



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 181st Year*

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February 2018

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FEBRUARY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MONTH

Flora Ellen Sheets 9/5/1887 - 10/3/1975 -- Entered the Odd Fellows Children's Home, Lincoln, Illinois, along with her three sisters and one brother, on May 1, 1900. After graduation she taught in the home's grade school and joined the Rebekahs advancing to President of the Rebekah Assembly in 1922. Flora was the founder of the Educational Foundation on 9/20/1927. It was her feeling that the Odd Fellows and Rebekah could put into practice the principles of our Order by providing funds to assist worthy young people to receive a higher education. The purpose of the foundation is to operate a revolving loan fund for qualified students dependent in part, or wholly, on their own efforts for an education. It is supported by donations to the TRUST FUND and no part of the Trust Fund can be used for operating expenses. Since the beginning of the Foundation, donations of approximately 3,500,000 have made it possible for over 3,500 young people to receive student loans amounting to over \$6,800,000. Continued perpetuation of this fund depends solely upon contributions from our membership and prompt repayment by recipients of the loans.

It is required that applicants have a relative who is an active member of an Odd Fellow or Rebekah Lodge. A young person desiring a loan must write personally to the Executive Director for an application, stating age and school classification. All applicants must be attending halftime or more to be eligible.

Students may contact R. Kenneth Babb, Executive Director, Educational Foundation, IOOF, P.O. Box 20455, Winston-Salem, NC 27120 for an application.



ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW-REBEKAH SCHOLARSHIP

Although no connection to the Educational Foundation, the Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship program presented their first scholarship award during the Grand Lodge Session, October 1985, given by Grand Master George Rendek. The Grand Lodge invested \$100,000 for this purpose and has grown to over \$245,831. Donations to this fund were originally placed in the Principal using only the interest annually for scholarship's, however at this last Grand Lodge Session in October 2017, it was approved that if you wanted to make the donation available to the committee for the current year, **you must complete the form and have it submitted at the time the donation is received**, otherwise the donation will automatically go to the Principal Invested Funds. So far this year we have had at least one donation that was to be available for the committee to distribution this year, but because they did not submit the form with it, it went to the invested funds. **We have to follow the rules.** If you did not receive a "Thank You" from the Committee you know who you are. To date the Scholarship Committee has received \$1,250 from either five Lodges or individuals to be given during the Current Scholarship year. The state is divided into three sections Northern, Central and Southern and equal amount of awards are presented in each area. The value to be determined by the interest earned. Applications for this award may be obtained after December of each year, and the forms for donations are available at our web site <http://www.ioof-il.org/> until February 15th. Completed applications must be received at the Grand Lodge office before March 1st each year. Your Scholarship Committee has distributed \$540,000 since it was created in 1985.



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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.



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I.O.O.F. International
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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Beverly Crary	3/07/44
Evelyn Washburn	3/09/37
Betty Eisner	3/10/28
Sally Pierce	3/10/59
Harriet Blakemore	3/16/30
Carolyn Sego	3/29/39

IN MEMORIAM
LAWRENCE WARFEL
2-26-1923 — 12-5-2012
HARRY ECKELBERRY
8-28-1927 — 8-9-2017
MONA HEALY
VP of Rebekah Assembly of IL
7-10-1938 — 1-16-2018

ELLWOOD ENCAMPMENT ALL DEGREE DAY

When: February 10
Where: Sycamore Lodge
Time: 9:00 am open doors
Lunch: served by Rebekahs
Bring your candidates and help with the Degrees.



TUSCOLA ODD FELLOWS #316

Noble Grand Kari Beadles and Secretary Tracy Weaver deliver a \$1500 donation from the Tuscola Odd Fellows to the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Illinois. The Lodge obtained a grant from the Children's Home Board for the donation.



Pictured are (left to right) Robyn Carr, Kari, Pam Riddle, and Tracy). Robyn is a Senior Forensic Interviewer and Pam is the Executive Director.

When police or child protective services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC, a safe, child-focused environment, by a caregiver or other "safe" adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child. Then, a team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocacy, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child based on the interview.

