

Wisconsin ODD FELLOW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WISCONSIN



PURPLE
HEART
DAY
AUG. 7

TO BE READ IN ALL ODD FELLOW LODGES: GRAND MASTER'S LETTER

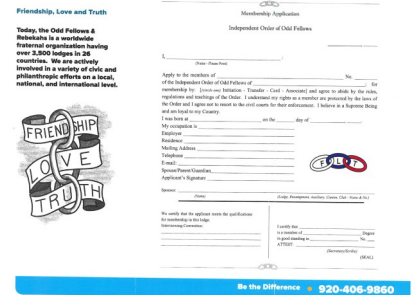


Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During my **communication** this month I want to talk about lodge fundraisers. I heard of a new twist on one. Arby's has a couple different ways to help raise funds. You can ask for a donation of _____ or You can do a benefit night. This takes at least 3 people for 3 hours clearing tables and helping hand out



the food to the customers. The biggest thing with this is you need to use all resources you have to **communicate** that you are doing this and have a big showing of support come and eat at Arby's during your 3 hours. If you have questions let me know. This is along the same lines as Culvers. Both of these ideas are ways to raise funds with not a large number of members needed to do a fund raiser. My only suggestion is to ask if you can also use a table to talk about Odd Fellows to the people coming in and see if you gain a new member from this. You will need one extra person to be able to answer questions about Odd Fellows and your lodge.



I can say that none of the lodges in our Jurisdiction can say we have all the money we need. If you are lucky to have rental income coming in right now, what happens if the renter gives notice of leaving? How long can you survive without that rental income. What do you have in your checking account, savings, etc.? What are your bills for a year? We all need to do fund



raisers even if your lodge would be lucky enough to have funds that will last a long time. What about how many members do you have. An event or fund raiser also shows that you exist and are still around to get new members.

Please think about how to grow your treasury and membership. It is what all lodges need no matter where your lodge is whether small town or a big city. Every lodge needs one or the other, if not both money and members.

Until my next **communication**.

In F, L, T,
Jeffery Jones
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of WI



FUNDRAISING



GRAND SECRETARY'S LETTER



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

August is now upon us. A lot of lodges do not meet in the summer because of vacations. This means that we should be looking ahead to our fall meetings and what we can do to help our communities. Some lodges do brat sales, etc., all summer to help their communities by raising funds for various projects. This is a great way to get our name out in front of our communities and maybe get new members. One never knows what will spark someone into joining our Order. We must continue to strive for new members to keep our Order alive.



Some of us attended the Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions in Des Moines, IA, this month. It is a busy time for our Grand Representatives and Grand Secretary. We have many meetings to attend at session and they keep us busy for the week. I will have more next month on any awards that we may have received and other things of interest that took place at the Sovereign Grand Lodge level that will impact Wisconsin.



Remember, if your lodge is doing a fundraiser of any kind, please let us know and we will get it in the paper so that others from around the state can attend if they are in the area. It is always nice to go to other cities and support the efforts of a lodge. Try to let us know by the first of the month so we can get it in the paper. Also, if you need posters printed for your fundraiser, let us know and we can print them for you so you can save money and earn more for your project.

**Until next time,
In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Joyce Proulx, Grand Secretary**



We have several Rebekah grave markers at the office. If anyone is interested in them, please contact us at: 920-406-9860 or grandlodge@ioofwi.org



GRAND CHAPLAIN'S LETTER

Human beings were created to be relational, and friendships are an important part of our lives. We need friends—people we bond with in mutual affection. But not just any friend will do; having the right friends is key, and discernment is required: “The righteous choose their friends carefully” ([Proverbs 12:26](#)). In Scripture, we see what a [true friend](#) should be:

A true friend shows love, no matter what ([Proverbs 17:17](#)).

A true friend gives heartfelt advice, bringing joy to the heart ([Proverbs 27:9](#)).

A true friend rebukes when necessary, but the correction is done in love ([Proverbs 27:5–6](#)).

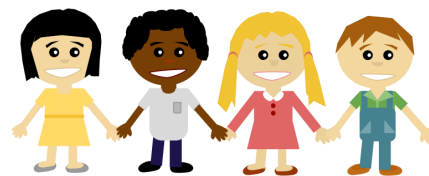
A true friend influences, enlivens, and sharpens ([Proverbs 27:17](#)).

A true friend avoid gossip ([Proverbs 16:28](#)).

A true friend forgives and does not hold grudges ([Proverbs 17:9](#)).

A true friend is loyal ([Proverbs 18:24](#)).

A true friend helps in time of need ([Ecclesiastes 4:9–12](#)).



Friends can console and help us when we are in trouble, as when Barzillai the Gileadite consoled David when he was being hunted by Saul ([2 Samuel 19:25–26](#)) or when Jephthah’s daughter’s friends consoled her in her sorrow ([Judges 11:37–38](#)). A friend may also rebuke in love, proving more faithful than a hypocritical flatterer ([Proverbs 27:6](#)).

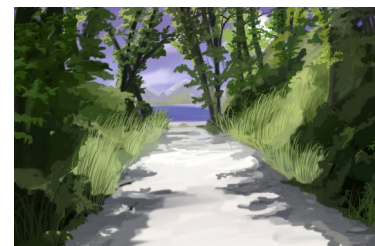
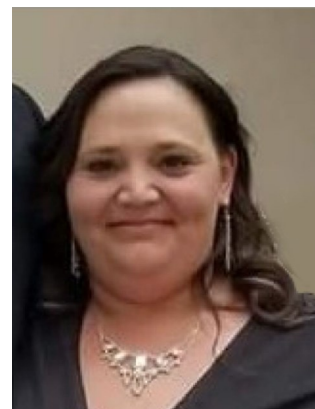
One of the greatest biblical examples of friendship is [David and Jonathan](#), son of King Saul. Jonathan’s loyalty to his friend, David, exceeded that to his own father and his own ambitions ([1 Samuel 18:1–4](#); [20:14–17](#)). So attached was David to his loyal friend that, after Jonathan’s death, David wrote a song to him, a tribute filled with heart-wrenching pathos ([2 Samuel 1:19–27](#)). Theirs was a friendship closer than brotherhood.

