



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 183rd Year

VOL. 69, NO. 1

USPS 258240

January 2021

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

BRIGHTON LODGE #366 CELEBRATES WITH MEMORIAL

On November 22, Members of Brighton Lodge # 366 met at the Brighton Cemetery to dedicate a monument to all the past and present members of the Brighton Lodge.

Brighton Lodge was organized on March 5, 1868. Many good citizens of the town made their way through the degrees and worked to improve the lives of their fellow citizens in the town.

In 1905, a large two story building was purchased with loan assistance from Western Star Lodge in Alton, for \$1,200.00. The downstairs floor was rented out until 1950 to the publishers of the Brighton News. After the News left, that floor was renovated and it became a social hall for the members and Rebekahs.

A few years ago, Rail Road workers were working on the Rail Road behind the lodge when a bulldozer 'accidently' bumped into the building causing it to fall down.

The Lodge now meets in Alton.

The Program for the Memorial for Brighton Lodge #366

Welcome by Noble Grand Donna Grable

Pledge to our Flag by Donna Grable

Dedication by Allen Jones

Brighton Odd Fellow Lodge was organized on March 5, 1868. The First Trustees were G Compton, J. Howell, T. L. Keas, G.L. Bean, L.P. Armstrong.

Early Rules were office fines for being absent, elected officers were fined .25 cents, appointed officers were fined .15 cents. The lodge was located in various halls in Brighton for many years.

An issue came to head on December 8 1873. The issue was spitting tobacco juice on the stove. The men were fined .50 cents and urged to bring their own spittoons.

Our lodge hall at 109 N. Main Street was purchased in 1905, for \$1200.00. The down stairs was rented until 1950 to the Publishers of the Brighton News. After the News moved out of the downstairs, it was refurbished and painted, new ceiling, shelves removed and it looked good. It was rented for a couple of years and then the lodge used it as their dinning room, Our

Rebekah lodge #686 ladies were so happy to have a nice room to entertain guests. They kept it clean and always looking nice.



Many improvements to the hall were made through the years, tuck-pointing, furnaces, new brick front, rest room, and as usual our Rebekah Lodge was our great helpers worked tirelessly to maintain and improve our hall and made many donations.

Our most important project to our members and surrounding area residents was our Hospital Equipment, this project was sponsored and money raised to buy some equipment by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

Our local Dr F.N. Orr and our Pharmacist Mr Gross, would refer people to the Lodge. Our equipment was always in use. Some folks would give a donation, and some donated additional hospital equipment. We started with three beds and ended with eight, and many wheel chairs.

The Odd Fellow Membership in the best days were from the 1800's through the 1920's. The great depression of the 30's saw a considerable loss in membership. After World War II we had a good increase in membership of 20, even though the ladies can now join the Odd Fellows.

My project for several years was to get a monument in memory of all Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

The Brighton Cemetery Boar was gracious to grand us permission to place the monument here by the G.A.R. and Veterans Monuments. Hundreds of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are buried here in the surrounding cemeteries.

Today we dedicate this monument to their memories.

Thank you.

Closing Prayer by Jodi Jedlicka, Chaplain.

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Crystal Rennels 02/16/1929
Betty Harris 02/23/1937
William Smith 02/26/1950
Lydia Davis 02/27/1924
Gary Blagg 02/27/1949



NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

Happy New Year!

We are slowly recouping from the holidays and it appears everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. We want to thank the Odd Fellow's and Rebekah's for giving us the opportunity to buy gifts for our residents. It really does put a smile on their faces and they are so lucky to have such a caring and generous organization to make this possible.

The Home was decorated beautifully for the month of December. It was a busy time, ushering gifts and goodies from families down the halls to our residents. Although it is very difficult, families are adjusting to the non-visit policy and are making it up in gifts and flowers.

Until next month- take care and be well.

Danita Starwalt
Community Relations Coordinator

CALLING ALL ODD FELLOW LODGES

We need help with our 50 year members. We need you to send the following information our Office as soon as you can. Please send the information to the Grand Lodge Office at P.O. Box 248 Lincoln, IL 62656-0248 or email the info to gloof@frontier.com.

Lodge Name & Number

A List of 50 year members:
Name, Address, and Birthday.

