



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 181st Year*

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GRAND LODGE OPENING BANQUET ON SUNDAY EVENING



Toast Master and Toast Mistress of Ceremony
Rich Herring, PGM and Marla Butcher, PPRA

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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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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Leach	12/02/27
Elsie Syfert	12/02/33
Laura McConnell	12/04/29
Donald Jenkins	12/08/25
Edna McFarland	12/09/22
Wanda Ferguson	12/10/33
Edna Henson	12/12/30
Dorothy Rardin	12/19/20
Claire Waltrip	12/19/36
Gloria Sampson	12/24/24
James Rominger	12/27/36
Dorothy Skinlo	12/31/32

IN MEMORIAM

ANTHONY P. VIVIRITO

1948 - 2018

Odd Fellows Lodge #190

RUSHVILLE ODD FELLOWS LODGE #24

Thirty two youth and adults attended the annual Big Buddy youth Halloween party on Saturday October 13 at Schuy Rush Park. A wiener roast started at 5 p.m. followed by a costume contest. Winners of the contest were Loution Williams for the ugliest, Marion Mathis, scariest, Brooklynn Whitmore, prettiest, Derrick Stanley, most original and Jessica Smith for the youngest. Winners of the contest received a gift certificate for a large pizza and bread sticks from Pizza Unlimited. All youth attending received a gift certificate for a large ice cream sundae at the Rushville Dairy Queen. Pete Dupoy provided his truck and trailer with safety rails and straw for a hay-rack ride through the country. Donors for the event were Charlie and Randy Akiin for firewood, Rushville Dairy Queen, Pizza Unlimited, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Walters for Halloween decorations and Angela Smith for hot chocolate. Allen, Cline, Angie and Angelica Smith took care of the food, tables and the bonfire. Program Coordinator Don Schieferdecker advises a Big Buddy youth day will be held on Saturday, November 10 with a trip to Springfield for the Shrine Circus and dinner after the show. Murray Reynolds is providing the Shriner tickets. More details will be later announced. The Big Buddy Youth program is sponsored by the Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship Lodge 24.

RUSHVILLE ODD FELLOWS LODGE #24

Schuyler County Big Buddy Youth Director Don Schieferdecker advises the annual youth Halloween party will be held on Saturday, October 13, at the 40 et 8 shelter house at Schuy Rush Park. There will be a wiener roast at 5 p.m. followed by a costume contest at 6:30. We are going to give each youth present a gift certificate from Dairy Queen for a large ice cream sundae. Rumor has it that Thursa will be cruis-

ing the grounds on her broom in her witches costume watching for you kids. There will be four contest categories. One for the ugliest costume, the scariest, the most original, and the youngest participant. The winners of each group will receive a gift certificate from Pizza Unlimited for a large combination Pizza. After the contest there will be a hayrack ride through the county. Pete Dupoy will be providing the trailer with safety rails and the straw. We will have hot dogs, chips, marshmallows, chocolate for s'mores and soft drinks. There will be a large bonfire and picnic tables for seating. All Youth and kids are invited along with their families. The Big Buddy youth program is sponsored by the Rushville Odd Fellows Friendship lodge 24.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

For those of you who haven't heard, Jenna Black the previous Community Relations Coordinator has taken a new career path to further her education to become a teacher. Jenna brought valuable insight to our facility and will be greatly missed. I would like to take this time to introduce myself, I am Danita Starwalt, and I am looking forward to being a part of this facility as Community Relations Coordinator. Having only been in this role for a little over a month it has been a very valuable learning process meeting our residents, staff, and medical centers in addition to familiarizing myself with all that is needed. My goal is to become a strong asset for Odd Fellow Rebekah Home, and I feel it's a privilege to represent such a fine established health-care provider for this community.

During the first part of October we participated in the Cross County Mall Business Expo, where we enjoyed visiting and meeting many people, while having the ability to share information about our facility. We had a beautiful fall decorated table with a slide show presentation of Odd Fellow Rebekah Home. On the Columbus Day Holiday, we had the privilege to attend the Grand Lodge Proceedings in Springfield, to represent our facility.

I'm looking forward to more of the beautiful fall colors as the weather changes. I am very excited to continue to learn and develop as your new *Community Relations Coordinator*.

Take care and be well,
Danita Starwalt

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



First of all, THANK-YOU, for this honor of being able to serve as your GRAND MASTER for 2018-2019.

I am looking forward to this next 12 months, with the goal of advancing our State and our Brotherhood.

Already, we have several good projects in the works that I hope will promote our Order and increase our Membership.

I am excited about our Bus trip in May.