Friendship can have its negative aspects as well. Supposed friends can lead us into sin, as when Jonadab counseled Amnon to rape his half-sister, Tamar ([2 Samuel 13:1–6](#)). A friend can lead us astray spiritually, as Israel was warned about ([Deuteronomy 13:6–11](#)). Even well-intentioned friends can provide false comfort and give bad advice, as Job’s friends did, making his suffering worse and displeasing the Lord ([Job 2:11–13](#); [6:14–27](#); [42:7–9](#)). People we thought were friends can prove false, deserting us when our friendship no longer benefits them ([Psalm 55:12–14](#); [Proverbs 19:4](#), [6–7](#)). For all these reasons and more, friends should be chosen carefully.

The Bible gives warnings about the wrong types of friends. We are not to be friends with a hot-tempered person, for example ([Proverbs 22:24–25](#)). And [Proverbs 1:10–19](#) and [4:14–19](#) warn against those who entice us to do wrong. We should not associate with evildoers, no matter how great the promised reward or how appealing their “friendship” seems to be. Those whose “feet rush to sin” should be avoided at all costs. The path they choose is no place for a Christian whose choice should be to follow the “path of the righteous.” Only that path leads to friendship with God.

F.L.T .

**Sara Fuhlbohm
Grand Chaplin**





Coming events

AUGUST

- 1 Deadline for articles for September *The Wisconsin Odd Fellow*
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 11 Executive Committee meeting, Comfort Suites, Green Bay – 5:30PM Dinner
- 12 Home Association Meeting, 8 AM, Friendship Place, Board Room
- 17-30 Grand Secretary out of office
- 21-24 Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions
- 25 Home Association Picnic - 11 AM to 3 PM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Deadline for articles for October *The Wisconsin Odd Fellow*
- 4 Labor Day – Grand Lodge office closed
- 20 172nd Anniversary of the Rebekah Degree
- 23 Autumn Begins
Museum Board Meeting, 10 AM
- 24 137th Anniversary of the Patriarchs Militant Degree
- 30 Degree Day at Wisconsin Lodge #14, Janesville

OCTOBER

- 1 Deadline for articles for November *The Wisconsin Odd Fellow*
- 17 Grand Trustees Meeting, Madison
- 27 Trick or Treat at the Home Campus - 2 PM



Sister Lois-Jean Updike Erickson, PPRA
Betty Rebekah Lodge #212
Waupaca, WI
July 15, 2023



Odd Fellow
Rebekah
 Home Association Inc
 1207 S. Jackson, Green Bay, WI 54301



Odd Fellow
 Home

Odd Fellow Home
 Tel. (920) 437-6523

Friendship
 Place

Friendship Place
 Tel. (920) 593-7015

Rebekah
 Haven

Rebekah Haven
 Tel. (920) 435-4810

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT



We have been enjoying the summer with our Tuesday Theme Days. This month we will have a 60's Day, Don't "Bug" Me Day, Safari Day, Carnival day, and a Super Hero Day. We have had a lot of fun with these theme days all summer.



Our Annual Summer picnic is almost here! It is Friday August 25th from 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM. Join us for Food, Live Music, and Fun in the Campus Courtyard. Fernando will be entertaining from 12:00-2:00 PM. We hope to see you there!



We are collecting school supplies for an area school in need. If you wish to donate, please drop off your donations to our campus. Collection bins will be at the Odd Fellow Home front entrance, the Corporate Office entrance, and a bin will be located on Astor Terrace Two. Thank You in advance for your generosity.

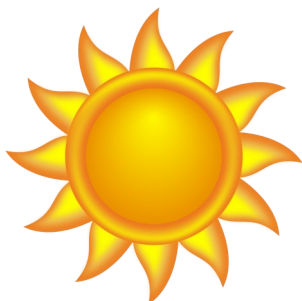
Thibby's Ice Cream Truck will be making stops on campus August 8 & 11, and the last stop will be September 5. The truck stops at the Odd Fellow Home main entrance at 2:15 PM. This continues to be one of our favorite summer activities.



As we look ahead, we are already thinking about our Annual Trick-or-Treating event. This year the event will be held on Friday October 27th at 2:00 PM. So, save the date and watch for more details.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer!

Cindy Czechanski,
 Activity Director



NEWS FROM THE CEO

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

Where has this year gone? How are we coming to the end of summer and approaching autumn? Like they say, time flies when you are having fun!

The Home Association had an exciting July! We revamped our website! Make sure to go check it out! Odd Fellow Nursing Home leadership participated in the Unity Hospice Golf Outing! We also added OFRHA apparel available to the staff so we can proudly support not only our Home Association, but the entire Order in our community.



We are busy with the final preparations for our Annual Campus Picnic on August 25th as our last hoorah to the summer. This year's theme is Carnival. We are so blessed that several of our healthcare partners have sponsored this event for our residents, staff, and families.

With autumn right around the corner, our days are starting to get shorter. Make sure to get out and enjoy some fresh air and sun before we begin the winter freeze. It is good for your physical and mental health.