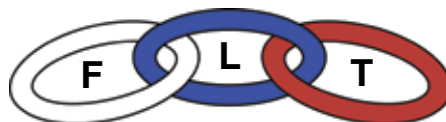
Our list is so out of date it needs updating. We are trying to get back to sending birthday cards to our 50 year members. We need your help to make sure we get all the 50 year members.

We don't want to leave anyone out.

Thanks your Grand Lodge
Office

JERSEYVILLE LODGE #366

Here is a picture of Nana Johnson President of the Rebekah Assembly ringing the bell for the Salvation Army for the Jerseyville Lodge #366



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. With the new Year I wish everyone a Happy New Year. BE SAFE!!!!

With meetings being cancelled, this new year will be a challenge for everyone. With the Governors order closing down businesses, keeping people not to gather in groups of 25 or less. Hopefully we will be able to attend Lodge Meetings and District Meetings this year very soon.

This has been a rough year for even me. Just this November my wife's father passed away on the 27th.

WHEN IS A MAN A GOOD ODD FELLOW?

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage – which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart everyone is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellowman....

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins--knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all, how to keep friends with himself....

When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds, without a gun, and feels the thrill

of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child....

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain and no hand seeks his aid without response...

When he finds good in every faith that helps man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of the faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud and into the face of the most forlorn fellow-mortal and see something beyond sin....

When he knows how to pray, how to live, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman with his God, in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song--glad to live, but not afraid to die.

Such a man has found the only real secret to Oddfellowship..

*Friendship Love and Truth
Niles Reamer
Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone was able to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I'm hoping 2021 will be a much bet-

ter year for all of us!

Everything, meetings and get togethers have been put on hold per the Grand Master Niles Reamer until further notice. I am in total support of this decision. It is better to be safe and healthy then to be sorry. We have lost many members around the state due to this COVID 19 virus. Where I live in Madison County, which is in the southern part of the state, we are getting slammed again with virus cases, actually I believe this virus is worse now than it was in March when it started.

I was able to help ring the bell for the Salvation Army in Jerseyville, Illinois. This is something the Odd Fellows and Rebekah's do in the Jerseyville Lodge.

In my November letter to lodges I had asked for donations to various funds in the Assembly. The Visual Research Committee is in dire need on donations. I know with lodges not meeting this is hard to do but get creative and see if you can call members and take a vote that way and get some funds coming their way it would be much appreciated!

I know we are all really tired of this virus and everything being cancelled until further notice, but I also know that we all need to stay healthy and safe.

I was just informed that the trip to the Tomb of the Unknown has been cancelled for 2021. I was really sad when I heard this news, since it was also cancelled last year as well, but my son reminded me that I am so incredibly blessed to be able to be the Assembly President, and to have all that I am thankful to have and be able to do! I'm looking at my installation as President as my special moment. I'm also hoping that the Spring District meetings will take place but I'm not sure, we will see.

Remember to Respect each other – Believe in the good work we do – Love each other.

The Schedule for Spring Meetings is as follows:

Friday, March 12 – District 6 evening meeting

Saturday, March 13 – District 16

Saturday, April 17 – District 26

Saturday, April 24 – District 19

Friday, May 14 – District 12 evening meeting

Saturday, May 15 – District 11

Saturday, May 22 – District 20

*In F.L. & T.
Nann Johnson,
Assembly President*

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

MT ZION SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Mt Zion Odd Fellows wanted to spread some Christmas cheer to the Mt Zion community. They decided the best way to do so, while allowing everyone to distance as they felt appropriate was to bring the cheer to the neighborhoods.

This past Saturday the Odd Fellows traveled throughout Mt Zion with their illuminated Christmas float playing Christmas songs and their own little drummer boy, Kerry Toothman, playing his homemade drums. Santa even showed up to ride along. The repurposed ambulance provided a tow vehicle, lights and a siren to let the neighborhoods know they were coming.

The Odd Fellows mini parade started at 4:30. 15 miles and 3 hours later, the parade wrapped up, having passed through nearly every Mt Zion neighborhood.

The Odd Fellows were greeted by many happy residents standing on their porches or in front of their homes. The Odd Fellows brought donations and collected additional food for the Mt Zion food pantry along the way. Those food items were delivered to the Mt Zion food pantry on Sunday, where they were greatly appreciated and desperately needed.