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS FOR 2018**

Regional Meetings
Region #4 North February 10, 2018 at Jacksonville, registration 9 a.m., degrees 10 a.m.
Region #2 February 24, 2018 at Farmington
Region #4 March 3, 2018 at Waterloo
Region #3 March 10, 2018 at Mt Zion
Region #5 April 7, 2018 at Flora
Region 1 April 28, 2018 at Rockford

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.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Hello from the icy cold tundra of Central Illinois,

Have you been checking on your elderly neighbors or members that are homebound? Some people are not able to get out in this nasty weather don't forget when you go to the store give them a call see if you can pick something up for them. Maybe they just need some company for a bit, give them a call or stop and chat. We all can afford to give up an hour or so just to bring some warmth to someone.

I hope most of the cold weather is behind us now. All we can do is wait and hope for warmer weather with no snow in the forecast. I know I am looking forward to the warmer weather. Spring Meetings are just around the corner and with them I know that the time for me to put on my gardening shoes is coming soon. I can't wait to start planting my seeds and seeing what will be popping up in my new gardens. Each time I look out my kitchen doors I see my new yard and imagine just what I am going to do. Where am I going to dig flower beds, where will I plant my flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees? Where will the bird feeders, go? I must make plans because my gardens will not grow well without the correct light and birds & bees to pollinate them. Then I have to think on weed control, because who wants those in the gardens. Doesn't this sound like making plans for lodge functions? Imagine how we are going to make things work and what we need to get them going for our meetings or projects. Then fill the hall with the right things to get our members to attend and help out. If we do all of this can we get everyone on board and get going? Yes, I think we can. It just takes determination, some work and sometimes

getting our hands dirty. But the end result is what we are looking for and WOW! When you can stand back at the end and say look what we accomplished and how good it turned out that is the best thing! If we all help out it really isn't that hard. We have plenty of time to plan for now it's still cold outside but not to far away is those warm days we are dreaming about. Make your plans and share them with the other lodges and see if they will help or you can help them. It's what we do!! Get that carpool going and join in on different Spring Meetings see what is growing in that district and take it to another and share it with them.

Here's a project for you while the weather keeps us in. Make some valentines this year and send them to the nursing homes give the residents a smile. Send them to your fire and police departments, or just carry some in your purse to hand out to people you know. It just might make their day. A smile is a wonderful gift to give someone and it costs nothing.

Well that's all for now
See you on down the road
In F. L. & T.
Sharon

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

I can't believe it's already February. Everyone is staying busy here at the Home as always. With the cold weather, our activities are our main source of entertainment. A few activities taking place this month are Bingo, Glam It Up, cooking classes, coffee socials, crafts and a Valentine's Day party.

We are having our annual Valentine's Day Dinner with the residents and their families this month. We plan on enjoying some carved ham, hash brown casserole, green beans, dinner rolls and dessert. The residents always enjoy themselves and love spending time with their family. A big thank you in advance to the staff that will be coming in to help make this dinner possible, especially to the kitchen staff that always makes such a wonderful meal.

We continue to provide the Fellowship Center with BINGO prizes and they are always appreciative for the fun prizes we get them every other month.

Until next month - take care and be well.

Jenna Black
Community Relations Coordinator

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



To All Ladies and Chevaliers

I am sitting down writing this letter trying to stay warm, the temps are -5, with 5 inches of snow on the ground.

During these cold times we should remember our members. Who are not among us due to age or health reasons. Call them, find out how they are, it is the thought that counts and it will make you feel better.

With Valentines Day here it would be nice to send cards to our members and shut-ins to let them know you are remembering them. Getting a card from someone makes that person feel happy and it makes you feel good, also.

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

L - is for Life. Our lives are much more complete living it to the fullest.

O- is for Order. It is the corner stone of our lives.

V- is for Vigilance. Within our Lives, for the concern of everyone around us.

E- is for Equality. Treat everyone around us as equal.

Put these letters together and they spell LOVE.

Happy Valentines Day!

