



# THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

*Serving in Illinois Since 1838*

*Our 183rd Year*

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April 2022

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## LIVINGSTON LODGE #290

March 12, 2022 was a good day at Livingston Lodge 290. We fed a lot of people and handed out several Certificate's, to members for all the work they do in lodge. Certificates handed out were given to Steve Metz, Joe Kindleberger, Phil Orr, Bob Hammer and Arnold Ifft. Charity Home 112 was also given a Certificate for all they do too helping the lodge out. Certificates were handed out by Noble Grand Nyles Schum.



**WE SUPPORT OUR UKRAINIAN BROTHERS.**



## ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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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



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tate, Lee Ann	May 3
Dye, Margaret	May 6
Bailey, Elizabeth	May 7
Carrell, Wayne	May 10
Schwarz, Martha	May 10
Smallwood, Mary	May 21
Apgar, Earleen	May 23

## NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the Home!

What beautiful weather we have had lately. Like the old saying goes if you don't like the weather in Illinois, just wait it will change! We have been able to enjoy some outside, fresh air with the residents this month. What a mood booster!

April is time for our Annual Eggstravaganza that we host thanks to the Board of Directors. This year we are planning the Egg Hunt on April 9th, 2022, at 9 am for registration and the hunt to begin at 10:00 am. We of course will have prizes and baskets for children 0-10 to enjoy!

We have been working hard to improve our census here at the home. Staffing of course has been challenging, but we are keeping up with the demands. Everyone is working hard at the home, and we continue to make this the best home in the area!

We will be celebrating Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Passover and Easter. We also will be recognizing our Secretary's and office personnel on Administrative Professional Day on April 27th!

I hope everyone has adjusted to the Daylight Savings time. For me personally, it was rough the first week!

Here are 10 fun facts about Easter:

1. Easter is called a "moveable feast" because it does not have a set date every year, according to com. Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. Therefore, Easter is observed anywhere between March 22 and April 25 every year.

2. The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week and includes Maundy Thursday, which observes Jesus' last supper with his disciples; and Good Friday, which honors the day He was crucified, died and was buried.

3. Holy Week is the celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and then, Easter Sunday.

4. The first story of a rabbit (which will be later known as the "Easter Bunny") laying eggs in a garden was published in 1680.

5. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.

6. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree

bark, flower petals, and juices.

7. Palm Sunday is often celebrated with a procession of palm leaves. In some churches, the palms are saved and burnt into ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday of the next year.

8. According to Polish folklore, the Virgin Mary offered eggs to the soldiers guarding Christ on the cross, as she begged them to be merciful. Her tears left stains on the eggs.

9. Origins of the Easter Bunny are unclear, but he appears in early German writings.

The first edible Easter bunnies appeared in Germany in the 1800s, and were made out of sugar and pastry.

10. Americans spend nearly \$2 billion on Easter candy making it the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween. Over 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies are made each year.

Best wishes to all and we hope that you have a safe and blessed Easter Holiday filled with lots of love and laughter. Until next time...

*Penny R. Shinholster, CRC  
Activity Director*

Greeting's members,

As you are surely aware the crisis of the Russian war in Ukraine is ongoing. The need for humanitarian aid is paramount. At this time there are 29 members of the IOOF living in Ukraine and fighting for their country and ultimately their lives. Their families have been relocated to Poland as refugees and are currently living with other members who have taken them in.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge is preparing to take donations for humanitarian relief. There is an account set up for this purpose. If your lodge or members can afford to donate to this worthwhile cause, please send checks to the Grand Lodge of Illinois and put Ukraine in the memo line. The Grand Lodge is planning to match the first \$3000.00 in donations and the Sovereign Grand Lodge is planning to match the first \$10,000. It would be amazing to see Illinois leading the charge to truly help those in need.

In coming days there will also be a press release coming out, your lodge could use it as a fundraising opportunity to support the cause.

*Please donate if you can.*

*Fraternally yours,*

*Mathew Yingling, Grand Master*

*ATTEST: Richard E. Herring  
Grand Secretary*

## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Here we are, I can't believe this is the sixth letter I've written. WOW, it's really over in the blink of an eye! We still have a lot of time and a lot to do before this fall and session.

Regional meetings, lodge meetings, events, and degree days are coming back and are gearing up full swing for what we hope will be a resurgence of Odd Fellowship throughout Illinois and the world as a whole! One Lodge just brought in 12 NEW MEMBERS!!!

