



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838
Our 183rd Year*

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MT ZION LODGE #300

The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 recognize the great work being done at the Mt Zion Food Pantry and have repeatedly supported their effort in the past. The Mt Zion Food Pantry is holding a food drive on Saturday, February 6th, 2021 from 9 am -11 and the Odd Fellows wanted to help kick that off.

On February 1st, the Mt Zion Odd Fellows presented the Mt Zion Food Pantry Board members a donation of \$2,000 which will be used to provide food, including needed perishable foods, for their clients. The Odd Fellows will also be delivering food collected from members on Saturday, during the food drive. Mt Zion is a great community and the Mt Zion Odd Fellows continue to support community efforts.



ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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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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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
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ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Christine Weaver	4/1/1928
Mary Dobbs	4/4/1931
Richard Kirk	4/8/1928
Elsie Runner	4/8/1929
Evanell Moore	4/9/1930
John Speer	4/10/1928
Wilma Turner	4/19/1936
Corinthia Croy	4/23/1961
Norma Neese	4/26/1933
David Edwards	4/30/1940

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

We are glad February is over, with the frigid temps and snowfall we sure won't miss it. Even though we enjoyed Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras festivities.

March always proves to be an exciting month with rising temps and the anticipation of spring coming. St. Patrick's Day festivities are underway with many green snacks and fun games for everyone. March is National craft month, so the residents will be making crafts throughout the month to decorate the home! We will be gearing up for our Easter plans and all the excitement that it brings as well.

Until next month- take care and be well!

*Danita Starwalt
Community Relations Coordinator*

THE LEGEND OF THE LEPRECHAUN

"Twas on a bright St. Patrick's
morn

In Irish days of yore
A Lad beheld
a tiny man

Outside his cottage door
Arrayed in clothes of emerald
green,

Beside a crock of gold,
He stood not half the young-
ster's size,

But looked ten times as old.
The wee man bowed politely
As he introduced himself---

"A Leprechaun is what I be,
first cousin of the elf.
The sun's my faithful guardian,
Each Flower is my friend,
My home lies over yonder
Just beyond the rainbow's end."

And then, for hours the little
man

Regaled the lad with tales
Of Leprechauns who played
In mountain glens and forest
vales.

But you'll not find us there," he
said,

Because tis meant to be
That from this day no human
eyes

Shall see the likes o' me.
If you believe in hopes and
dreams,

I'll be with you, my boy."
Then in a flash he disap-
peared--

Yet in his magic way
he visits Irish hearts again
Each new St. Patrick's Day.

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 stream.
Or salt without it's 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.

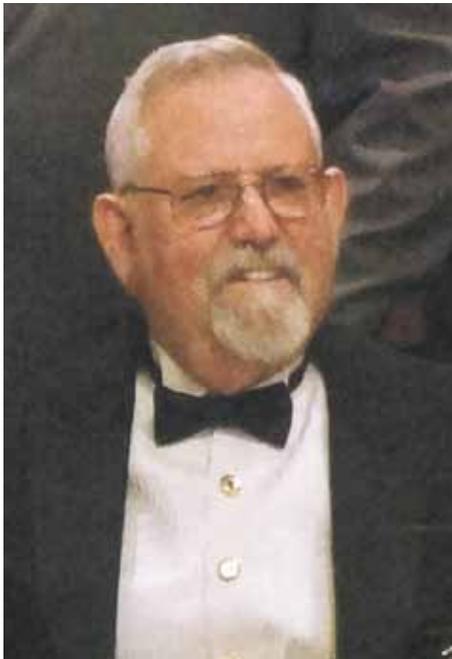
By the shortest form the candidates
They obligate and read,
Their parts from musty rituals
With blundering haste and speed
Then grumble that their membership
Don't come around and seem
Delighted at the working of
A lodge without a team.

They'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 trance,
And may be roused to do it's 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.

Truth

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone is safe, with winter almost over. This has been a mild year so far December and January . But February could be a different story. It started with snow and colder weather, hope it does not last long.

With March we will turning are clocks a head for daylight Savings Time, which begins on the 14th. And the first day of Spring is on the 20th. This is a new one for me on the 29th Vietnam War Veterans Day, I was there in the 60's.

All Regional Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. I would like to say they have been postponed. If you have any candidates please let the Grand Lodge know, we will try to put on Degrees with a smaller number in attendance.

One of the greatest links that binds the human race together and brings all creation into a fellowship that extends from East to West and from North to South and cements our ambitions, our happiness, existence and peace into our chain is LOVE,

Friendship Love and Truth
Niles Reamer
Grand Master

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone is well and getting back to some form of normal! I know that lodges are able to meet again, per the Grand Master, as long as members feel safe doing so.

If you not heard the Rebekah Assembly is in need of funds to help save the Assembly. I have sent letters to all Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges in the state to ask for donations to the Rebekah Assembly of Illinois General Fund.

The Executive Committee of the Assembly met, and we cut everything we could cut from the budget including salaries for the Secretary and Treasurer and the President's monthly amount of \$62.50 per month. We cut all money for any mileage and per diem, hotel rooms for all Officers to Assembly Session in October, as well as any mileage and per diem for committee members that attend Session.

I know this may come as hard news to some, but I know we are all good Rebekah members and hopefully will still attend knowing there will be no compensation.

It is very important to the Executive Board that all members be made aware of our situation. We are also trying to raise money thru other fund raisers. I will keep everyone up to date on our progress.

If you are meeting, I am asking lodges to celebrate Schuyler Colfax Day

during March. Take pictures of what you are doing and send to the Illinois Odd Fellow to show everyone what your lodge is doing.

I have also made the decision to cancel all Spring District Meetings for 2021 due to the COVID-19 virus. I made this decision because I'm not sure yet if it is truly safe to have a large gathering of people together.

Everyone stay safe and healthy!

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

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

TAKE TIME

Take time to think; it is the source of power,
Take time to read; it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to play; it is the secret of staying young.
Take time to be quiet; it is the opportunity to seek God.
Take time to be aware; it is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to love and be loved; it is God's greatest gift.
Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul.
Take time to dream; it is what the future is made of.
Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

Reprinted from Montana Odd Fellow.

JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the Sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.
A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, is a promise is a special treat.

Happy Easter

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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REBEKAH DEGREE BANNERS FOUND IN LODGE HALL CLOSET

When Pride of the West Rebekah Lodge #544 and Neilson Odd Fellow Lodge #25 of Troy, Illinois recently moved their lodge hall downstairs, these beautiful banners of the four emblems of the order were found in a closet. They were still in their original packaging. They are now being proudly displayed on the wall of the Lodge Hall. The Rebekah Lodge was chartered in 1899. It is presumed these have been around since the early days of the lodge.

