



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 183rd Year*

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PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

**Eighty-seventh I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the
Tomb of the Unknowns
May 1-3, 2020, Arlington, Virginia
November 2019**

Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Eighty-seventh Annual Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Members of all units of the Order are encouraged to participate. The Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to provide the following information about this annual event.

The 2020 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services will begin at **noon** followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 1:00 p.m. Changing of the guard. **Please note the dates and times the program will be held this year.** The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable E. Wesley Nelson, Sovereign Grand Master.

The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, at 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311, will be our headquarters. Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel, at toll-free 1-800-Hiltons (1-800-445-8667) or 1-703-845-1010. You **MUST** mention "Odd Fellows Pilgrimage" when reserving your room to receive the special rate of \$120 single/double, \$130 triple, and \$140 quad. All room rates are subject to applicable hotel tax.

The annual Pilgrimage banquet will be held in the hotel on Saturday, May 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. (advance ticket purchase required - see pre-registration form). A social hour will be held from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. After the banquet, all present will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Honorable E. Wesley Nelson, Sovereign Grand Master, Independent Order of Odd Fellows from the Jurisdiction of Alberta, Sister Elizabeth Mowry-Harbstreit, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Missouri, General John C. Roberts, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of Virginia, and Lady Jami A. Rafter, President, International Association of Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant from the Jurisdiction of Iowa.

We recommend that you schedule flights to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), the nearest airport to take advantage of the free shuttle service to the hotel provided by the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The Washington metro area is also served by Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles southwest of the Capital in Northern Virginia. (There is no free hotel shuttle from this airport).

We encourage you to publicized this special annual event in your I.O.O.F. Community. The contact information for the various events is listed on the attached forms. We look forward to seeing you May 1-3, 2020 in Alexandria, Virginia.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Chuck Renninger and Chris Clow
General Co-Chairmen
Jennie Sue Pearson Co-Chair Emeritus

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Contributions of current news and articles pertaining to the welfare of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternity solicited.

This publication is mailed by the first of the month, publication and contributions must reach the editor by the 10th of the preceding month.

WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE for any news or opinions expressed by the communications of our correspondents, and RESERVE the RIGHT to publish NEWS that WE feel constructive to our Order.



Member of
I.O.O.F. International
Press Association

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Christine Weaver	4/1/28
Warren Moody	4/3/28
Charles Bartimus	4/4/25
Mary Dobbs	4/4/31
Richard Kirk	4/8/28
Mary Hawkins	4/13/31
Wilma Turner	4/19/36
Corinthia Croy	4/23/61
Norma Neese	4/26/33
David Edwards	4/31/40

IN MEMORIAM

MELVIN COULTER

June 2, 1949 - February 4, 2020

**DONALD L. "ROBBIE"
ROBINSON**

April 15, 199 - January 2, 2020

CENTURY LODGE #492

As a newly elected Noble Grand to Century Lodge #492 in Carpentersville, I quickly realized that when a 25 year member asks you to gather writings he has made and make them into a letter to the Illinois Odd Fellow, I must do my best to comply.

WHY AM I AN ODD FELLOW

Lloyd "Skeeter" Stephens, 25 year Brother Century #492.

Just to let you know, Skeeter has been the brother through the years that just always shows up! To clean the windows, Seal the porch, Work an event . . . on and on.

Skeeter starts out in his writings, that long ago, he was a very hateful person. That changed the day he met a fellow motorcycle enthusiast and an Odd Fellow, who would go on to be his sponsor. Mike Hayden told him to "Come on up to the lodge and give it a try". "You might like it", he said. He also told him he felt that Skeeter already was an Odd Fellow at heart.

Well Skeeter wasn't sure what he was getting into, but right from the start, he was treated like one of the guys. For him, the FLT was infectious and him being a giver and not a taker . . . he fit right in.

