



# THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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Our 183rd Year*

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MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEARS  
FROM YOUR  
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 pertaining to the welfare of the Independent  
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WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPON-  
 SIBLE 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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 Through Positive Communication"*

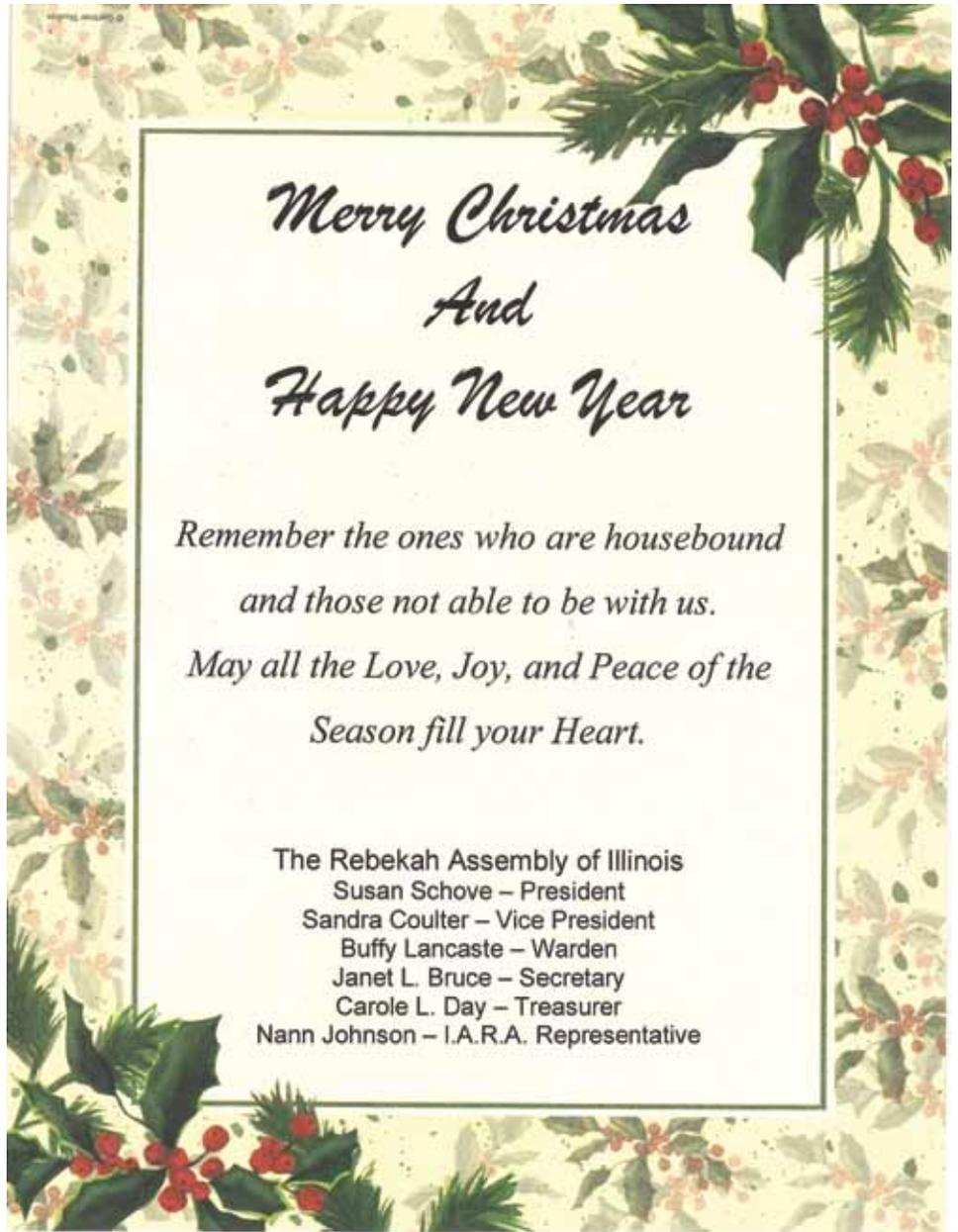
## ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fengel, Irma	Jan 06, 1929
Webb, Lourdine	Jan 07, 1929
Skinner, Rita	Jan 10, 1934
Graves, Frances	Jan 20, 1934
Clodfelder, Larayne	Jan 26, 1937
Phillips, Margaret	Jan 27, 1939
Englund, Carol	Jan 30, 1939
Walker, Lila	Jan 20, 1943



## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

It has been an amazing month. We are working hard and getting things moving in a positive direction. We are working diligently on developing strategies to save and furthermore, make lodges money! These are exciting times and we count on hearing from you all with feedback.

