



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 181st Year*

VOL. 66, NO. 7

USPS 258240

July 2018

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

PRESENTING WREATH TO TOMB OF UNKNOWN



Ernest Higgerson Grand Patriarch, Bill Maplesden Grand Master, Sharon Landry Assembly President, Bonnie Hensley Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant

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
Phone: 217-735-2561
Fax: 217-735-2562
E-mail: grandeditor@frontier.com

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	8/01/26
Janice Brand	8/03/22
Rosanna Specht	8/05/39
Nancylee Allen	8/08/30
Michael Maulding	8/12/51
Priscilla Johnson	8/16/25
Juanita Kasey	8/19/24
Julia Shasteen	8/19/36
Frances Whitley	8/20/30
Doris Grass	8/27/26

RAGGED OLD FLAG

I was walking through a county Courthouse square,

On a park bench an old man was seated there,

I said, "Excuse me, mister, but your courthouse seems a bit rundown.

Your flagpole's a little bent,

And there sure is a ragged old flag you've got flying from it."

He said, "Have a seat son" and I sat down.

He said, "Is this the first time you've been in our little town?"

I said, "Yes sir, I think it is",

He said, "Well son, around here we don't like to brag, but we're mighty proud of the ragged old flag",

"That flag there got a hole when Washington crossed the Delaware,

She got powder burns that night Francis Scott Key sat,

Watching her and writing the words to "Oh Say Can You See".

She got a big rip in New Orleans, With Jackson and Packerham tugging at her seams,

And she almost fell at the Alamo, beside the Texas Flag,

But she waved on through,

She got cut by a sword at Chancellorsville,

She got cut again on Shiloh's Hill, Yes sir, there was Lee, Beauregard and Bragg, and

The South winds blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag.

In World War I she got a big hole from a Bertha gun,

She turned blood red in World War II,

And hung limp and low a time or two,

She's been to Korea and Vietnam, she went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam,

She's waved high from our ships on the briney foam,

But son, they don't seem to wave her much back here at home,

Why in her own good land she's been criticized, denied, dishonored and refused,

And the government for which she stands has been scandalized throughout the land,

Maybe she is a little threadbare and maybe she's wearing a little thin,

But she's in good shape for the shape she's in

Cause she's been through the fire before,

And I know she can take a whole lot more,

So we raise her up each morning, and take her down at night,

We're careful she don't touch the ground and we fold her up just right,

On second thought son, maybe I do like to brag....,

Cause around here we're mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag.

I am sure by this time you know how I feel about the Flag of the United State of America. Hope you feel the same.

Remember, Remember, What have I done for Odd Fellowship today.

Willard Cornn

Grand Master 1991

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.

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.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



then pass some along to those in need. I look forward to seeing many of you at regional meetings. Don't forget to visit the sick, there has been so much flu going around this winter. Again if there is anything the Grand Lodge can help your lodge with, please ask. Let us know, we can't help if we don't know you need help. Keep thinking Oddly and doing Odd helpful things.

*In Friendship, Love and Truth
William Maplesden, Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Hello to all. Hopefully we are turning the corner on winter and heading into spring. We are in full swing of regional, and District meetings. February has been a month filled with snow and adventure. By the time you read this Rebecca and I will be back from our missionary trip to Honduras. Hopefully all of the lodges are getting the corrected copies of our bylaws back into the Grand Lodge office. It is essential this year for all of the lodges to get their reports into the office so each lodge can have a voting representative on the floor of the Grand Lodge session in October. If a lodge needs help in getting these done please do not hesitate to ask. As we head into spring a lot of communities have clean-up projects that possibly your lodge can get involved in for more of that all-important visual presence of our order in our communities. Let the Grand lodge office know if you are doing, or have done, something interesting in your lodge. Let us know if you had a great fund raiser and have some pictures you can send in so maybe we can get them in the Odd Fellow paper. Has your lodge found a great new way to attract new members or done a really different fund raiser that was a success. Let us know so we can share it with all the lodges. It might work great for another lodge. Keep things fun and interesting in your lodges, it will keep members coming back. None of us wants to just go out in the cold just to attend a dry old meeting. St. Patrick's Day is this month. Have some fun with it. You know your Grand Master is part Leprechaun. Make some green and

