Wisconsin ODD FELLOW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WISCONSIN











NOVEMBER 2023

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

November is time for Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks for all we have. I am thankful for all the support from my family. I would not have been able to do a few things this year without them. I am thankful for all of my Odd Fellow

family that are part of my life and all the support that I have received from my Odd Fellow family. I am thankful for all the wonderful memories from everything I have been able to attend and participate in this past year.





I want to thank all the lodges for the events and activities they have done to put our name out in the public eye, showing them that we are still around and exist. I am thankful for all the new members that have been brought in by their sponsors to keep our Order growing. Without all of you helping your

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lodges do these things our Order will eventually cease to exist. I cannot do it all myself.

If you have not realized I am thanking each and every member of our Jurisdiction. Each and everyone of you has helped in one way or another. It does not matter if you just joined or have been a member for a long time. New members, you might not have noticed but just by attending a meeting you help to make sure there was a quorum for that meeting. Please keep up all the good work you are doing.

Ask for help with anything you need.

Until my next Communication.

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







GRAND SECRETARY'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

his month we go to the polls, honor our veterans, give thanks for all our blessings and start our calendar raffle. Hopefully, as Odd Fellows, we will vote, thank a veteran for their service, give thanks for blessings, big and small, and have bought a raffle calendar to see if we might win a little extra cash.

This is also the month in which the term report and other

related papers are sent to the lodge secretary. Please, if you do not receive this package, either by email or snail mail, by the end of the month, call the office so that another can be sent. The reports must be back in the Grand Lodge office by February 1. There will be no extensions beyond this date. Time is needed to compile the information for the Grand Lodge report that needs to be sent to Sovereign Grand Lodge. Sovereign Grand Lodge is no longer giving extensions for reports so that means you must have your report in the office by the first of February. Since the Noble Grand must sign the

report, they should be inquiring about it before the end of January so that all signatures and the seal of the lodge can be on it. Thanks for all your help with this.

If your lodge has taken in new members this year and not reported them to the Grand Lodge you must send the name, address, birth date, telephone #, email, sponsor name, and date of Initiation to the office so that the new member can get The Wisconsin Odd Fellow and their information sent to Sovereign Grand Lodge. I do know that there have been new members taken in, but I have not received their names and other information so that they can get the paper.

> Do you have a delegate, a 16 or 17 year old, who is qualified to go on the Pilgrimage for Youth? The name or names should be in the Grand Lodge office by December 31. The first payment of \$1,000 is due by January 9 so that it can be in the hands of The Sovereign Grand Lodge and the Executive Director of the Pilgrimage for Youth by January 15. If you don't have a delegate, maybe your lodge would like to donate to our WI PFY fund to help send a delegate? Any donation amount is appreciated and should be sent to WI PFY Fund, c/o Joyce Proulx, Grand Secretary, 1304 S.

Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301-2502. Check should be made out to the Grand Lodge of WI and noted for the WI PFY Fund.

As I close this Dick and I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

In Friendship, Love and Truth, Joyce Proulx, Grand Secretary

FOLOT

Odd Fellows & Rebekahs

Educational Pilgrimage

for Youth Established 1949

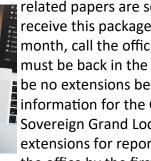






TERM REPORT





GRAND CHAPLAIN'S LETTER

"He has showed you O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." **Micha 6:8**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Micha 6:8 was my confirmation Bible verse. It has continued to be a favorite of mine to this day. It contains great words to live by.

Most of my life has been spent working with children through school, church, and 4-H. Over the years our world has changed in so many ways, making it difficult for us to keep up and often times accept these changes. However, the children of today are ok with how life has changed. Remember, it is the only life that they know.

lowing through on the requirements set by God in Micha 6:8, we can make a difference in the future. Children learn by what they live.

I often catch myself thinking and remarking, "Well when I was a kid!" I believe it is important for the youth of today to hear about growing up back in the day, but it will not change their world. Instead, we, the mentors of these children, have a huge job to fulfill. We, have the power through our actions, to change the world one child at a time. By fol-

In Micha 6:8, God requires us to do all three of the following things. We are not to pick one or two but we are asked to do all three to be living the full and effective life that God has called us to do.

Do justice-to act justly means to do what is right, follow the rules and do what is right. **Love mercy**-be kind to others, forgive them, and help others in need.