Jim Turner is working with the Secretary of State in getting us a special License Plate that will highlight our 200th Anniversary.

Right now, the Grand Lodge is selling a special 200th Anniversary License Plate Holder.

I know of different Lodges that will be hosting public events throughout Illinois.

Put all of these together, and you will be getting the word out to non-members that maybe this Odd Fellow thing is a good thing after all!

PROMOTION....PROMOTION

The more we can do to let our communities know that we are alive and well, the better off we will be.

Speaking of PROMOTION...

A lot of people have asked me what my project will be this year.

Traditionally, each Grand Master picks one of our Grand Lodge projects and sponsors fund raisers to help that project along.

You will find that I have some different ideas than what has been practiced as tradition in the past.

So, here it is: My Grand Master Project is to encourage you and your Lodges to sponsor as many of our GRAND LODGE PROJECTS as possible:

- MUSEUM FUND • VISUAL FUND
- SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT
- D.A.R.E. • SOS VILLAGE
- ROSE PARADE

For the past several years, all of these projects have been mostly ignored and underfunded by our local LODGES.

I see all of the annual reports from your District Deputy Grand Masters.

On the vast majority of these reports, there are no reported donations to any of these funds.

I will say that another thing is clear from these reports: You all do a very good job of funding things within your own communities!

This is GREAT! I fully encourage you to continue in this practice. But I wonder if you could do more. I wonder if you could

do more to help out the projects that YOU sponsor within your own Grand Lodge.

OR, by not funding these projects, are you letting the Grand Lodge know that you have no interest in continuing any of these projects?

My question to you is which of these projects do you want to get rid of?

We have the best MUSEUM in the country.

Our Illinois VISUAL committee works hard to help a LOT of people.

The SCHOLARSHIP fund has helped students in every Lodge in the State.

The DARE program is very expensive, but for many years, it has touched on the lives of young students through-out Illinois.

SOS is one of the best international programs that we have. It has had a tremendous impact on children from all over the world.

The ROSE PARADE FLOAT is one of the few things that we can give to that provides us millions of dollars' worth of free advertising.

So, what should go?

I'm saying nothing.

I'm asking you to go back to your Lodges and persuade your members that we all need to do a better job. We need to re-think our priorities.

We can do so much more.

It all starts HERE.

THANK YOU! *Jim Bott Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



In this my first article to you, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as your Assembly President for the coming year. I promise to do my best to promote Rebekah-Oddfellowship in this jurisdiction. I have a remarkable Grand Master to work with, I could not have asked for better. We have traveled together the past year attending Odd Fellow functions. Thanks Jim.

I extend my best wishes to all the newly elected heads of all branches of the order. It is my prayer that we as heads of all units will work together for the betterment of this great order. Thanks to all of you who have accepted appointments for the coming year.

The installation was beautiful. I knew the Installing Officers that the Grand Master and I had chosen would do the perfect

job. Thanks to all who took part making it the special evening it was. I was so happy that my family was able to be there. My daughter came from Florida, my granddaughter was here from Alabama, and my daughter, son-in-law and grandson from the local area. I was proud that my grandson consented to be my escort, my granddaughter held the Bible for my obligation and pinning me with my Assembly President Jewel, and my daughter presented me with my gavel (the one she had used when serving as Honored Queen of Job's Daughters). They have supported me throughout this endeavor and have done anything I have asked. I was very pleased that my Eastern Star and White Shrine members and members of my church took time out to be here. Thanks to my Lodges- Pride of the West #544 and Juanita #477, Rebekah District Association #26, Neilson IOOF Lodge #25, the lodges of IOOF District #78, Queen City #58 PM, and the Encampment for their untiring efforts and support they have shown.

My program for the coming year is as follows: This is the Year of Love

MY EMBLEM – American Flag

FLOWER – Red Rose – Symbol of true love

COLORS – Red, White, and Blue

GUIDE – Holy Bible

WATCHWORDS – Faith, Love, and Hope

THEME – Stay Positive – Get new members

Work Hard – Get new members

Make it happen – Get new members

MOTO – To Love One Another

SCRIPTURE – Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”.

PRAYER– Serenity Prayer – God grant me the SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change, COURAGE to change the things I can, and the WISDOM to know the difference.

HYMNS - How Great Thou Art

The Old Rugged Cross

The Lighthouse

PATRIOTIC SONGS – God Bless America

This Land is Your Land

FUND – Flag Fund

FUN SYMBOL – Cat – Prowl as the cat does for new members

We need to work to obtain new members during the coming year. Each year shows a decline in membership and if this continues, we will not be here. We have a lot to offer to new members with the projects that we support.