Spring meetings are over for another year and it's time now to turn our attentions to our lodge projects and other summer things. Our gardens are growing, and flowers are blooming, the bird and squirrel feeders are full. My daily struggle is now beginning to keep out the weeds and keep my gardens looking good. Each day when I get home I take a walk around my house pull the weeds I see, clip dead flowers and just see what I can do to make the gardens better. Are we doing this with our lodges? Are you making sure that the weeds are clear, and we have room to grow? That we are sunny and bright, the birds are chirping. I saw butterflies and bees the other day flying over the fence to someone else's garden, so pollination is going on. Are we pollinating our lodges? If we are that means that we are out there talking and trying for new members, this means we are working hard. The coming months are some of the best times for us to get our name out in the world. Fairs, craft, art, car shows most can always use a stand from the lodge, if nothing selling bottles of water. This can make money or just hand them out with a label around them saying that it is free from the Rebekah's. Who knows some-

one will ask who you are and what you do. Be prepared to answer this question with few words to keep them asking questions. Have applications and an information brochure on hand to hand out at this time also. There are many things that take little time but can make a big impact on people. Does your local library have a program where you can go and read books to children? Bake some cookies and send to your police, fire, ambulance, city departments. If able plant flowers at the parks or planters around your town. Ask your local chamber of commerce if there is anything that can be done for your them. This is a perfect way to act as a hummingbird and help spread the name of Rebekah's. When we venture out do we wear a sign either on our shell to show who we are? As in everything that I do I certainly like to have fun, this is one thing you can never have to much of. So, this summer as you are out and about remember to be Tigger and have some fun every day. You can do this even as your inner hummingbird is being busy working on your projects and your turtle is sticking it's neck out finding new people to talk to and get the word out about our wonderful world for Rebekah's.

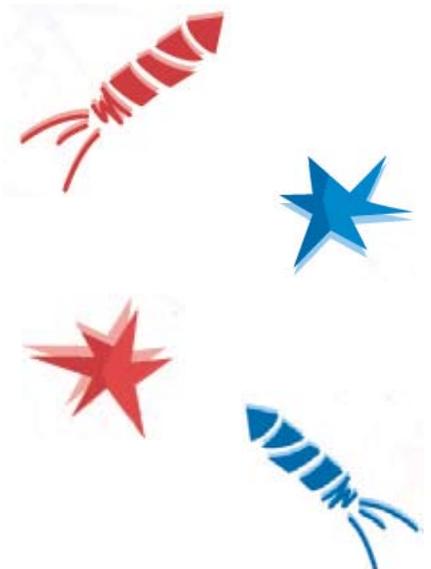
It's never to soon to start thinking about joining us down in Springfield for the State Session in October. Please make plans to come there will always be some fun there.

See you down the road

In F. L. & T.

Sharon

President Rebekah Assembly



NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home,

This summer sure is flying by.

We had a great time at the Annual Golf benefit for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Care last month. We love sponsoring this event and it's always fun to have a good time with some of our staff. We are starting off the month with a 4th of July celebration and spending some time outside so we can enjoy this beautiful summer weather. The Bagelfest Parade is this month and we always take our facility van and throw goodies out to everyone, so we are definitely looking forward to that.

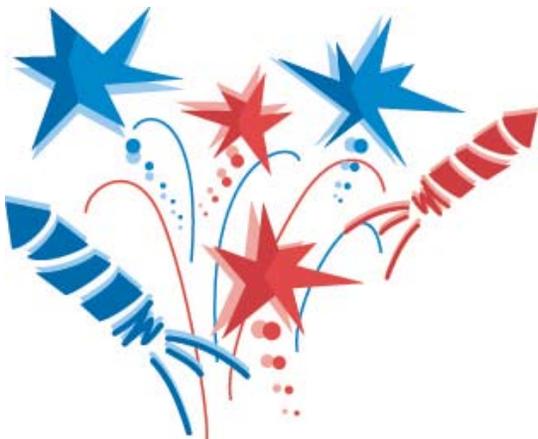
The Geneva Rebekah Lodge #274 graciously donated two knockout rose bushes to our home. We are so thankful and we appreciate their donation and we know our residents will enjoy them as well.