In the month of October we had our session, immediately following session Jess and I traveled to Minnesota for a family wedding, went to a couple car shows, attended our local lodge, had a going away party for our oldest Daughter and Grandson (Sad day). We also traveled to Guardian Lodge #60 and saw their new building in Woodstock and enjoyed a lot of brotherhood and a fantastic bowl of quite spicy chili. It is good to hear and SEE, lodges moving forward and doing well.

We just held our District Deputy and Regional Director meeting where we scheduled our Regional meeting for next year, dates will be published soon. We also had our first School of Instruction with new Grand Instructor PGM. Jim Bott teaching us all! He did a wonderful job and was quite interactive! We were happy to see so many in attendance (I believe the count was 28), and a lot of new faces, several of them were christened as Deputy Grand Instructors and will be able to host official Schools of Instruction in their local Lodges.

As I have said before, we are here for you and are only a phone call or email away. I look forward to seeing you all in my travels this year, and hope

to see great things! Please don't forget to submit pictures and write ups to the Illinois Odd Fellow and if you have an event coming up let the office know so we can help spread the news!

*Fraternally yours in F,L&T,*

*Grand Master Mathew R. Yingling*  
**ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT**



Merry Christmas Sisters and Brothers

We have come upon this Christmas Season when most of the world remembers the love and respect for family and community with the spirit that makes this world a happier place.

If we have not been going to church regularly we feel the pull to come back, to remember the feeling of love that comes from being with people that think like we do. It is a peaceful time basking in the love, peace, joy and fellowship of mankind.

Sisters and Brothers remember going to Lodge being excited to explore the ways of Rebekah's and the work we do? Our teachings are based on the ladies of the bible and the good works they did. We need to use this Christmas Season to get back the excitement of love, peace, joy and fellowship our lodges can give both members and the people we help. Discuss ideas, make plans. Remember to send a card call or text those members that are not coming. Sometimes they just need to be asked. Most importantly, try something, do not put it off as trying can help you feel better also. Sounds weird doesn't it but even when you fail at something you tried, and you learned. We all fail at one time or another.

er. Talk to another Lodge about what worked for them, what failed. Would it help to have a potluck and just social time, to talk and learn what has been going on in their lives.

We need to remember our members and our community. This has been a tough couple of years. The holiday season can be harder for people. Reach out and help where you can.

Keep love in your heart as you go through the Christmas Season and all year long.

Merry Christmas

*In F.L. & T.*  
*Susan Schove,*  
*Assembly President*

## THE LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM

The Living Legacy Program of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) is a program founded in 1989. It was commissioned to be a living memorial to the untiring work of those members who have passed on.

LeRoy Lodge #149 started the Brotherhood Tree local program in December 1992 by planting a living tree for members who had previously passed on.

For each year thereafter, the local lodge has planted a tree in the community for each member who has passed away. To date 45 memorial trees have been planted.

Recently members Dale Baker, Steve Vollmer, Merle Wood, Kenny Heavilin, Jeff Regenold and Dennis McCormick planted a tree at Brickyard Park in memory of Frank Whisman's service to the "Family Fraternity".

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

**Region 1 - Plano, IL -  
May 7th, 2022**

**Region 2 - Farmington, IL  
- February 26th, 2022**

**Region 3 - Mt. Zion, IL -  
March 19th, 2022**

**Region 4 - Jerseyville, IL  
- April 9th, 2022**

**Region 5 - Flora, IL - April  
30th, 2022**

## CENTURY LODGE #492 AWARDS PINS



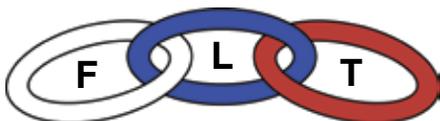
Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville, at our Thursday October 28th Meeting pictured (L to R) Acting Noble Grand Matt Henneken presents Brother Larry Jenssen with a 10 year pin.



Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville, at our Thursday October 7th Meeting pictured (L to R) Noble Grand Mike Wachinski presents PG. Grant Dudar with a 20 year pin.



Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville, at our Thursday October 7th Meeting pictured (L to R) Noble Grand Mike Wachinski presents PG. Ed Cook with a 15 year pin.



Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville, at our Thursday October 7th Meeting pictured (L to R) Noble Grand Mike Wachinski presents Brother Grant Sutfin with a 10 year pin.