Since becoming an Odd Fellow, life's greatest lesson Skeeter says is in the FLT, you can't have one without the other. (so true)

You know Skeeter doesn't even use the word hate anymore, and he has learned "not to second guess others", even yourself. In becoming a changed man, he feels he always has something more in life now, from belonging to our Order.

These days he struggles to make meetings with his breathing machine in tow. He wanted to somehow express his deep gratitude to his lodge brothers who continually help him out. Which is why I'm typing this letter tonight. You see Skeeter never needed anything before, but now in 2020, the brothers here knew he was in need and without

his asking, we help keep his distress at bay.

Skeeter says his MOTTO is: Don't take my Kindness for a Weakness. This line spoke volumes to me, especially with my new position in the lodge - I will try to adopt this throughout the year.

He states his love to all in the lodge, each and everyone the same. And is so proud to say "I belong to the greatest Independent Order in the World!!!"

Respectfully submitted in FLT,

Guy Rossi NG

Century Lodge 492, Carpentersville

CHARITY HOME REBEKAH LODGE #112 DISTRICT MEETING MARCH 14

Charity Home Rebekah Lodge #112 of Fairbury, would like to invite you to their 2020 Spring Meeting. Date is March 14, registration starts 8:30 till 9:30, meeting starts at 9:30 am. Lunch is \$7.00 send reservations to Charity Home P.O. Box 221 Fairbury Illinois 61739. The meeting will be held in the lodge hall address is 122 1/2 West Locust Street in Fairbury. District President Donna Wessels PPRA is looking forward to a fun meeting.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

What a busy month! We've got a pretty full house on both sides. Referrals have been coming in hard and fast. It's got everyone on the top of their game. Compliments to the staff for doing a great job with some of the more complicated cases we've received lately. It's been a bit challenging but they are doing well.

As, you can imagine everyone is staying pretty busy, and on top of that, we have so much going on this month. Some of the exciting things are..... Daylight savings time WOW it's early this year March 8th (Don't forget). We are also celebrating Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. March is National craft month so our residents will be making different crafts throughout the month as well!

We look forward to another busy month in April! Until next month- take care and be well!

Danita Starwalt

Community Relations Coordinator

IN MEMORIAM

CECUL BURKHEAD

1-3-1921 — 1-25-2020

99 years old and a 69 year member

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With spring just around the corner, Day Light Savings Time begins on March 8th.

Regional meetings will be starting on February 22 at Farmington, which always has a good degree and drill team.

We will be having Regionals March 7th in Waterloo, March 21st, at Mt Zion, April 11 at Flora, and April 18th in Sycamore. The Grand Encampment will be having the Roundup on March 28th.

I would like to Thank the Visual Research committee for all the work they are doing. Big thank you for the Museum committee for all the hard work and a wonderful Museum.

Also the Scholarship Committee for all the work to give a I.O.O.F. Scholarship's to Illinois students.

*In Friendship, Love and Truth,
Niles Reamer
Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I'm hoping the Ground Hog was correct in February and that Spring is fast approaching!!

I continue to remain busy with the various lodges where I belong.

I attended the Chili Fundraiser at Western Star Lodge on Saturday, February 8th. Proceeds go to the Disaster and Relief Fund.

I attended meetings for Brighton Odd Fellow Lodge #366, Ruby Rebekah Lodge #263, Juanita Rebekah Lodge #477 and Pride of the West #544.

On March 14th we will travel to Fairbury for District #16 Spring Meeting. Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9:30. They will be serving lunch after the meeting. Please send reservations to Susan Shove, P.O. Box 221, Fairbury, IL 61739 or call Susan at 309-369-2611. This will be our first District Meeting for 2020. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Remember: stuff your purses!!

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 21st in Carpentersville for District 6. Fox River #532, 50½ East Main, Carpentersville, IL. Registration will be at 10:30 and meeting starts at noon. A brunch will be served before the meeting at 11:00. Cost is \$7.00. Reservations to Beth Zender, 340 Charlotte Avenue, Lake Forest, IL 60014, 815-451-7884. Cost is \$7.00.