Pictured are Anita L. Jones, Cleo Rose, Shirley Wilkey, Doris McDonald and David Standerfer.

Until next month - take care and be well

Jenna Black, Community Relations Coordinator



FLORA LODGE #151 LIVING LEGACY PROJECT

Each year Odd Fellows across the world plant a tree as part of the Living Legacy project. This year the Flora Odd Fellows Lodge #151 planted a tree in Charlie Brown Park as part of the Living Legacy Program.

A special thank you to BULLARDS NURSERY on N. 45 for the donation of the tree.



Those attending left to right were Noble Grand Matt Diefenbach, Rick Tucker, PGM Clyde Litton, Gloria Abbott, PGM, Gr. Rep. Rich Herring, Donna Orwig, Kent Staley, Karen Herring (holding the proclamation from the City of Flora) and Vice Grand Betty Diefenbach.

*Rich Herring
Lodge Sec.*

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW REBEKAH & GLENN W. COURSEY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

May 11th Kent Staley with PGM, GR. Rep. Rich Herring traveled to Grayville to present a scholarship to Kaelynn Worley at their graduation ceremony.



Pictured here is Kent Staley member of the scholarship committee with Kaelynn receiving her scholarship.
Rich Herring, PGM, Gr. Rep.

GLENN COURSEY AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP



Bob Seiffert (right) with the Scholarship Committee presented a \$1,000 Glenn Coursey Agricultural Scholarship to Summer Butterfield at the Honors Convocation at Collinsville High School in Collinsville, Illinois on May 16, 2018. The Honors Convocation presented many scholarships from various organizations and was attended by several hundred family and friends of the students. Summer Butterfield is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Biology at Eastern Illinois University.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP TO DANIELA SANGURIMA



Bob Seiffert (left) with the Scholarship Committee presented a \$1,000 Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship to Daniela Sangurima (right) at the Academic Awards Banquet at Sparta High School in Sparta, Illinois on May 15, 2018. The Academic Awards Banquet presented many scholarships from various organizations and was attended by over one hundred family and friends of the students. Daniela Sangurima is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

May 15, 2018 Lewistown Lodge #51 presented a supper to to guest, and members of lodge #51 & #566. Scholarship Certificate was given by Bonnie Hensley and Clara Kay Nott to Taylor Trone with Noble Grand Ken Laswell & Noble Grand Lisa Miller.



Pictured is Ken Laswell NG, Clara Kay Nott Scholarship Committee, Taylor Trone recipient, Lisa Miller NG, Bonnie Hensley Scholarship Committee.

ERIE LODGE # 38 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Erie Lodge presented two scholarships at the Honors Program held at Carlyle High School in Carlyle, Illinois on May 10, 2018. The Honors Program presented many scholarships from various organizations and was attended by over one hundred family and friends of the students.



Pictured (left to right) are Kailey Von Hatten, who received a \$1,000 Erie Lodge Scholarship, Bob Seiffert, Noble Grand of Erie Lodge, and Kali Michael, who also received a \$1,000 Erie Lodge Scholarship. Kailey Von Hatten is pursuing a Dental Assisting Associate Degree at Kaskaskia Community College. Kali Michael is pursuing a career as a social worker focusing on the needs of families.

MT. OLIVE LODGE #114 IN SALEM IL

Our local group recently elected Chris Watkins the new Noble Grand of the Mt. Olive Lodge # 114 here in Salem. Mr. Watkins was elected to fill the vacancy created when the Noble Grand passed away.



Pictured are past Noble Grand Albert "Junior" McGee presenting the official medallion to Chris Watkins.

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 on May 4th in Carlyle, Illinois. In picture is Bob Seiffert (wearing cap), Noble Grand of Erie Lodge #38, and Officer Mark Taylor, D.A.R.E. Instructor, along with students, parents, teachers and others following the D.A.R.E. Graduation.