## BILL WHITE



Mt Zion Odd Fellows Lodge #300 lost a long term member on 09-26-21. William (Bill) Doyle White, 95, died Sunday, September 26, 2021, at home. William had been a member of Mt Zion Lodge #300 since March 7th, 1949. Bill was born the youngest of three children in rural Macon County on January 18, 1926, to William Elmer and Elsie Cotner White.

A hard worker and a deeply principled man, Bill gave his life to building up the family farm that he loved. He first learned to love farming as a young boy watching his dad farm. He was 10 years old when he moved with his family to the land where he would stay for the rest of his life. Bill never retired from farming. As of two weeks ago, he was still happiest in a tractor on the land that he loved.

Following his high school graduation from Mt. Zion High School, Bill and his brother Dean stayed on the family farm and started a partnership

with their dad, called White Brothers. They raised corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, and hay. And they had a small dairy herd along with some hogs, sheep, and chickens.

When Bill and Dean's dad died in 1952, they maintained the partnership, bringing on their nephew Roger in 1978 and then Roger's son Alan in 2007.

He was grateful to serve his country in the army in an engineering unit where he built portable bridges, being stationed in Germany in the 1950s.

Surviving are his two nephews, Randall (Faith) White of Allen Park, Michigan, and Roger (Vickie) White of Decatur; and his niece, Deanna (Randy) Lloyd of Godfrey, along with many great nieces and nephews who love him.

## ASBURY'S CHILDREN'S SUPPER HOUR

### WHAT WE DO

What we do is not unlike missionaries overseas for a group of people who do not have a heritage or history with the Lord. Statistics show that Asbury United Methodist Church is surrounded by the lowest income tracts, the highest percentage of child poverty and the highest percentage of crime and violence.

Many of our children are living in the brokenness that comes with inner city conditions. The conditions are so bad at times that the children may not have the ability to eat within their own homes. However, the biggest disadvantage the children face is that they are living in the worst neighborhood in Springfield and they don't know to go to the One that can protect them 24 hours a day. Without knowing Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, our neighborhood children have no hope.

Our mission is to provide meals and activities in a safe, nurturing Christian environment while responding to the spiritual and social needs of the children. We accomplish this by feeding their bodies warm, nutritious meals while providing nourishment to their souls. We encourage them to embrace the love of Jesus and we teach them about the Bible in every craft, game, song, etc.

We teach the children how to pray and we pray before every meal. Our children often pray for family members and to stop the violence in their neighborhood.

We teach the children good moral

character, hygiene, manners, and social skills. We also teach skills such as teamwork, respect, patience, creativity, etc. through our crafts and activities.

We distribute socks, underwear, pajamas, clothing, shoes, etc. throughout the year as the children need them. Coats, hats, gloves and mittens are also distributed in the winter months.

We also respond to the children's educational needs by assisting with homework, distributing school supplies and rewarding the children for good grades.

Our ticket program promotes good behavior and builds self-esteem. The children earn tickets for good behavior, participating in activities, cleaning up after themselves, etc.

Our ticket store is stocked with toys of all kinds and prices. Besides the results we expected, we found that the children now have the gift of giving. They often buy something for a friend or sibling. Additionally, they are learning how to manage their "money". Many of the children will save their tickets to purchase a more expensive item instead of spending them as soon as they earn them.

The children love our Bible lessons. For example, recently the children learned about Joshua and the walls of Jericho. We read the Bible story; colored the page, stacked wooden blocks; marched around our "Jericho" six times and on the seventh time around, the children made as much noise as possible with our musical instruments (drums, horns, tambourines, whistles, etc.) and the walls came tumbling down.

Another recent activity was to learn about baby Moses. We read the Bible story; used crayons, markers and paints on the coloring pages; made baskets by gluing popsicle sticks to Styrofoam cartons; made Moses babies out of play dough; and then floated our baskets in a tub of water. The children loved it!

One of the ways we make all children feel special and loved is with our birthday club. We host monthly birthday parties where we serve cake and ice cream, sing Happy Birthday, and take pictures of the children with their birthday gifts.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

A program like ours has special needs. We depend on volunteers and the children depend on us. What better way to show children they are loved and cherished than to service them a

nourishing meal in a safe, love filled Christian place?

If you possess our belief in God's love for children and are capable of transferring this belief to them, we would love to have you as a volunteer.

Volunteers are needed for three hours a day once a week. If your busy schedule doesn't allow that, would you be willing to serve for three hours just once or twice a month?

The following volunteer positions are available.

Craft Monitor - Must enjoy working with construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors, old magazines, glue, glitter, and Popsicle sticks. Duties may also include repeating that age old phrase: "Don't run with scissors!"