Safe travels to all who are about to embark on their final summer vacations and moving their children back to college. For those returning to school, blessings on a successful year of learning!

Blessings,

Dan-a



Wisconsin Odd Fellow and Rebekah Museum

112 Front St. Mineral Point, WI 53565

To be read in all lodges

The Odd Fellow and Rebekah Museum Board will be holding a board meeting on September 23, 2023 in the museum at 112 Front St. Mineral Point, Wi at 10 AM. All members of our Order are welcome to attend.

Please feel free to contact any board member listed in the Wisconsin Odd Fellow with any questions or concerns.

Chris Heins, Secretary

**Wisconsin Odd Fellow and Rebekah Museum
112 Front St. Mineral Point, WI 53565**

TO BE READ IN ALL ODD FELLOW, REBEKAH, & ENCAMPMENT LODGES

It was decided at our May Odd Fellow and Rebekah Museum Board meeting to conduct a fund-raising campaign. The funds will be used to replace the wood framed glass doors on the display cases in the museum. The present doors cast shadows on our artifacts and also take away about 25 sq. inches of display areas for each cabinet.

We will be replacing the wood framed glass doors with solid glass sliding doors, this will allow our artifacts to be kept more dust free, better protected and more visible.

The cost of each door will be \$365, to include the installation. We have 14 doors that need to be replaced. Six doors have already been donated. We need funds for 8 more to do this project. Your donations will be much appreciated.

Families, lodge members and lodges are encouraged to donate money to this project.

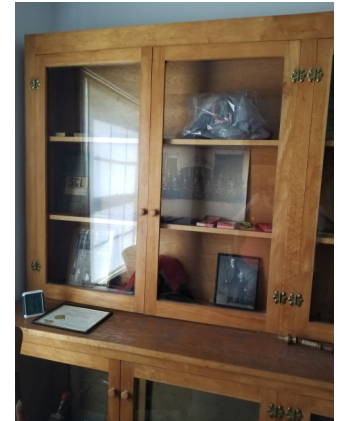
**Please send all donations, along with the information on who is making the donation and if it is to be in memory or in honor of a lodge or a lodge member.

To:

Museum Board /Att. Chris Heins
309 Harris St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Thank you for helping make our museum a great place to visit.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,



Odd Fellow Rebekah Home Association Inc Annual Home Association Meeting June 12, 2023 Comfort Suites

Home Board members present: Richard Proulx, president; Denise Olsen, secretary; Rich Smith, Tami Adams; Jeff Jones, Grand Master; Dale Stevenson, Ellen Tews, Loren Cunningham and new member Jody Tews.

Member absent: Tom Heins, excused.

OFRHA member: Dan-a Kohn, CEO

President Dick Proulx called the meeting to order.

Dick updated members on some of the projects that have occurred at the Home during the past year. A new staff position of IT manager has been created to help bring us into the future with technology. He has completed an inventory of all the technology on campus. He is working on replacing the phone system, installing new data switches in the computer system, and updating the nurse call system. These should be completed later this year. Two new software systems are being installed. A record keeping system for patient records, Point-Click-Care, has been instituted which makes record keeping more efficient and much easier to find information when it is needed. This also serves to monitor that employees are working up to expectations. A new ledger system for processing financial information will be instituted in July.

A new home administrator, Justis Sutheimer, has been hired.

Dick also mentioned the difficulty in hiring enough staff so we can fully open to be able to increase our census. So far we are managing to stay afloat with income moving in the right direction.

Dick introduced the new Board member, Jody Tews and re-elected member Dale Stevenson.

Dick mentioned the complaint of some nurses against the ability of the CEO. The Board contacted a Human Resources attorney and hiring an HR consulting firm to check into the matter. According to the consultant, there was nothing to substantiate the claim. The Board is very pleased with the work our CEO is doing. Dick introduced our CEO, Dan-a Kohn. She has been CEO for one year on June 15. She gave a bit of background and explained that both she and her husband have joined the Green Bay Odd Fellow lodge and are active members. She is working hard to make the greater Green Bay community aware of Odd Fellow Home through rebranding the facility to make it more visible. She has reworked the logo, using the three links and the red, white and blue Odd Fellow colors. New name badges for the staff have been created which can be made in-house at considerable savings. In the future it is hoped to be able to use the badges as access to the building, instead of handing out keys. Generally, she is working to make things more user friendly, accessible and cost effective.



Dan-a led the way to switching to Point-Click-Care for patient records. It allows for keeping accurate patient records and allows for oversight of staff, providing the ability to know what kind of additional training staff members may need. It can help prevent costly re-hospitalizations. The goal is to provide the best quality of life for our patients as we can. We are focusing on psycho-social well-being, especially since Covid.

Dan-a has brought several new people into leadership roles with the hope that everyone will have the same goals. The first was the IT manager who has helped wherever he's needed. We have great tenure among the CNAs with some having over 30 years and an assistant activity director who was employed for over 36 years. The changes in technology has been scary for several of the employees, but the issues are being worked through. Working with the HR consultant was challenging for Dan-a, but she gained some additional insight about working with the staff so things would go more smoothly. Dan-a is happy with the progress that is being made. The majority of technology changes will be completed by the end of summer.



The nursing home had a great state annual survey. There were a few relatively minor issues that were easy to fix. The survey was the first for our Director of Nursing and she did very well. Our new Home Administrator places great importance on the employees and their families, believing if the workers are happy, the care of the patients will reflect that. The residents have expressed good feelings about their care.