Lady Sheila Reamer

President

Ladies Auxiliary Patriarch's Militant



MT ZION #300 SELECTS THE SPONSOR OF THE YEAR



The Mt. Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 selected a sponsor of the year on January 13, 2018, we recognized our winner for 2017. The sponsor is a business, individual or entity which supports our community by sponsoring various groups, clubs or events. We are very lucky to have such a great community and it is thanks to the support of businesses, individuals and entities alike. The community support is crucial to the success of the community and impacts the scouts programs, youth sports and the many other events. The 2017 Mt Zion Odd Fellows Sponsor of the Year Award was awarded to Kenney's ACE Hardware. The picture depicts several Odd Fellow members with 2017 Noble Grand Brandon Guernsey presenting the Plaque and gift to Libby. 2018 Noble Grand Shane Sloan is pictured far left. Terry, Libby and the Kenney's ACE Hardware Crew have long supported the Odd Fellows and the entire Mt Zion community and we are thankful for their support.

*Jon Thomas, Secretary
Mt Zion I.O.O.F. Lodge #300*

CENTURY LODGE #492 CARPENTERSVILLE DONATES COATS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS



On Friday, December 22, Brother Casey Fernandez, and Brother Michael Wachinski delivered coats, gloves, hats etc to Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton, IL. The Veterans at the Shelter were very Happy for the donation. Remember NO HERO LEFT BEHIND.

CENTURY LODGE #492 CARPENTERSVILLE

Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville held its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16. A ham and turkey potluck dinner was served. Highlights of the evening was the arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus. All the children waited for there name to be called to get a gift from Santa. A great time was had by all members and families and guests.



All the Children were waiting for Santa & Mrs Claus.



Century #492 Kitchen Staff for party, Chino Garcia and Michael Wachinski.



Lorelei and Emily with Santa & Mrs. Claus, the girls are nieces of Brother Casey and Sister Lori Fernandez.

40 & 50 YEAR JEWEL PRESENTATIONS

Monday night January 8th PGM, Gr. Rep, Gr. Instructor Rich Herring traveled to Salem with PGM Clyde Litton, and DDGM Kent Staley. The evening consisted of presenting Albert McGee a 50 yr membership jewel and Elwood Hays with a 40 year membership jewel. The mayor of Salem joined in the celebration along with Odd Fellows from Salem, St. Louis, Mo., Flora Lodge #151, and families of both the honorees. The evening began with a very nice meal provided by the Salem Lodge. There was also a very nicely decorated cake with the 2 brothers photos on the cake. The evening turned out great and two very fine brothers were honored for their length of service to the community. PGM, Gr. Rep. Rich Herring was asked by the host lodge to do the honors of presenting the service jewels to the brothers. There were also full color brochures for each of the attendees for the evening.

Rich Herring



PGM Rich Herring presents Brother Elwood Hays with his 40 year jewel and Albert McGee his 50 year jewel.

GENEVA REBEKAH LODGE #274

Geneva Rebekah Lodge #274 donates to the Mattoon Food Bank. Instead of a gift exchange, they put money together and did community service and gave to the food bank.



Pictured presenting check to George Stone a volunteer Annita Jones Sec George Stone, Shirley Wilkey Noble Grand & Doris McDonald- Conductor, they made a donation of \$70.00. Club #67 that meets the first Friday of the months April through December donated to the Mattoon Food Bank. Instead of a gift exchange they also put money together and gave to the food bank. They donated \$250.00.