Greeter - Duties include greeting children as they arrive and asking the following questions: "How are you today," "What did you learn at school today," "Are you hungry" etc.

Homework Assistant - Must have basic skills in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic and enjoy helping children become successful students.

Play dough Monitor - Must enjoy working with play dough, cookie cutters, rolling pins, etc.

Pantry Assistant - Duties include shopping for food, picking up food from the Central Illinois Food Bank and stocking/organizing our shelves.

Janitor - Duties include taking out trash, sweeping and mopping the dining room floor.

Storyteller - Must enjoy reading a variety of storybooks to children. Duties may include holding small children in your lap while reading to them.

Teacher - Duties similar to those of a Sunday School or Bible School teacher. Must be able to teach the children of God's love through songs, games, crafts, etc.

Piano Player - Must enjoy playing a variety of praise and worship songs and encouraging the children to sing along.

### **MEASURING OUR SUCCESS**

The most rewarding measure of our success is the smiles on the children's faces and the hugs we receive from them.

In addition, the children sign in at each meal, which provides us with a daily record of the number of children who attend.

Our ministry is currently serving about 30 children per day, four days a week, and fifty one weeks a year.

Recently, we asked several children why they like coming to Asbury's

Children's Supper Hour. They responded "Because we fill them up, we teach them about Jesus, we give them a safe place to go, we give them dessert after they finish their meal, we do crafts, we display their artwork, we have a ticket store where they can buy toys and we celebrate birthdays."

All of these things are accomplished by your love and continued support of our ministry so thank you for that.

The children are very appreciative of all we do for them. They love having a safe place where they can go and they show their appreciation by helping us clean up, wipe tables and chairs, sweep the floor and take out the trash.

### **FINANCING OUR MINISTRY**

Currently, we are funded by grants, and donations from churches, individuals and businesses. In the past we received city supported grants that prohibited us from presenting a Christian message to the children. Consequently, we have made a conscious decision not to accept funding that would limit our ability to present a Christian message.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Financial assistance is needed for us to continue meeting the spiritual and social needs of our neighborhood children.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR US**

In addition to your financial support, we ask that you pray for the children who attend our program, our volunteers and our neighborhood.

### **OUR WISH LIST**

Most of our food comes from the Central Illinois Food Bank (CIFB) at a reduced price so we are able to stretch your financial gifts.

Food items that we cannot get from (CIFB) must be purchased from local grocery stores, or received as in-kind gifts.

In addition to food, we need paper products, cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, craft supplies and office supplies.

We also need in-kind donations of school supplies, clothing, coats, gloves, hats, socks, underwear, etc. that can be distributed to the children.

Additionally we need Bibles, Sunday School and VBS materials, Christian books and videos, toys for the ticket store and toys for birthday gifts.

Periodically our needs change. Please contact us for a current list of items needed.

If God leads you to give to our ministry, we accept your gift with deep

thanks and look forward to serving with you.

### **SALVATION**

If you know of anyone who is not saved, please share Jesus with them. Let them know that Jesus will never fail them or abandon them (Hebrews 13:5) Tell them to confess to God that they are a sinner deserving judgement (Romans 3:23 and 6:23) and to believe in their heart that Christ died for their sins and that He rose from the dead on the third day (Romans 10:9,10) Then invite them to say the following prayer: Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and need your salvation. I believe You died for me and rose from the dead. I now call upon Your name and ask You to save me. Amen (Romans 10:13)

### **SERVING CHRIST BY SERVING CHILDREN**

We are building relationships with the children and with each other. We would love for you to be a part of our team. If you belong to a small group, consider serving together. If you don't have time to serve, or you live out of our area, we appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. I would love to share what the Lord is doing. Thanks in advance for your prayers, service and support.

If you would like to be a part of our ministry team, please contact:

John Swinford, Executive Director at 217-816-0019

Or you may leave a message on Asbury United Methodist Church's answering machine at 217-522-8147.

## **OUR PRINCIPLES AND THE THREE LINKS**

Odd Fellowship enacts its objects through the application of certain principles, chief amongst them being the Three Links of Friendship, Love, and Truth. The first Link of Friendship refers not to a shallow or superficial form of acquaintance whereby one may see the same individuals regularly and perhaps engage in pleasantries or polite discussion. Rather, it refers to a deep and abiding friendship which links soul to soul. A true friend is someone who can be relied on for support when it matters, even if doing so is not of any direct benefit to themselves. They will even sacrifice their comfort or advantage to help because of the deeply shared tie. This type of friend is not easily acquired. Nevertheless, it is what all should be

striving towards with brothers and sisters in the Order, particularly if the Odd Fellow has attained the Degrees of Friendship. Anything less is not what is being referred to when speaking of the principle of Friendship.