Dan-a is participating in the Allouez Business Association meetings, in five job fairs in the community and partnering with all the local colleges for clinical experiences for nurses, RNs and LPNs, and CNAs. This gives us a way to get additional employees and to help our greater Green Bay community.



Dick has a meeting with Dan-a every Thursday morning where he is learning things that can be brought back to the Board at its quarterly meetings. We have been able to gain solid leadership and entrance into modern record keeping which helps us satisfy the government requirements of keeping those records on any patient for ten years.



The census on campus: Rebekah Haven is full with a waiting list of 25. Odd Fellow Home is averaging about 55 to 60 out of the 88 licenses we hold. We are operating in the black because we are able to keep our expenses in check. We have been fortunate that we are able to staff the facility with our own staff; we don't need to use agency employees which costs two to three times what our own staff costs. By keeping our census at a level where our own staff can manage the care, we are being financially responsible. Employees can earn a bonus for a pay period if they do not call in an absence. We hold orientation sessions every other week. This past week, we had an LPN, a CNA and a hospitality aide, who is someone who is interested in becoming a CNA and for whom we will pay the tuition for schooling which is partially reimbursed by the state of Wisconsin. Additional information was given about how the CNA program works throughout the greater Green Bay area. Meeting adjourned.



**Respectfully submitted,
Denise Olsen, secretary**



**Odd Fellow Rebekah Home Association Inc
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
June 12, 2023 Comfort Suites**

Home Board members present: Dick Proulx, president; Denise Olsen, secretary; Rich Smith, Tami Adams; Jeff Jones, Grand Master; Dale Stevenson, Ellen Tews, Loren Cunningham and new member Jody Tews. Member absent: Tom Heins, excused.

OFRHA member: Dan-a Kohn, CEO

President Dick Proulx called the meeting to order for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term. The meeting was turned over to Grand Master Jeff Jones.

President: Jody nominated Dick Proulx.

Vice President: Dick nominated Denise Olsen

Secretary: Dick nominated Ellen Tews

All officers were elected.

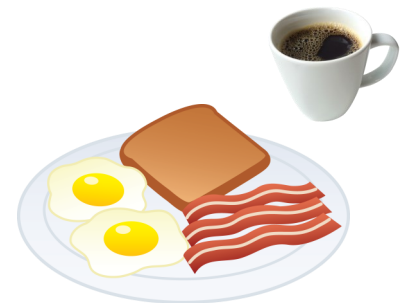
Dan-a brought up one item of business. The Village of Allouez has proposed annexing the parking lot at the corner of Grignon and Webster Streets from the City of Green Bay. The hope would be that they could then work with us in developing that property into some sort of senior housing over the next seven to ten years. There are a few issues that need to be resolved: Electrical and gas utilities would be easiest because they already serve the grocery store. However, the water supply comes from Green Bay off of Grignon Street. There is a possibility that TIF money could be used through Allouez. The Village estimates it would take about a year to accomplish this and they are willing to help us with the legal requirements. Jody moved and Jeff seconded to pursue the annexation proposal from the Village of Allouez. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

The next meeting date will be Saturday, August 12, at 8:00 a.m., at Odd Fellow Home conference room. BSG will be catering our meal at their request.

Jody was welcomed as a new board member. The new vice president and secretary were welcomed to their positions.

Jeff moved and Tami seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,
Denise Olsen, secretary**



Welcome



LODGE HAPPENINGS



Pictured to the left: (L to R) Brother Peter Probst, Jr. of Green Bay Lodge #19 welcomes his son, Eian Probst into the Order.



THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 *Herald Independent*

Churchill brothers to be recognized by local veteran groups June 24

Oddfellow Mississippi Valley Lodge 86, which has a mantra of helping the dead, the widows, the orphans, came in and installed the

plaques for both Jim and John at the cemetery.

The veterans groups are inviting the public to participate in the event, in order to give a proper goodbye to Jim and John, one a longtime coming.



Last month, Lee Jerrett and Steve Staskal installed the cement foundation for the memorial plaques for brothers Jim and John Churchill, who are now lying at rest together at the Beetown Cemetery. After years, they will be formally recognized this month with a ceremony by local veterans.

Here is some news about some happenings at Mississippi Valley #86 of Lancaster, Wi.

To the left: is some excerpts from our Local Lancaster Newspaper Regarding the Work contribution our Lodge made in Honoring 2 of our local Veterans who finally received a full Military Service.

Also, we welcomed 6 new members :

- Paul Halberg
- Julie Durst
- Terry Cushman
- Vicki Flynn
- Doug Vavricka
- Sue Vavricka
- (no picture provided)



LODGE HAPPENINGS



Pictured above: Sister Joyce Proulx, Grand Secretary of WI presented Melanie Schleis a \$500 Grand Lodge of WI, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Rebekah State Scholarship.

Melanie was also awarded a \$1,000 Green Bay Odd Fellow Lodge #19 Scholarship.

Pictured below: Sister Roberta Bierhals, N.G. of Green Bay Rebekah Lodge #185 presented Melanie Schleis, who attended Luxemburg-Casco High School, a \$1,000 Scholarship.



Pictured to the left: Green Bay Odd Fellow Lodge #19 awarded Krista Anderson, who attended Southwest High School in Green Bay, WI a \$1,000 scholarship.

Krista was also awarded the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Grand Master's \$1,000 Scholarship.



JOIN US!

