bott took part in the Scenes.



Pictured L-R: Jim Bott GM, Marlene Kolbe, Donna Grable PA, David Scheffel and David Jedlicka.