Posted on June 6, 2018 by Ainslie

**M i c h a e l
Greenzeiger, Grand
Instructor, GL of CA.**

Editor's note:

Below are excerpts from the recently published District Deputy Grand Master Instruction Manual written by Michael Greenzeiger, Grand Instructor, Grand Lodge of California.



ABOUT ODD FELLOWSHIP

The Principles and Purpose of Odd Fellowship

One of questions you will most frequently be asked by members and non-members alike is "What is the purpose of Odd Fellowship?" The answer you give may well determine if an individual chooses to associate with our Order or to continue said membership. People want to know why we do what we do and what it means to us. There is no precise right or wrong answer to be given for questions like these because the nature of every lodge and indeed every Odd Fellow is different. Nevertheless, a few key principles have persisted over time throughout our order's long and storied history.

As is taught in our Ritual, Odd Fellowship is about having a place where we can meet as Brothers and Sisters on equal footing and without the "masks" we often wear to keep each other from knowing us as our truest selves. A person's station in life doesn't matter in the lodge room and nor should our petty likes and dislikes. We are bound together as children of one common parent and thus obligated to help and support each other through the trials and travails of life. Our purpose in coming together is to elevate the world as a whole, to make it a better place in which all human beings are bound together in brotherly and sisterly love. Such a world would be a paradise and we can do our part simply by exercising the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth in all our interactions within the lodge room as well as in the outside world.

Beyond our core principles, there are infinite possibilities for how a lodge can be. One may think of it as a platform for holding whatever social, fraternal, or service activities fit the desires and interests of its members – so long as those activities are in harmony with our principles. Lodges have been successful in many different ways: through shared meals and parties, through putting on activities, through sharing in hobbies, through serving the local community in whatever capacity, through raising money to give to good causes, through practicing and performing the Ritual of the Order, through studying the deeper meanings of Odd Fellowship and its rituals, or through engaging with our history. What is important is that each lodge finds its own way to be which works for its members and their community, and adds to the overall vibrancy of our worldwide Order.

RUNNING A LODGE

Overview

Running a lodge is fundamentally not so different from running any other type of organization. One thing to bear in mind is that unlike a business, everyone who participates in a lodge is a volunteer and doesn't need to be there. If they have a good experience they will come back and perhaps even get more involved. If they don't, you may never see them again.

Sharing power is very important in a lodge organization. Individuals generally will not feel

invested in a group unless they have some say in the decisions of that group. Lodges which are run by a single individual, regardless of what office that individual may occupy are never as strong as lodges with a dedicated core of active members. It is not realistic to expect every lodge member to take initiative and to be engaged, but the more members who are given the room to grow into leaders, the more dynamic and effective a lodge will be.

While everyone has different needs and abilities, it is also critical to have a common core of values and principles. The fundamental principles of Odd Fellowship are a part of the glue that ties a lodge together, but they must be supplemented with a shared understanding of what these principles mean and how they can be implemented in practice. Drafting a mission statement for your lodge or even just holding periodic discussions of what the values and goals of the lodge are can serve to get everyone on the same page and help them to remain united harmoniously in the work of the lodge.

Meetings

Meetings are the way an organization brings together a group of people in order to accomplish a task or set of tasks. They are not an end unto themselves as much as some may believe they are. Our real ends are the principles and goals of the Order and of the individual lodge. Odd Fellow Lodges use meetings as a way to further these goals.

As such, meetings should be efficient and not waste undue amounts of the members' time. Their time is valuable and by treating it as such, we demonstrate our respect for our brothers and sisters in the Order. There are many tricks a good leader can use to keep a meeting on track. Preparing in advance is essential. This can include reviewing the correspondences to determine which ones need to be read and which ones do not. It can include ensuring that all bills to be paid arrive on the Secretary's desk with ample time for warrants to be drawn and for the Finance Committee to inspect before the meeting begins. It can also include familiarizing the appropriate officers with complicated procedures they need to perform in advance, such as balloting on a new member – one of the most complex tasks a Warden ever needs to perform in the lodge.