ODD FELLOW GREEN BAY LODGE #19

BRAT FRY

SATURDAY AUGUST 19TH
11 AM-3PM

WEBSTER AVE MARKET
PARKING LOT

(RAIN OR SHINE)

Brats - \$4

Hamburgers - \$4

Hot Dogs - \$2

Beverages - \$1

Chips - \$1

Proceeds to benefit:





**Office of the
Sovereign Grand Master
The Sovereign Grand Lodge
Independent Order of Odd Fellows**



July 2023

To All My Fraternal Brothers and Sisters
of All Units of Odd Fellowship,

In Iowa, the summer season has arrived. The sun is hot, crops are growing, the smell of sweet hay fills the barns, the days are longer, and families are swimming, going on picnics, having cookouts, and enjoying time together. It's also a time to get ready for county and state Fairs. This is a time for our lodge families to work on special community events. Hold fund raisers for special projects of our Order and look for ways to be of service to others. Participate in local fairs, parades, and community gatherings. Summer is a great time of year to meet new people and share Odd Fellowship in the community. Have fun in your lodges! Plan a picnic, an outing to a ball game, a special meal and invite those members who haven't been attending your meetings to join you. Get them involved in what you are doing, letting them know they haven't been forgotten and that you miss them at Lodge.

My year as Sovereign Grand Master is coming to a close, and there is still so much to accomplish, but not enough hours in the day. I have truly enjoyed my time traveling to jurisdictional meetings and meeting all the wonderful Brothers and Sisters involved in Odd Fellowship. Your dedication, enthusiasm, community involvement, service to one another and others in your community has encouraged me to be a better person, a better Oddfellow, and to stay committed to the principals of our beloved Order. Even when there are concerns and disagreements, we have learned to compromise and work for the good of our Order, our lodges, and our communities. More than ever before, I've realize that there really are no problems that can't be overcome if we practice Friendship, Love, and Truth and solutions are easier to achieve when we as Brothers and Sisters take ourselves out of the equation and want what's best for our Lodges. When we decide not to be part of the problem, only part of the solution everyone wins.

I would like to thank all of you for the many courtesies extended to myself and my executive committee as we have traveled this past year making visitations. I hope we have

encouraged you to keep working towards membership, also working on ways to improve communications with your members, and how important it is to spend time training yourselves as well as your lodge members in proper use of your rituals, using them to run efficient meetings, studying the degree work to learn about Odd Fellowship, and giving all members the opportunity to participate in meetings.

It has truly been a privilege to work with Sister Ruth Earle, President of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, and General Earl Wys, General Commanding GMC these past three years. Your respective units of the Order can be proud of the job you have done this past year.

I want to thank my executive committee, appointive officers and Past Sovereign Grand Masters for their continued support, encouragement, and hard work this past year. It took us working as a team to accomplish many difficult tasks. I have been truly blessed to have worked with all of you. I hope to finish up several tasks before August, so as not to leave anything I've started undone for Brother John and I pledge him my support and wish for him a harmonious and productive year.

As Sovereign Grand Master you are always concerned that you are making the best decisions you can for the Order and its members, knowing full well that someone will not be happy about those decisions made. I sincerely hope that I have represented all of you with integrity, dignity, honor, and fairness. I want to thank the Representatives for giving me the opportunity to represent you as your Sovereign Grand Master and for trusting me to uphold the principals of our Order. I thank the membership for your encouragement, support, and for all of your hard work in keeping Odd Fellowship alive. You are the foundation that keeps us strong, without you there is no need for Grand Lodges or Sovereign Grand Lodge. Thank you for believing this Order makes a difference in the World.



Office of the President
International Association
of
Rebekah Assemblies
I.O.O.F.



July 2023

Conceive, *Believe*, Achieve

To my Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings, this will be my last communication for the I.O.O.F. News as President-I.A.R.A. Traditionally the acceptance speeches are printed in the September-October issue. However, I had already submitted an article so I thought I would share some excerpts from my speech given last August at my Installation.

“It was exactly 30 years ago that I attended my first IARA Session. And, wouldn’t you know, this first timer found herself heading up the flag corps - serving as the American flag bearer. I had no more idea what was in store for me in 1993 than I did 26 years later when I became International Warden. Maybe that’s stretching it a little bit, but this experience has been so much more than I could ever have imagined. I tend to be pretty independent, but it sure is nice to be so well taken care of on my travels and where do you find better hostess’s than Rebekahs? Thank you my friends.

In planning for my year, I thought long and hard about my program. Initially my emblem was to be the tree of life. That turned out to not be a good choice for me and after dismissing several other options, I chose to not have an emblem. For some reason our Rebekah Creed kept going through my mind. I am a Rebekah. I Believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man and the Sisterhood of woman. I Believe in the watchwords of our Order, Friendship, Love and Truth. I Believe my main concern should be my God, my family, and my friends...then I should reach out to my community and the world. After considerable thought I decided I would just use a theme and it would be “**Believe**”.

I have chosen to emphasize my theme with 4 foods for thought. They are: believe in God, believe in Miracles, believe in Yourself & believe in Odd-Fellowship. Odd Fellowship is one of the best kept secrets around. We, that includes me, do not talk enough about our affiliation with the Order. Share what you like best about being a member, let people know what you are doing as a lodge to benefit your community, let others know about our projects. Get the information in to your schools about the I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage for Youth and the many Scholarships and student

loans that are available through the Educational Foundation. Let people know about the endowment that we have with Wilmer Eye Institute and how they could possibly benefit from the research being done there. Be proud of the work being done for Arthritis, SOS Children’s Village in Cambodia, our Hunger and Disaster Fund, the Rose Parade Float and the Living Legacy Program among others.

We as members, have so much to be proud of and so much to share with others. For too many years we have lived by the lecture “when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth, that thine alms may be in secret”. We cannot continue to be secretive if we are to survive. Become involved in your community. Take part in community programs and festivals. Prepare an entry in the local parade, attend village meetings, show interest in community events.