Walk humbly with thy God-develop a relationship with God that he has planned for you. Practicing these three requirements each and every day brings us closer to God and we are able to set the example, giving today's youth what they need to see and hear so that they can begin to put into practice what God requires of them in our ever-changing world.

Let us pray!

Dear God, thank you for your goodness. Help all of us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. May we through our efforts relay this way of life to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Have a great month and please take care of yourself and each other.

Blessing in F.L.T. Chris Heins

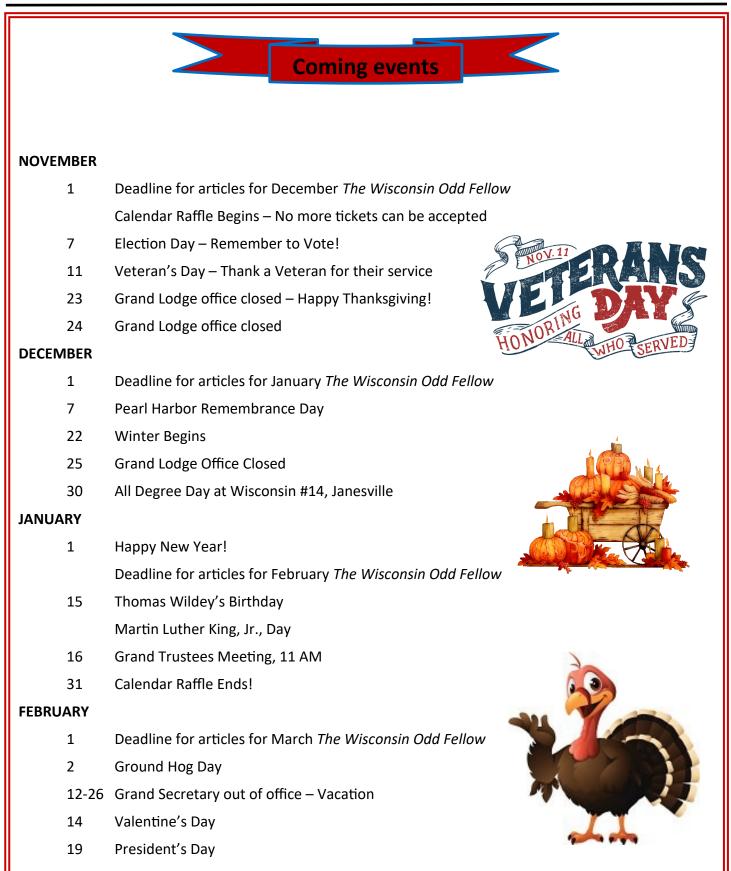














Odd Fellow Home **Odd Fellow Home**

Tel. (920) 437-6523

Friendship

Friendship Place Tel. (920) 593-7015



Rebekah Haven Tel. (920) 435-4810

NEWS FROM THE ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT

Happy Thanksgiving from the Activity Department!

Another month is over and another year is starting to wind down. Where does the time go? The end of this month is the unofficial start of the Christmas season. We are busy planning all the special Christmas Activities/Events. Mark your calendars, the Odd Fel-

low Campus Christmas Open House is set for Thursday December 14 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Please join us on campus, for a Festive evening, touring the Odd Fellow Home, Astor Terrace, and Rebekah Haven. We will be all decked out with our Christmas Decorations and there will be many special Christmas goodies being served. Those of you who came last year were able to visit with Santa and the Grinch. You never know who may show up this year! Watch for more details on all of our special Christmas events.



This month we will have music by Eddie Biebel, John & Cass, Tom's Tunes, and Don Bongers. We have special musical entertainment by New Hope Presbyterian Church on Saturday November 11th at 10:30 AM. Bob Bernhardt and his group have come in the past and they do a terrific job. We look forward to having them here again. We continue with our

baking group, which is always fun, and at the end we get to eat the finished product! In the new year, our goal is to bring back Celebrity Chef. This is a cooking demonstration group where our "Celebrity" Chef (A staff member) demonstrates/makes a recipe of their choice and at the end, those attending get to taste test. We have done this group over the years and the residents really enjoyed it, but like many of our activities, when COVID hit we stopped doing this group. We started a Walking & Wheeling Group last month and it's a great way to





get our residents moving. Those who want to get an extra walk in, or those in a wheelchair can participate by wheeling along for the exercise and socialization. On the creative side, we are going to also bring back our scrapbooking group. In this group residents had opportunities to make homemade greeting cards but we also used to work on a scrapbook with

photos that we took during resident activities. We love to pull this book out and look at all the wonderful pictures that hold so many memories for both residents

Cindy Czechanski, **Activity Director**

and staff.