The atmosphere of a meeting is also critical to success. A meeting should not be so overly formal and rigid that no one dares to smile, let alone laugh. Neither should it be so loose and unstructured that no one present retains any respect for the lodge and its work. The best meetings are relaxed and warm. Everyone feels safe expressing their views and sharing in the occasional joke with their brothers and sisters. After the meeting no one wants to go home right away, but remains afterwards, perhaps consuming some refreshments and basking in the glow of fraternity with their fellow members.

Committees

One of the best ways to organize the work of the lodge and keep it moving along briskly is through the appropriate use of committees. A committee could be a permanent ("standing") committee such as a Finance Committee, a Building Committee, or a Membership Committee. There are also ad hoc committees established for shorter term purposes such as a By-Law Committee for revising the by-laws or even a committee established just for one event, such as an annual holiday party. One traditional committee that used to be omnipresent in Odd Fellows lodges which one doesn't see much anymore, but maybe we should, is a "Visiting

Committee" for purposes of visiting sick or distressed members of the lodge. Committees are generally appointed by the presiding officer who is automatically an ex-officio member of all committees.

No complicated decision should ever come before the lodge until it's been through a committee. Committees are designed to meet in between lodge meetings so that a small group of lodge members who have, or are willing to take, a particular interest in the matter at hand and report back to the lodge on what they have learned and what they recommend. This saves the lodge the time and trouble of hashing out all the details on the floor. In addition to keeping meetings running smoothly, committees are also a great way to engage the members of the lodge so everyone has a role to play. A wise leader will establish a new committee to research and help settle an issue when they see that a discussion on the floor of the lodge is going on overly long and perhaps beginning to try the patience of the brothers and sisters assembled.

Finances

Responsible financial procedures allow for transparency and for a system of checks and balances so that the lodge members may be satisfied their money is well protected. There are some minor variations in the exact procedures followed from lodge to lodge but certain commonalities reign.

Incoming payments go to the Financial Secretary who records them in a receipts ledger. Payment of dues or assessments is further recorded in a member's account so it is possible to know which members are "in good standing." All monies are turned over to the Treasurer for deposit and to be recorded in the Treasurer's financial books.

Bills initially go to either the Recording Secretary or the Finance Committee, depending on who writes the warrants for bill payment in that lodge. The bills are reviewed and if approved, the warrants are signed by the Finance Committee. The warrants are also to be signed by the Noble Grand. At the appropriate point in the meeting, the Finance Committee makes a recommendation to the lodge as to whether or not the bills be paid, after which the lodge votes on the matter. The bills may not be paid until the Finance Committee has examined and signed them and the lodge has voted. This ensures that no unscrupulous member of the lodge can unilaterally issue a check. Many lodges add a further level of protection by requiring two signatures on all checks. The Treasurer makes out the checks and records the expense in their books.

Best practice also includes periodic reconciling of the Treasurer's books against the actual bank account. Even the most honest and diligent of officers will occasionally make a mathematical or other error and reconciling with the bank statements will allow this to be rectified. This also allows for verification that no money is being spent without going through the proper lodge channels. The Finance Committee typically conducts an annual audit of the books at the end of the year in preparation for filing the annual report. The financial books must also be made available to the District Deputy Grand Master or any other officer designated by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge to audit the books of the lodge.

Events

Planning events is a big part of what an active lodge does. Events can fall in a variety of different types and which ones are most prevalent will depend on the interests and taste of the individual lodge. Most successful lodges will have a variety

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

of different types of events including social functions, service or charitable events, and degree work. Some of these can also be opportunities to engage with the broader community and get more publicity for your lodge.

Lodges typically have certain tried-and-true social events that they hold year after year, such as a "Roll Call Dinner" in which the names and length of membership of each lodge member is read aloud. Common social events also include barbeques, potlucks, speakers, outings to sporting events, concerts, or holiday parties. There really is no limit to the options available so long as the event doesn't violate the values or principles of our order. A number of lodges have doubled down on the word "odd" and successfully organized some very creative or off-beat social events. A lodge should take great care to ensure there at least some events which interest each of their different types of members. When new members join, it's often a good idea to find out what sorts of events those members would like to have and try some new events with them in mind. Ideally, the new members will even get involved in organizing some of the new events themselves.