Make A Difference Day is a golden opportunity to plan community clean-ups or organize work groups to help disabled or elderly with spring yard work. Sponsor a little league team and attend their games – do not just buy t-shirts and think they will remember who you are. Cheer them on! Talk to the parents and tell them about Rebekahs – try to pique their interest. There are potential new members everywhere. Let people know that Rebekahs are busy, caring, creative people. My aim for the year is “Get going, get growing. Believe in a fantastic tomorrow!”

I believe in you! Please believe in yourself! We can do this!

I worked in a bank for 24 years and for many of those years I had taped to my desk blotter a Prayer titled “Little Things”. In closing, I would like to share it with you:

Lord, help me with the little things that I forget. Remind me of the compliment that I should give, the letter to the friend I miss, the kind word I meant to speak to someone sad. And when there are little things I want to do but shouldn’t, hold me back. Help me to stop the cutting word, the boast, the scorn, the unkind laugh.

Cont. on pg 18



Office of the General Commanding
General Military Council
Patriarchs Militant, I.O.O.F.



July 2023

Greetings:

FINAL Communication! Well, it's my final communication as the **General Commanding**. For the past several days I have been compiling the gathering of my thoughts for this communication. The process has been inundated with numerous bits of better sweet reflections.

Bitter: Because I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, my time is near! ... I feel there is much more which needs to be accomplish.

There were numerous other challenges which contributed to the demands of the past year: Procedural, Jurisdictional and Personal.

Procedural:

The disbandment of the **IALAPM** has left a bitter taste in mouths of so many. We have been contemplating and attempting to exercise closer, which is a slow and demanding process. I feel deep pain for those who choose NOT to join the **PM** and more so, for those who choose to leave the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows... We MUST** reach out to them and show them we miss them and want them back!

The Ritual changes which incorporated the LAPM into PM Ritual was NOT properly presented. This has caused a bottle neck with the LAPM and PM migration. A short time before the 2022 Sessions began, we were told that the actions of the **GMC** during the 2019 Sessions were NOT validated by The Sovereign Grand Lodge. They were incorrectly presented or withdrawn. This generated chaos and confusion just before and during our 2022 Sessions. We were scrambling to recover what could be salvaged.

Jurisdictional:

Many Jurisdictions are floundering because of the

COVID-19 syndrome, stability, perceived worthless environment, lower membership, unhealthy or lacking a recruiting stagey and lack of or poor leadership:

COVID-19 syndrome: Many members stayed Home during COVID-19...and found they liked it and it became a habit...YOU must work to get them back.

Stability: A lot of Jurisdictions are changing dates, times and locations with little or no notice to visitors... Let's set our activities early and communicate.

Environment: Too many members perceived a worthless environment...We must rejuvenate the worth of I.O.O.F. to our members through our actions and activities.

Membership/Recruiting Stagey: It appears that we do NOT have a healthy or we are lacking a recruiting stagey...All members are recruiters!!! Each of us MUST have a prepared comment when the opportunity is before us. We MUST be ready at all times, willing, and able to introduce I.O.O.F. to all who show interest! Have a one-liner ready, like: **"I'm an Odd Fellow, can I tell YOU about it?"**

Leadership: NOT everyone is a born leader. It can be learned...HELP others to become a leader. There are many books which can help. Befriend others and show the way... Teach them, don't just do it for them.

Personal: Family health Issues... My wife has had a life time of issues in the past year. More than most of us would take a lifetime to experience. It appears she was over medicated, which was the roots of her downfall. Hopefully, she is stable now. My Mother-In-Law is 95 years old living alone. I make regular visits. A close friends Mother lives nearby and he is an hour away and still working. I'm his backup. I will undergo procedures in late August and September.

Cont. on pg 18

without you there is no need for Grand Lodges or Sovereign Grand Lodge. Thank you for believing this Order makes a difference in the World.

I want to thank my home Jurisdiction of Iowa for their love, support and encouragement. You have worked so hard to make these past four years successful and enjoyable. I couldn't have done it without all of you helping me with this journey. You are all so special and appreciated.

I'm very excited for our session in Des Moines, Iowa in August. I want to thank the Jurisdiction of Iowa for all of their hard work and dedication to making this session memorable and fun for everyone in attendance. If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do so now. If you have any issues please contact our Planning Committee Co-Chairs Marty and Sue Zylstra, 211 Thornton Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50315-3179.

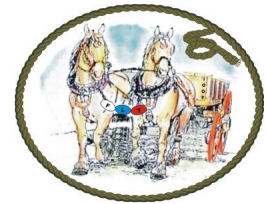
To my family, Thank you for allowing me to travel these past four years, for taking care of things at home, and for supporting this adventure. You are the "Wind Beneath My Wings."

I wish for all of you a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. Hope to see many of you in Des Moines. Remember, Pulling together to speak wisely may not always be easy, but not speaking ill, requires only silence.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

s/ Michelle Heckart

Sovereign Grand Master



In all these things, O Lord, help me to remember always how the other person feels and to act in kindness toward them."

So, that was my speech then and continues to be my objective and hopes for our future. It has been a pleasure working with and for you this year. I have tried to project a positive attitude and be an encouraging influence in the jurisdictions I have been privileged to visit. My heartfelt thanks go out to you, the members of this wonderful fraternity, who have made this journey a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

rience.

Thank you, thank you...In Friendship and Love,

s/ Ruthie



Sweet: Sometime after the 2022 Sessions we discovered that most of the **GMC** By-laws legislation changes where invalid... Steps are being made to correct the short falls.