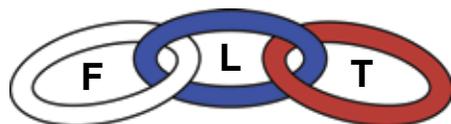
I hope your lodge is actively engaging with each other and getting out in your community. Make sure to introduce as many people as possible to the Three Links!

In February we went to Farmington Lodge for the Regional Meeting and enjoyed a wonderful lunch, lots of conversation and all degrees! A huge round of applause for the degree team and all of the practice they do to get every step right. It is awesome to see. By the time you read this we will have also visited Mt. Zion lodge. I encourage you all to travel and see the other lodges!

Keep an eye out for details about the family picnic in Lincoln this spring!

*Until next time, in FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH*

*Bro. Mathew R Yingling  
Grand Master*



## ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

How comfortable are you in your Lodge group? Do you go and enjoy the fellowship and relaxing time? Are you comfortable if you miss a meeting that someone will check up on you? Do you support members that are trying a new leadership role? Are you proud to say you are a Rebekah? Are you wondering why all these questions?

What are your answers to these questions? I'm very comfortable in my Lodge and love that I can talk, share and relax with my group. If I miss a meeting I know that at least three members will check on me (not counting family). I will support a member going into a new office in Lodge, and if that means helping by traveling with them I'll be there. Traveling is the hardest part without someone beside you to share your doubts, worries and time on the road. Even just a ride to a meeting lightens the heart. Yes I'm proud to be a Rebekah, I love what the order stands for and believe that we are better people when we help others. Those are my answers, what are yours?

Have you thought about that one person who moved to town? The empty nester? Just retired? They might be looking for something to fill their life with. We all need to look outside the box and see the rest of the people that could use Rebekahs in their life. Also the Rebekahs that could use a boost to keep going.

Have you wondered yet why such a heavy letter about Rebekahs? Spring meetings have just started, after 2 years of no meetings these are important times. First is to get our districts

together again. Second, share what is working in your Lodge to get members together. Third for your State Officers to meet you and you to meet them. Without each other we can not succeed. Fourth but most important Lodge members, those that want to stay home and never leave the hall. (Yes there are members!) These meetings are for you. Meet other members, be proud that you belong to this order, we are about helping people. Hop in a car, call another member, come to a meeting of yours or another district. April 2 - Bushnell, April 9 - Lewistown, April 23 - Fairbury, April 30 - Mattoon, May 14 - Troy, May 21 - Havana.

Honor your membership.

Respect those members who came before.

Promote yourself and your Lodge.

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

## OFFICE OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOW

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Please see the enclosed letter from the Grand Lodge of Europe.

In addition, I have been receiving some inquiries regarding the procedures for sending fund to assist the Ukrainians.

In communicating with the Hunger & Disaster Board, we have agreed to send \$10,000.00 for now and match up to \$10,000.00 donated by the Jurisdictions for this relief request; then see what may yet transpire for the future.

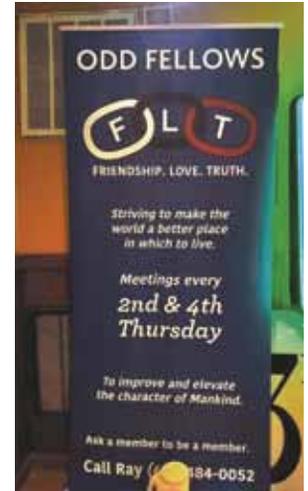
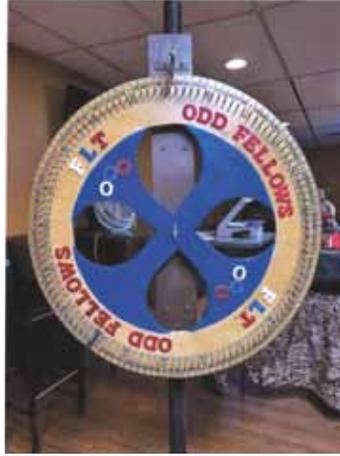
If your unit would like to make a donation, and to keep the wire fees to a minimum, send your donations to:

*I.O.O.F. Hunger & Disaster Fund c/o  
Ukrainian Relief  
422 N Trade St  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830*

*Fraternally,  
s/ Charles E. Lusk  
Sovereign Grand Master*

## OTTAWA LODGE 41 WHEEL OF MEAT

Saturday March 12th, Ottawa Lodge 41 hosted a “Wheel of Meat “ fundraiser at The Third Bar in Seneca Illinois. Before the raffle began Bro. Ray Jackson PG, presented a donation check to Ket Johnson a representative of the Seneca Community food pantry. 15 different meat prizes were given away along with 5 fifty/fifty raffles. It was a great turnout! Over a hundred people from the community showed up to participate, the bar owner said it was the biggest crowd he’s had since the bar opened! Special thanks went out to Corrigan Cattle Farm for supplying the locally raised beef and pork and Timmons Family Farms for the farm fresh eggs. Thanks to all our Ottawa 41 Brothers and Sisters for helping put this event together in Friendship, Love and Truth.