As we approach the Thanksgiving Season and gather with our families, let us give thanks to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us. We are never alone with Him at our side.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,

Donna Faye Grable

President Rebekah Assembly of Illinois

FLORA ODD FELLOWS LODGE #151



George Dickenson scout leader receives \$1,500.00 check from the Flora Odd Fellows Lodge from Noble Grand Matt Diefenbach & Vice Grand Betty Diefenbach at the Odd Fellow/Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner.



The Flora Odd Fellows and Flora Boy Scouts want to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the dinner.
Rich Herring

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW REBEKAH SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

At a special Social night of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Bushnell, Bonnie Hensley was honored to present a scholarship award to Alyx Statler. After working this summer Alyx plans to focus on Sociology as a Major and a Minor in history, with plans to become a social worker. Some of you may know her proud Grandparents... Paul and Marcia Gossett.



Pictured: Paul Gossett, Alyx Statler, Bonnie, Marla Butcher, NG.



Pictured are: Faith Ralston, Bonnie, Kaylee Ann Smith
Two scholarships were given out at the Pittsfield High School by Bonnie Hensley representing the Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship committee. Several teachers were present along with the School reporter and a local newspaper to take pictures.

Faith Ralston is the daughter of Mandy Gallagher and Phillip Ralston. Faith is going into the nursing field and wants to help others. She said, "Everyone needs a helping hand, and I am more than willing to lend mine." Faith began studies at Quincy College to get her Nursing degree.

Kaylee Ann Smith, daughter of Beth Smith, Pearl II and Shane Smith; she received one of the Glen Coursey scholarships and is going into Agriculture Education. She was inspired by her Agriculture Teacher her Freshman year and looks forward to teaching. She is attending John Wood Community College and then will transfer to Northwest Missouri State University.

OPENING BANQUET



Grand Master William Maplesden and his wife Rebecca Maplesden, PPRA.



Sharon Landry President of Rebekah Assembly and her husband.



Jerald Sarnes, General Commanding Retired and his wife Judy Sarnes, PPRA.

Our International Guest, Linda Thompson, PPIARA, and Terry Barrett, SGS, PGM of NC.



Linda Thompson, PPIARA



Terry Barrett, SGS, PGM of NC.

Past Presidents of Rebekah Assemblies



Back Row: Linda Thompson PPIARA from Arizona, Sharon Landry, PPRA, Rebecca Maplesden, PPRA, Judy Sarnes, PPRA, Marla Butcher, PPRA, Donna Wessell, PPRA, Bonnie Hensley, PPRA, Front Row Seated: Linda Jones, PPRA, Gail Ann Beyers, PPRA, Mary Ann Block, PPRA, Audrey Jones, PPRA.



Greg Worrell PGM, Jerald Sarnes, GS, PGM, Richard Jones, PGM, Eugene Curfman, PGM, Larry Gean, PGM, Rich Herring, PGM, Allen Jones, PGM, Terry Barrett, PGM of North Carolina, Lyndall Pigg, PGM, Jim Turner, PGM, Charles Campbell, PGM, Eric Smith, PGM, Dan Davis, PGM.

CHAPTER DRAPING CEREMONY FOR BROTHER ROBERT SMITH, PGM, PSGM



Brothers Lyndall Pigg, PGM and Allen Jones, PGM performed the Draping Ceremony at the beginning of Grand Lodge Session and the Rebekah Assembly attended the ceremony.



WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON



50 YEAR MEMBERS AT GRAND LODGE



Hugo Block 66 years, Lyndall Pigg 68 years, Allen Jones 70 years for a total of 204.

WOODSTOCK GUARDIAN #60



Woodstock Guardian 60 less than a year after rebirth representing with 10 members at Grand Lodge sessions 2018. L-R: Jerald Sarnes, GS, PGM, Adam Fajarowicz, Jessica Yingling, Mike Cichonski, Matt Yingling GW, Bill Maplesden, Grand Master, Peter Cortilet, Chris Zapfe, Judy Sarnes, Eric Smith.

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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70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Allen and Audrey Jones will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on November 25th. They were married at St. Jones United Church of Christ (Evangelical). They have two children, Mona Fones and husband Glenn, Roger Jones and wife Ella, one grandchild, son of Mona, Terry Van Doren, wife Lisa and daughter Amelia. Terry and family live in Washington DC, and he works for Sen.



McConnell. Allen and Audrey have also celebrated Allen's seventy years as an Odd Fellow, he is a Past Grand master was Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge for 27 years. Audrey is a Past Assembly President and Past Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly. They are having a small celebration after Church on Sunday, November 25th. Family, friends, and Allen's church family will have lunch at the church.