PALACKY LODGE #630

Kids R Essential Program – Palacky Lodge

Palacky Lodge #630 John R. Mrizek Kids R Essential Program provided 11 needy families from Brookfield and the surrounding area with the ingredients to prepare 11 complete Thanksgiving meals. The 11 families were identified by a local school social worker and another social worker working with the Special Education Cooperative, who said that these families were going through a rough patch and who greatly appreciated the generosity shown by the lodge to help provide their families with a memorable Thanksgiving Holiday. Brother Steve Mrizek and his family did all the shopping and Brother Bill Riordan and new Brother Jeff Hamerman then delivered the feasts to the local school and the Special Education Cooperative office to be distributed. The idea comes from Past Grand Master John Mrizek's granddaughter, Maggie. Maggie, who is 9 years old, found out 2 years ago that some of her classmates did not have the opportunity to have a Thanksgiving dinner, so she felt that she should help those families out. So with the help of the school social worker and of course, mom and dad, she went out and bought them all the fixing for a Thanksgiving feast for one of her peer's family. The lodge thought it was a great idea and is now trying to do the same thing on a bigger scale for those in their community. Palacky Lodge is now in contact with two elementary schools in Brookfield and the LaGrange Area Special Education Cooperative and will help provide relief to kids and their families who are in distress.



JUANITA REBEKAH LODGE #477 VISIT TO THE GOODSAMARITAN HOUSE

Have you had a “good feeling about being a Rebekah lately? Juanita Lodge went to visit, and take gifts to the Goodsamaritan House in Granite City last week. This is a place that takes in ‘mothers with children that, for some reason, have no home at the present time.’

Our Noble Grand Nann Johnson, took it upon herself to have us go and visit this place, and she had gifts that filled three tables, for the children to ‘take a basket and shop for Mom’. The children were amazed that they could get something for their mother’s for Christmas. While the children were shopping, Nann (in the pink blouse) and Linda Stoliza, in the (red blouse) had the mothers in the kitchen doing ‘Crafts’. They were so happy to be able to have this to do, and to take their minds off some of their problems. We were supposed to see all the talent in those hands.

Then we went to the living room, where Nann had a Christmas story for all, new sweatshirts were given to each mother, then the children gave their mother’s the gifts they had gone shopping for. This was so heart warming. The children were so pleased, and the mother’s so happy.

Then we all went to the kitchen and sat around the table and had a snack that Nann had prepared. Juanita is so lucky to have such a wonderful and talented Noble Grand. The Goodsamaritan House is now a project for our lodge.

When we all left, we all felt as though our lives had been touched by ‘Love’. Love from those we just met, love that ‘maybe’ we left with those in need, love that our hearts were full of. We were all proud to be a Rebekah.



Nann Johnson and Linda Stoliza showing the mothers how to make crafts at the Goodsamaritan House.



The group of Rebekahs that went to the Goodsamaritan House in Granite City. The lady standing in the Christmas sweater is Irene Wilkenson, who is 102 years young. Irene was so happy that Nann thought of such a great project. Irene’s comment to Nann was, “honey, that was such a sweet idea, go girl.”



Two boys giving their mothers their “Christmas Gifts”, that they had just gotten off the Gift Tables. The boys were so proud and the mothers so happy.

MT ZION ODD FELLOWS LODGE #300



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows continued their support of the Mt Zion Area Community. The Lodge members donated \$3,000 to the Mt Zion Children’s Christmas Fund to support efforts to provide something special for 74 families and 190 area youth that needed it. The Lodge also supported two local food pantries over Thanksgiving and Christmas, donating nearly \$1,850 in cash and/or food. The lodge’s food pantry donations provided 40 turkeys with all the trimmings for local families at Thanksgiving and 45 Christmas hams.

*Jon Thomas, Secretary
Mt Zion I.O.O.F. Lodge #300*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



I trust everyone had a Happy Holiday and a Safe New Year. Cantons are installing new officers and preparing the end of year reports for the Department Adjutant, please get your report in on time. If you need assistance with your installation feel free to contact me.

Spend time at each meeting to review and practice either the sword movements or parts of the ritual. Fifteen minutes of your time now will insure when a meeting with all cantons are participating that you will not be embarrassed.

A Field Meet will be held on June 20 at Havana starting at 10:00 am. Uniform is either Class A or Class B. Practice of the Decoration of Chivalry and Sword Drill will be held and any other item you may wish to practice.

With Odd Fellow regional meetings occurring, ask those members to join the Canton. It is never wrong to ask someone to join, it is wrong to not ask.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY #1009

Larry Gean PGM submitted the pictures below.