I would like all lodges to celebrate the birthday of Schuyler Colfax in March. He was born on March 23,

1823 in New York City. He served as Vice President of the United States under President U.S. Grant from 1869-1873. He was the founder and father of the Rebekah Degree which was adopted in 1861. I would like all lodges in the jurisdiction to pay tribute to him at your March meetings.

If you are planning to go to the 2020 Pilgrimage to the Tomb May 1-3rd, reservations need to be made by March 31st.

In closing, remember to Respect each other - Believe in the good work we do - Love each other.

In F.L. & T.

Nann Johnson

Assembly President

Calendar of Events for March & April

Field Meets for the Patriarch Militants

June 6, 2020 - Jerseyville Lodge, 124A West Pearl St. Jerseyville, IL - 10 a.m.

Grand Encampment

March 28, 2020 - Round-Up at Friendship Manor, Lincoln starting at 10 a.m.

Regional Meetings:

March 7, 2020 - #4 (South) Waterloo 10 a.m.

March 21, 2020 - #3 Mt Zion 10 a.m.

April 11, 2020 - #5 Flora 10 a.m.

April 18, 2020 - #1 Sycamore 10 a.m.

Rebekah Assembly Spring District Meetings for 2020

March 14, 2020 - District #16 Warden

March 21, 2020 - District #6 Warden

April 4, 2020 - District #20 Warden

April 24, 2020 - District #11 Vice President

April 25, 2020 - District #12 Bushnell Vice President

May 16, 2020 - District #19 Mattoon Warden

May 30, 2020 - District #26 Granite City - Vice President

ENCAMPMENT DEGREE DAY FEBRUARY 8

Welcome 14 new Patriarchs who received their Royal Purple Degree February 8th at Ellwood #173 all degree day.



Back row: Eric Becker, Tim Kohmstest, Tony Layrindino, John Buck, Douglas Peterson-Gianunzio, Brian Pinowar, Adam Fugarowicz, Chris Zapfe,

Front row: Robert Haavind, Jon Fuhlbohm, Sara Fuhlbohm, Adam Minter, Jessica Yingling, Allante Harriston.

In FLT

Steve Adams

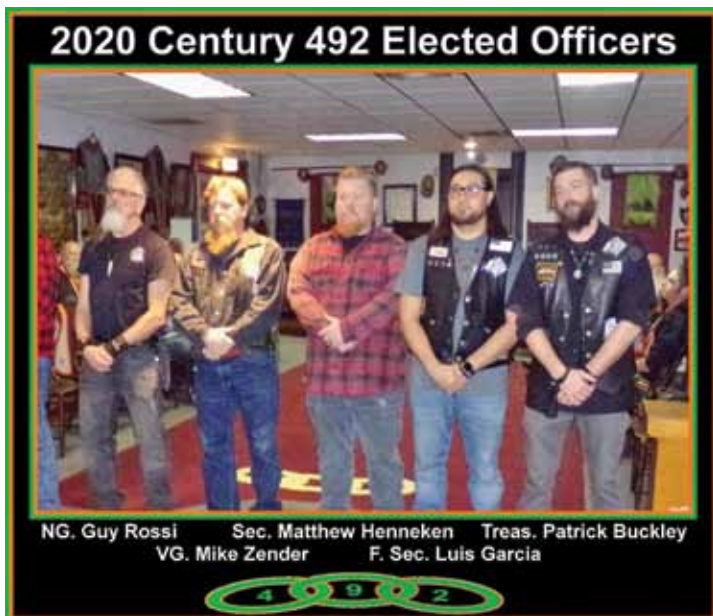
JOINT INSTALLATION OF MACOMB REBEKAH LODGE #342 AND VICTOR REBEKAH LODGE #385

Joint installation of officers was held in Bushnell during Victor #385 Rebekah lodges regular meeting, for Victor lodge and Macomb #342 by District Deputy Cynthia Elam. Both lodges were lucky enough to have Past Noble Grand who weren't repeating the office. Marla Butcher presented Victor PNG Linda Fitch a PNG pin which had been worn by a previous member who had been very active in the Order. Past Noble Grand of Macomb H. O. Bader also was presented a former members PNG pin. Both were pleased to receive their pins.