The SGM has taken a special interest in the Ritual changes which incorporated the LAPM into PM Ritual. It appears focus has been placed on the Ritual and it looks promising. We are addressing some LAPM issues which I feel will help reduce tension.

Visitations: It seems like we are still experiencing an unusual number of date changes to our visits. These alterations cause many changes to our travel plans and has cause us to NOT have enough officers to visit all the jurisdictions. I apologize if we could NOT visit your jurisdiction.

Health: Many of us have Health issues, no matter what your condition is, there are many others who have more serious issues. I pray the burden which your issues have placed on YOU and your loved ones, will be lightened, and become more tolerable. I hope your issues will soon be eliminated. I wish YOU and Yours better Health. Some of YOU have lost Loved Ones and my heart bleeds for YOU and your Family... May peace soften your loss. We have a local member who has been recently diagnosed with inop-

erable Stage 3 Cancer and he is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Please reach out to those in need of thy comfort and spend valuable time with them as they traverse through this difficult time.

2022-2023: I can only ask that YOU accept whatever good we have accomplished this year and forgive what we have done amiss.

President Earle thank YOU for Pulling Together, Believe! I openly acknowledge my gratitude to our SGM for her direction, assistance, and dedication to the Order! You are locked in my heart forever! We Must Pull Together!

2023-2024 is rapidly approaching: Plans are well under way for the upcoming change of Command in August. These new Officers will need your help, please step forward and do what YOU can to make it happen. Do NOT be afraid to step out of the box.

Pull Together and Dream ON!
Hope to see YOU soon!

Thank YOU for your attention!

Chivalrously,
s/ General Earl F. Wys



MISTY'S Recipe Exchange



Dorito Taco Salad

Taco Tuesday just got a little more delicious with this kid approved **Dorito Taco Salad recipe**. Perfect for potlucks too!



Prep Time 20 mins	Cook Time 5 mins	Total Time 25 mins
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Course: Side Dishes Cuisine: Mexican
 Keyword: doritos in salad, easy recipe, potluck recipe, taco salad
 Servings: 10 servings Author: Aimee

★★★★★
5 from 3 votes

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 head of iceberg lettuce chopped
- 2 roma tomatoes diced
- ¼ cup sliced black olives
- ¼ cup green onions chopped
- 1 can pinto beans (or black beans), drained and rinsed 15 ounce
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup Catalina or French Dressing
- 2 cups Doritos we like taco flavored, but nacho works too

Instructions

1. Brown the ground beef in a skillet over medium high heat, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Once no pink remains, drain off excess fat.
2. Add the packet of taco seasoning to the beef and stir until fully coated. Set aside.
3. In a large serving bowl, combine the chopped lettuce, tomatoes, olives, green onions, beans, cheese, and ground beef.
4. When ready to serve, toss salad with dressing (just enough to coat), and add the Doritos. ENJOY.

DIRECTORY
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Jeffery M. Jones	Grand Master
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**The next Grand Lodge Session will be held June 9-12, 2024
at the Comfort Suites, Green Bay, WI**

ODD FELLOW LODGE DIRECTORY

BARABOO—BARABOO LODGE #51, Meets the 2nd & 4th Mon. (except Jan. & Feb.) at 7 PM., 1210 9th St. Steve Niles, N.G.; Sharon Cunningham, Sec’y, N554 Schoepp Rd., Lot 13, Sauk City, WI 53583, 920-264-2145

COLUMBUS—TRI-COUNTY LODGE #40, Meets the 1st Wed. for business and 3rd Wed. for social (except July & Aug.) at 7 PM., 131 W. James St., Lukes Denny, N.G.; Casey Hoeft, Sec’y, 426 S. Main St., Columbus, WI 53925
wioddfellows40@yahoo.com

GREEN BAY—GREEN BAY LODGE #19, Meets the 2nd & 4th Tues. at 6:30 PM., 1144 Radisson St., Rick Jerry, N.G.; Tami Adams, Sec’y, 1144 Radisson St., Green Bay, WI 54302., 920-495-2801

HAYWARD—HAYWOOD LODGE #333, Meets the 3rd Wed. at 6 pm (except June & July), IOOF Hall, the corner of 2nd and Main, Steve Longtine, N.G.; Ward Winton, Sec’y, PO Box 425, Hayward, WI 54843, 715-558-3235, 715-634-3763,
wardo45@yahoo.com

JANESVILLE—WISCONSIN LODGE #14, Meets the 1st Sat. at 11 AM & 3rd Mon. at 7 PM (year round) & 3rd Sat. at 11 AM (except May—Sept.), 22 N. Main St., Michael McIntyre, N.G.; Toni Jeske, Sec’y, 22 N. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545

LANCASTER—MISSISSIPPI VALLEY LODGE #86, Meets the 2nd & 4th Tues. at 7 PM (April-Oct., except July & Aug.) and 2nd & 4th Tues. at 1:30 PM (Nov.-March), 155 E. Main St., Platteville, WI , Lee Jerrett, N.G.; Steve Staskal, Sec’y, 11270 Rock Church Rd. Livingston, WI 53554, 608-943-6797, staskalsteve@gmail.com

MERRILL—JENNY LODGE #32, Meets the 3rd Thurs. at 7 PM., 820 1/2 E. First St. For information contact Richard Proulx 920-217-7210

MILWAUKEE—BADGER STATE LODGE #11, Meets the 1st Thurs, at 7 PM & the 3rd Sat. at 9 AM (except July and Aug.), 4729 W. National Ave., Jon Buck, N.G.; Walter Kennison, Sec’y, 2863 N 56th, Milwaukee, WI 53210, walterkennison@yahoo.com