The second Link is Love, specifically what is referred to as "brotherly love." This is not related to romantic love and is only similar to familial love by analogy. It refers to the selfless love a person has for their fellow creatures beyond that which would typically be expected for their relationship or lack thereof. This love should prompt a brother or sister to look beyond their relations in life and the Order and to extend themselves in service to all humankind. It is very unusual in this world to see in life that sort of selfless dedication to the care and betterment of all humanity, as opposed to a specific family, nationality, or group. This focus on serving all humankind puts Odd Fellowship in relatively rare company. A brother or sister who has achieved the Degree of Love is expected to aspire to this form of higher love even if they cannot always achieve it.

Truth is the third link and is often referred to as the "cardinal" or "imperial" virtue of the Order. Thus, it relates to the Third Degree, which is the highest degree that can be achieved in an Odd Fellow Lodge. The nature of Truth is two-fold. On one hand, one must work to know what is true about themselves and their world. Without knowledge of self, one cannot understand one's own motivation or how one can best contribute one's unique gifts and abilities to the world at large. Without knowledge of ones brothers and sisters, one cannot effectively work together for greater acts of good which are possible when united as a lodge or as a fraternity. Without knowledge of the world, one cannot understand the nature of humanity's challenges, and certainly not what the best remedy will be.

On the other hand one must also promote the spread of the truth through one's own words and deeds. If a brother or sister fails to speak the truth or act with integrity, they harm others and detract from the purpose of Odd Fellowship in the world. This misguided brother or sister also ultimately harms themselves and their own ability to be effective, because they will soon develop a reputation as one who cannot be trusted. Truth is not a finite resource in the world to be hoarded

for personal gain. Rather, truth begets truth. The more one shares knowledge of the truth with others, the more it becomes available to all. A brother or sister of the Degree of Truth should always do their best to seek out, understand, and ultimately share the truth. They should ensure their actions also reflect what they understand to be true.

Ultimately, the Three Links of Odd Fellowship provide a ladder by which a brother or sister may climb to the pinnacle of virtue. Through this, they may better the world. Each rung in this ladder forms the secure basis needed to construct the next level of the structure. Only by having close relationships of Friendship can one put oneself in a position to serve humanity through Love. Only through an outpouring of love can one attain the selfless devotion needed to discover and share Truth with all. By seeking out and achieving these virtues in sequence, one furthers the mission of Odd Fellowship, namely to elevate humankind, and to ultimately transform the world into the paradise so devoutly wished for.

### **SGL CODE OF LAWS CHAPTER XXVIII**

Emblems, Regalia, Jewels, Buttons, Pins, Rings, Flags and their uses.

(a) The official three links shall be of the proportion – one and three-fourths inch (1 ¾") outside length – one and three-eighths inch (1 3/8") inside length by fifteen-sixteenths inch (15/16") outside width – nine-sixteenths inch (9/16") inside width. The central link shall be dominant, appearing to insert over the outer two links. The center of the links shall be on a four and one-half inch (4 ½") radius with the outer (outside) two links centered fifteen degrees (15°) from center of the center link.

Colors. Colors have special significance in Odd Fellowship and are used officially in the degree to denote rank. The official colors are:

(1) Odd Fellows Lodges – White, Pink, Blue, and Scarlet.

(2) Rebekah Lodges – Pink and Green.

(3) Encampments – Black, Yellow, and Royal Purple.

(4) Ladies Encampment Auxiliaries – Purple and Gold.

(5) Patriarchs Militant – Black, Scarlet, Purple, and Gold.

(6) Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant – White, Purple, and Gold.

(7) Junior Lodges – Dark Blue and Silver.

(8) Theta Rho Girls' Clubs – Yale Blue and Light Peach.

(9) 12 United Youth Group – Yellow and Black

## MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Back Row L-R: Arlan Miller Grand Treasurer, Jim Bott, PGM, Grand Representative, Terry L Lester, Grand Warden.  
Front Row L-R: Richard Herring Grand Secretary, Steve Pigg, Deputy Grand Master, Mat Yingling Grand Master, Eric Smith, Grand Representative.

## MEET YOUR APPOINTED OFFICERS



Back Row L-R: Matt Diefenbach, Grand Chaplain, Peter Cortilet, Grand Conductor, Jessica Yingling, Grand Marshal.  
Front Row L-R: Ainslie Heilich, Grand Musician, Geoff Engel, Grand Guardian, Michael Cichonski, Grand Herald.

## 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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