Marla Butcher PPRA, PNG presenting Linda Fitch a PNG pin.

CENTURY ODD FELLOWS #492 NEW ELECTED OFFICERS



Bonnie Hensley, PPRA presented H. Bader with his PNG pin.

CENTURY LODGE #492



At a past meeting of Century Lodge #492 Noble Grand Grant Dudar (left) presented Brother Nick Theis with a year pin.



Noble Grand Grant Dudar presented Brother Andy McPherson with a 25 year jewel during Century Lodge #492 December 2nd meeting.



Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville held its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 21st. A Ham and Turkey Dinner was served. Highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa. Pictured is all the Children with Santa. A great time was had by all members families and guests.

CENTURY LODGE #492 DONATES WINTER GEAR TO HOMELESS VETERANS



Sister Lori Fernandez and VG: Guy Rossi Shop for Vets



Winter Gear for Vets



On Saturday December 23rd, VG: Guy Rossi, Brother Casey Fernandez, PG: Tony Anthony, and Brother Tom Oneil delivered Coats, Gloves, Hats Etc, to Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton Il. The Vets at Shelter were very Happy with Donation.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY ALLEN JONES #366



90 years old and still cooking for Brighton I. O. F. lodge #366 who held their Annual Oyster dinner on January 27th. This has been the "Schroeder - Jones" Annual Affair for many years. It is sad to say, but Allen is the only one left to serve the Dinner. There was also a large kettle of Vegetable Soup, and Clifford Link's Extra good Chili. Although, the attendance was down, the Soups were enjoyed by all.

BRIGHTON LODGE #366

At the Business Meeting, two new Associate Members were accepted. Welcome to David and Jody Jedlicka. Installation of Officers for 2020: Noble Grand, Donna Faye Grable, Vice Grand, Nannette Johnson, The other Special visitors were Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Present and Past Officers of the Rebekah Assembly.



The picture below names are as follows: Front Row: Richard Jones, PGM, Allen Jones, PGM, Nannette Johnson, President of the Rebekah Assembly, Audrey Jones, PPRA, Donna Grable, Representative to the IARA, Larry Gean, PGM, Charles Campbell, PGM.

Second Row: James Bott, JR PGM, Jerald Sarnes, PGM, A Large Thank You to all those guest attending. Thank You to all who attended.

REBEKAH CELEBRATES 104th BIRTHDAY



Pictured above are Donna Grable, PPRA, Audrey Jones, PPRA, and Nannette Johnson PRA with Irene Wilkerson, a member of Juanita Rebekah Lodge #477, Granite City who recently celebrated her 104th birthday at Cedar Hurst of Granite City, where she resides. Irene is still very active and always has a smile, enjoys visiting with people, and certainly has a wit about her. She was an active bowler until two years ago and still was driving her car at that time. She served as NG of Juanita #477 in the late 1970's and she says her favorite office is that of Chaplain. She is a true example of a Rebekah and how we should live our lives.

GENEVA #274 DONATES BOOKS



Evelyn Kamp of Geneva #274 donated a Large Print Dictionary and Book on the City of Charleston to the Library at the Fellowship Center where she resides. Pictured with Evelyn is Joan Pryor, Manager at the Fellowship Center and Linda Keepes, President of the Council.

*Anita L. Jones Sec.
Geneva #274*

PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

Eighty-seventh I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 1-3, 2020, Arlington Virginia



HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311
1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667)

Reservations are now being accepted and should be made as soon as possible.