Collage Picture 1 top left is Larry Gean, PGM presenting Merit of Honor to Richard Bright, top right is Larry Gean, PGM presenting Merit of Honor to Ernie Higginson, Middle is Larry Gean, PGM with Tim Stanberry presenting Merit of Honor to Larry Pelker, bottom left is Larry Gean PGM presenting Merit of Honor to Marlene Koble, bottom right Larry Gean PGM presenting Merit of Honor to Noble Grand Tim Stanberry.

A LODGE WITHOUT A TEAM

Of all the helpless, hopeless things,
Like ships without their sails,
Unable to avail themselves
Of homeward waiting gales.
Like mariners without a chart,
Or engine without steam
Or salt without its savor – is
a lodge without a team.

A few come only, now and then,
And some don't come at all;
Or only come to pay their dues,
And quickly leave the hall.
They say they only joined because
Of the fraternal scheme,
And find no greater attraction in
A lodge without a team.

By the shortest form the candidates
They obligate and read,
Their parts from musty rituals
With blundering haste and speed.
Then grumble that their
membership
Don't come around and seem

Delighted at the workings of
A lodge without a team.

The're growing small day by day,
Their gains are few and small;
'Twould take but little more to turn
Their charter to the wall.
But lodges that once were dead
enough
To bury, it would seem,
Have been dragged from a dusty
grave
To life behind a team.

A lodge to all appearance dead,
May be put in a trance,
And may be roused to do its part,
Our Order to advance.
And when they got to hustling
Their credit to redeem,
It's worth the trouble, time and cash
It takes to keep a team.

*Reprinted from "The Illinois Odd
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Submitted by Nancy Curfman

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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HOPEDALE REBEKAH LODGE #74

Hopedale Rebekah Lodge 74 entertained Rebekah District 11 officers with a Christmas in July party at the Lodge's regular meeting July 13, 2017. Fourteen Rebekahs and Odd Fellows attended the open meeting and were served a pizza bar, with Christmas sugar cookies for dessert. Elvis entertained (regretfully only on CD), singing "If Every Day Was Like Christmas."

Santa Claus sent two of his jolly little elves from the North Pole to be his helpers and pass out presents from under the Christmas tree. Santa had already checked his list for naughty or nice; believe it or not, everybody was on the nice list!

When the Coin Collection was taken, all agreed to donate the \$22 to the Christmas in July project of Rebekah Assembly President Sharon Landry. Hopedale 74 also donated an additional \$750 to the project to help make Christmas just a little brighter and a true time of cheer. These donations will go to the Christmas presents for the residents at the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon.

Although the party was soon ended and all said Good Night, Hopedale Rebekahs continued their Christmas in July as they "reach(ed) out to my community." A tour was taken of the Center for Prevention of Abuse facility in Peoria. A matching gift of \$750 was presented to the Center from the Lodge in support of the Center's 29th Annual Duck Race and was designated to the Carol House of Hope in Pekin (Tazewell County), one of two shelters the Center maintains. Each year, the Center provides safety and support to over 5,000 women, men, and children who have been affected by elder abuse, abuse of adults with disabilities, and domestic violence.

Hopedale Rebekahs had a lot of fun with the Christmas in July party and events. Yes, Santa Claus is alive! He is the living symbol of giving, handed down from one generation to the next through Rebekah projects like this.

Linda Lou Robinson, Secretary Hopedale 74



Seated left to right: Smokey Lasswell, Shirley Ingold, Dorothy Jenkel, Gloria Welk.

Standing left to right: Lisa Miller, Ken Lasswell, Lloyd Jenkel, Linda Lou Robinson, Juanita Lasswell, Bonnie Hensley, Melinda Melhouse, Glenda Postin, Clara Kay Nott.

Photo by John Jenkel.



Pictured Back Row: L-R Linda Lou Robinson; PNG; Joyce Derenzy, Associate Executive Director at the Center for Prevention of Abuse; Dorothy A. Jenkel, PNG; and Lloyd B. Jenkel, PGM.