MINERAL POINT—IOWA LODGE #1, Meets the 2nd Sat. at 11 AM (except June, July & Aug.) and the 2nd Wed. at 7:30 PM (June, July & Aug.), 112 Front St., Joel Gosse, N.G.; Mary Joestgen, Sec’y, 608-341-6721

PORTAGE—WAUONA LODGE #132, Meets the 1st Tues. at 6:30 PM & the 3rd Tues. social meeting, 306 E. Carroll St., Jon Fuhlbohm, N.G.; Arely Arias, Sec’y, 306 E. Carroll St., Portage, WI 53901

SHULLSBURG—JUSTITIA LODGE #12, Meets the 1st & 3rd Thurs. (except July & Aug.) at 7:30 PM, 130 W. Water St., Michael Ubersox, N.G.; Charles N. Searles, Sec’y, 233 S. Kennedy St., Shullsburg, WI 53586., 563-663-1954

WISCONSIN RAPIDS—ENGEL FELLOWSHIP LODGE #91, Meets the 2nd Tues. at 7 PM & 3rd Tues. Potluck at 6 PM, 1930 7th St. So., Robert Liska N.G.; Fred Kronenberg, Sec’y, PO Box 41, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494., 715-325-5804

REBEKAH LODGE DIRECTORY

JOYCE PROULX.....
SPECIAL DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, 1304 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301-2502, 920-406-9860,
grandsecretary@ioofwi.org

GREEN BAY—GREEN BAY REBEKAH LODGE #185, Meets the 2nd & 4th Thurs. at 6:30 PM (except Jan., Feb. & the 4th Thurs. in Nov.), Odd Fellow Hall 1144 Radisson St., Roberta Bierhals, N.G.; Denise Olsen, Sec’y, 2635 Bell Ct., Green Bay, WI 54301., 920-432-0500

MILWAUKEE—CRYSTAL REBEKAH LODGE #45, Meets the 1st & 3rd Tues. at noon (one meeting Feb., March, July & Aug.), Odd Fellow Hall, 4729 W. National Ave., W. Milwaukee, Patricia Mott, N.G.; Doris Potratz, PNG, Sec’y, 5421 Amberwood Ln., Greenfield, WI 53221-3203., 414-281-3762

MINERAL POINT—MINERAL POINT REBEKAH LODGE #147, Meets the 1st Wed. at 11 AM at the Pointer Café & the 3rd Wed. at 7 PM, 112 Front St. (except Jan. & Feb.), Mary Curtis, N.G.; Tom Heins, Sec’y, 309 Harris St., Mineral Point, WI 53565., 608-987-3011

NEENAH-MENASHA—BETTY REBEKAH LODGE #212, Meets the 2nd & 4th Tues. (except Jan. & Feb.) at 7 PM in member’s home (call lodge Sec’y), Nicole I. Hanson, N.G.; Jody L. Tews, Sec’y, 1340 Geneva Rd. #14, Menasha, WI 54952-3589., 920-740-5470



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**The next Session will be held on June 12, 2024, at
the Comfort Suites, Green Bay, WI**

BARABOO—Northwestern Encampment #20
Meets the 2nd & 4th Fri. at 8 PM, IOOF Hall,
1210 9th St., Loren Cunningham, Scribe, N554
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GREEN BAY—Green Bay Encampment #17
Meets 3rd Tues., at 7 PM, 1144 Radisson St.
Rick Jerry, Scribe, 1144 Radisson St., Green Bay,
WI 54302, 920-621-5188

JANESVILLE—Rock River Encampment #3
Meets the 1st Sat. at 10 AM, IOOF Hall, 22 N. Main
St., Dale Stevenson, Scribe, 5807 S. County Rd. D,
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MILWAUKEE—Wisconsin Encampment #1
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Ave., Richard Smith, Scribe, 109 Dean Rd., Bel-
gium, WI 53004-9523, 262-476-5085

Grand Lodge Office Hours:
8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
To all Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges
Please send your lodge items of interest, a list of
your new members with their addresses and
coming events to the:
Editor of The Wisconsin Odd Fellow
1304 S. Webster Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54301-2502
Telephone (920) 406-9860
or e-mail: grandlodge@ioofwi.org
The items must be in by the first of the preceding
month of issue. Thank you.
PLEASE SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
grandsecretary@ioofwi.org

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We are trying to save some cost by e-mailing as many
papers as we can.**

CANTONS

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GREEN BAY—Canton Bay Verte #11

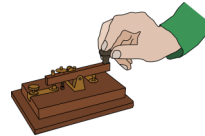
Meets 3rd Sat. at 1:30 PM (except July & Aug.)
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Clerk, 490 Tyrolian Dr., Green Bay, WI 54302-5143

JANESVILLE—Canton Black Rock #6

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608-931-2586

MILWAUKEE—Canton Milwaukee #1

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Ave., Contact: Lt. Col. Richard Smith, Clerk,
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THE WISCONSIN ODD FELLOW

Published monthly by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Independent Order of
Odd Fellows, 1304 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301-2502.

Publication no. I S S N 0745-3728, USPS 688420. Periodical postage paid at
Green Bay.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Wisconsin Odd Fellow, 1304 S.
Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301-2502. WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES
RESPONSIBLE for any views or opinions expressed in the communication of
our correspondents.

Member



**"Devoted to the
Interest of
ODD FELLOWSHIP"**

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through positive communication."*

Grand Lodge Office Hours:

8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

***If you call before or after hours,
Please leave a message so we can
Return your phone call.***

JOYCE PROULX, Editor

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