Service or charity events which are appropriate for a lodge depend on the composition of the lodge as well as the community around it. A lodge with a smaller number of members or with members who are less able to do physical work should look into opportunities which are appropriate to the number and abilities of their members. It's generally a better idea to get involved in something hands-on than to just write a check because it really gives the members a feeling of achievement and satisfaction to accomplish good with their own hands. Working together for the common good can also strengthen the bonds of friendship and fraternity within the lodge. If you are not sure what the needs of your local community are, you could consider contacting a local homeless shelter or other nonprofit to find out what their needs are and how you can be of service.

Degree work is very special in that it's the time when we pass on the meaning of what it is to be an Odd Fellow to the next generation. Not every lodge is able to field their own degree team, but for those who can it can be a very moving experience if done properly. When members undergo the degrees for the first, they have many

impressions and feelings regarding what they have just seen, but they don't understand the full depth of the degrees. It is only on repeated viewings or better yet, having actually grappled with and performed a part in the degree oneself that the full flower of its meaning can bloom.

Degree work should be done with care and seriousness. There needs to be a level of respect for the degree or the candidates will very easily pick up on the fact that it doesn't mean much to the members putting it on. Practice is very important here because even if one reads from the book, it is still possible to tell who has cared enough to practice and who has not. If you read from the book, be sure to practice enough that you can read fluently. One you can read it fluently, you can think about what it means and then you can read it with real depth of feeling. Likewise, it is important to practice the floor work so that you can move around the room deliberately and without confusion.

While we must have respect for the Ritual, we must also have respect for the candidates. They may have never undergone any sort of ritual initiation and it may be a new and overwhelming experience for them. It is important that the candidates be made to feel comfortable in every possible way during degree work. If they seem confused or anxious they should be guided or reassured. It's okay to deviate from the Ritual a bit if it helps a candidate to feel secure enough to fully engage with the material being present.

For any type of event, including social events, service events and degree work, if you belong to a smaller lodge you may wish to consider combining with other lodges or even your entire district to bolster your capabilities. We are always stronger when we work together with each other.

HOW TO GROW MEMBERSHIP

If your lodge is doing all the right things described above then you are already well on your way to building your membership. The first step is always making your lodge an inviting place where people would want to spend their time. If the lodge is unpleasant or boring then all the recruiting in the world will be for naught. What good is it to bring members in the door only to have them head straight for the exit?

That being said, once you've made your lodge into a space where a new member might want to spend some time, the next step is getting the word out. A lot of recruiting happens organically

in a well-functioning lodge. If a member is having a great time and going to engaging events, they can't help but want to share it with their friends. Bringing someone along to a public event may be all it takes to get a new member.

How you explain Odd Fellowship and your lodge to a person should depend on their own interests and background. Odd Fellowship has many different aspects to it and there are many different types of people in the world. It is best to focus on the aspects of the lodge which would most of interest to your audience, though you must also be forthright and honest about any aspect of the lodge which they may not like so as to avoid any surprises later. There is obviously something you like about your lodge or you wouldn't continue to be involved, so if you can articulate that to others like you, they will probably want to join as well.

The greatest challenge is often in bringing in people who are different than one's self. To truly have a vibrant lodge and to fulfill our aspiration of uniting all men and women of the world together in harmony and fraternity it is essential to also be able to bring in people different than you. Do your best to put yourself in their position. What is important to them? What do they like to do for fun? How could your lodge help them to improve and elevate themselves? Odd Fellowship is a big enough tent for everyone and if you look carefully you can find a place where they might fit.

One strategy that lodges around the country have been successful with and which is especially helpful for a smaller lodge seeking to grow is to find non-profit organizations with compatible goals and interests to our own and to work together with them on their projects. These organizations can be a source of individuals who are already civically-minded and may make excellent members. When you offer them the use of your hall for their events and spend some time getting to know their members it is often only natural that some of them will want to unite with you. Once you have individuals with several different types of interests, whether they be hobbies, professional interests, service work, performance, or anything else you are well on your way to having a diverse lodge capable of attracting a wide variety of different types of members.

A full digital copy of the manual can be requested by emailing greenzeiger@gmail.com