The **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center** is the headquarters hotel for the 2020 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. To receive the special rate of \$120, single/double, \$130, triple, and \$140, quad, plus hotel tax, available for the nights of May 1-3, reservations must be made **no later than March 31, 2020**. You must mention the "**ODD FELLOWS PILGRIMAGE**" when making your reservation in order to receive these rates and to obtain the specially reduced parking rate. The hotel will accept reservations **on a space available basis after March 31, 2020, but not at this reduced price**. Only telephone reservations are accepted 1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667).

It is imperative that reservations are made as early as possible. Although the deadline to place a reservation is **March 31, 2020**, occasionally in past years the hotel has sold all the rooms set aside for the IOOF Pilgrimage at the reduced rate **BEFORE** the deadline. So, although a person may call to place a reservation before March 31, 2020, if there are no more rooms available **AT THAT RATE**, the person will be faced with a choice of **reserving a room at a higher rate**, if any are available, or seeking a room at another hotel. **If you have any problems with hotel reservations, please call Chuck Renninger at 1-301-350-4495.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 1, 2020

3:00-6:00 P.m. PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Saturday, May 2, 2020

8:00 a.m.-4:00 P.m. PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5:45-6:45 p.m. CASH BAR SOCIAL HOUR, hotel lower level

7:00 p.m. PILGRIMAGE BANQUET, hotel lower level. **Prepaid reservations required.** (see pre-registration form) Open seating. *Dress code for men* - Tux, business suit, or military uniform. *Dress code for women* - formal dress, street-length dress, dress suit, or military uniform.

Sunday, May 3, 2020 *Please note times for all events*

8:00-10:00 a.m. PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

10:30 a.m. BUSES LOAD - DEPART 10:45 a.m. Promptly from the hotel lobby entrance. No cars or buses will be allowed in the cemetery. Commercial parking lot available. No exceptions

Noon Memorial Service followed by wreath laying after 1:00 p.m. changing of the guard
NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR WOMEN IS PERMITTED FOR WREATH LAYING

Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform

Dress code for women: street-length dress, dress suit or
Lady's military uniform

No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, open-toe shoes, etc.

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.

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Eighty-seventh I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 1-3, 2020, Arlington, Virginia



PRE-REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE OF TICKETS FORM ONE FORM PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$5.00 per person, pre-registration deadline: **March 31, 2020**.

Registrations postmarked after March 31, 2020 or in-person registrations: **\$8.00 per person**. *Any questions about registration?* Contact **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee, Treasurer Wanda Smith Phone: 1-703-590-1267 — E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com**

PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK (upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center)

Open Friday, May 1, 3:00-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 3, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Pre-registered participants must pick up their registration envelopes which include the Pilgrimage badge and certificate of attendance and any pre-paid tickets as requested on **this form**. In-person registrations are accepted. Any transportation tickets still available may be purchased.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE — ONE FORM PER PERSON — (Please copy this form as needed)
PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 31, 2020**

Name _____ Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Jurisdiction _____

Highest Title you want printed on the certificate _____

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. NO REFUNDS.

() **\$5.00 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE** available until **March 31, 2020**, after **March 31, 2020**, fee is \$8.00

() **\$5.00 SATURDAY PILGRIMAGE BANQUET** — **MUST** be reserved and prepaid by **March 31**. Unless there are canceled reservations, **no additional banquet tickets** will be available.

() **\$47.00 ARLINGTON CEMETERY TRANSPORTATION TICKETS** — round-trip bus from the Hilton to the Visitor Center, round-trip shuttle from the visitor center to the tomb for Sunday, May 3, 2020 only. **Space is limited**. Unless there are cancellations, last minute transportation tickets may not be available.

*****NO PRIVATE VEHICLES or BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE CEMETERY AND PARK.
PRIVATE VEHICLE AND BUS PARKING IS AVAILABLE FOR A FEE AT THE COMMERCIAL PARKING GARAGE
AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Check # _____ Amount of check _____

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Make checks payable to:

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee and send with this form to:
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee:
P.O. Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195 Phone: 1-703-590-1267 — E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com