## MT. ZION #300 HOST REGIONAL MEETING ON MARCH 19, 2022

Welcome our newest members.



## CHARITY HOME REBEKAH LODGE #112

Charity Home Rebekah Lodge #112 is sewing blankets for the NICU and Nursery at St. Francis in Peoria. We had 18 done with just 4 people sewing one morning. Looking forward to the next time we all get together.



Sandy Harrison and Chris Metz  
cutting blankets



Denise Doran



Brenda Travis



Chris Metz

## CHARITY HOME REBEKAH LODGE #112



Bake Sale March 12th. This is our yearly Bake Sale in conjunction with IOOF Livingston #290 Pancake and Sausage. Russ Landry is behind the camera.

Pictured front: Donna Wessels PPRA, Brenda Travis Vice Grand, Sharon Landry PPRA, Pauline Ferguson Noble Grand

2nd Row: Lisa Gibson PNG, Denise Doran PNG, Susan Schove PRA, Karen Hoegger PNG



Pictured (l-r): Chris Metz, Denise Doran. Ida Ziller, Pauline Ferguson, Delores Headley.

## WATERLOO LODGE #27 HELD A DEGREE FOR NEW MEMBERS.



New Members are Eric Eicher, Jeremy McLoamick, Jonathan Elder, Brian Melicin, Brian Allscheid, Josh White, Jeremy Colson, Paul Barrlett II, Rich Glon, Spence Balwin, Jerry Helms Jr, Tim Williams. Noble Grand Tom Wetzler of Waterloo presented Grand Secretary Rich Herring with a check for \$500 for the Disaster Relief Fund.

## PRIDE OF THE WEST #544 HOSTS CRAFT FAIR

Pride of the West Rebekah Lodge #544 held their Christmas Craft/Vendor Fair at the IOOF Hall. Seventeen vendors took part. A Country Store was also a part of the affair. Raffle tickets were sold on baskets that were giving away at the end of the day. Lunch was served at a minimal charge. The day was very successful, and a Spring Fair is being planned.



Country Store (L-R) Patricia Bryant, Mary Welburn, Gail Ann Byers



Even Santa Clause made a visit to the Fair. Pictured are Donna Grable, and Nannette Johnson with the man himself, Santa Clause. He passed out candy canes to everyone present.

## 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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## RENE WILKINSON PASSED AWAY AT 106 YEARS OLD

Irene Kessler Wilkinson, nee Click, of Juanita Rebekah Lodge #477, Granite City passed away on January 28, 2022, at the age of 106. Irene was born December 24, 1915, in Dent County Missouri, the daughter of the late Luther and Ona Click.



Irene joined Juanita Rebekah Lodge #477 on October 22, 1992. She served as Noble Grand in 1994 and held many other offices during her years of membership. She was an active member until about three years ago but stayed connected. She was also a member of Past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star. Irene was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church for many years.

Most of Irene's career was spent in various Granite City School cafeterias as a cook. She will not only be missed by her family but those she touched during her 106 years. She drove until she was 102 and bowled on a league at the age of 100. At the age of 100 she and her 17-year-old great granddaughter was taking their driving test. They both passed with flying colors although her great granddaughter was afraid that Irene would show her up.

Irene always put God first in her life, followed by her family. In third place were the St. Louis Cardinals. Whether they were having a good season or a dismal one, she was always their biggest fan. Fred Bird visited her on her 100th birthday. One of her favorite pastimes was going to yard sales. She found many treasures that she passed along to grandchildren. She was frugal as most people of her generation were. Irene was preceded in death by her first husband, William Kessler whom she married August 30, 1936, in Venice, IL; and her second husband Del Wilkinson, two sons, Larry and Monte; a daughter Rita Schiber, infant brother Max Sywers; sister Laverne and granddaughter Melinda.

She is survived by two daughters-in-law, Betty and Donna Kessler; brothers, Willard, Howard, and Harold, 10 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, and 23 great great grandchildren.

Irene was a dedicated member of the Rebekah Order. She was always ready to help wherever needed. We will miss her sweet smile and loving ways. She had a place in her heart for everyone she met.

Funeral services were held February 1, at Irwin Chapel, Granite City. Internment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Edwardsville.