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NEWS FROM THE CEO

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

We are approaching the holiday season here at the Home Association!

I don't know about you, but this time of year makes my heart happy. While spring and summer are bright and warm, there is something about the cooler weather, the changing leaves, and the shorter days that makes me feel more connected to my family and friends.

> As Americans, we live in a fast-paced world that is constantly seeking instant gratification from the next big thing. We sometimes forget that we are social beings who need the fellowship of others to fill our souls in a healthy way. To me, this time of year helps bring that to the surface with apple orchards, road trips to see fall foliage, Thanksgiving dinners, Sunday football parties (Go Pack Go!), decorating

the Christmas tree, Christmas light shows, and Giving Trees. This time of year reminds me of the good we can do for those around us and how much our small acts can impact another person.

As the weather changes, I want to remind all of you of the importance of winter safety. Please be sure to wear sturdy non-skid shoes and "walk like a penguin" on areas that could be slick. Also, make sure to keep a blanket, flashlight, and extra gloves in the car in case you might have vehicle trouble or your vehicle transforms into a graceful sled into the ditch.

Please join us on December 14th from 6:00-8:00pm for a Christmas Open House here at the home association. We are so excited to spread the holiday cheer with our residents,

Autumn's Blessings, Dan-a

families, and staff!

Odd Fellow and Rebekah Museum Board Meeting -July 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President, James Heisner, at the museum at 10 AM. A prayer was led by James and the pledge followed.

Roll call of board members...

Minutes - May 21, 2023-

James Heisner (IOOF-2025), President Joel Gosse (IOOF-2024), Vice President Tom Heins (IOOF-2023) Sec./Treasurer Sharon Cunningham (IOOF-2025) Chris Heins (Rebekah-2024) JodyTews(Rebekah-2025) Jeff Jones, Grand Master

present present present present present

present



Jeff moved and Jody seconded to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.







Treasurer's report-

Bills paid- mulch \$66.28, lawn mowing \$50.00

Checking balance as of July14,2023 - \$5216.63

CD-\$5,000 due Sept.2023 (interest check gets deposited in the checking account) Endowment-2004-05-Wayne Leverenz-Grand Master \$2,667.60

Chris Heins shared that the Grand Lodge report for 2023 session indicated that the museum has a \$10,000 CD at Farmers Savings Bank, but actually since Dec. 2014 it has been \$5,000. Chris will inform Joyce of this and send the board minutes that shows the change.

Jeff moved and Sharon seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business-

- A short discussion on **insurance** /appraisal took place. The secretary will compose a letter to send to the Grand Lodge Office for the executive committee/trustees. The board is asking the Grand Lodge to consider reimbursing the museum board for the 2023 insurance and appraisal charge that was necessary to re-instate the current coverage on the buildings. We are also asking that the Grand Lodge take over any future insurance cost.
- At our May board meeting it was decided to replace the 14 wooden framed doors on our display cases in the museum with **solid glass sliding doors**. A letter to be read in all lodges has been sent to the WI Odd Fellow asking for donation. We have many windows spoken for and look forward to more lodges and members to contribute. Exciting project. We are going forward with this project.
- **Cottage** discussion-4 different option for the Miner's Cottage were presented by James **1 & 2** -modular homes, **3**-repairing and adding onto the present cottage, **4** removing the deteriorated cottage (Jim will seek a bid from Ivy's Construction for removal of the cottage). After discussing pros/cons and the cost to make the cottage livable for a museum caretaker, it was decided that a new/repaired cottage would be too costly to offset the saving of lawncare, snow removal, museum cleaning ,etc.... that the caretaker would be responsible for.
- Jody moved and Jeff seconded that the secretary send a letter to the Grand Lodge with a recommendation that the Grand Lodge consider removing the cottage from the premises. Motion carried. This was not an easy decision to be recommended.
- A short discussion on the **museum nonprofit** paper work took place. Jeff and Sharon reported that Grand Lodge is working with Sovereign Grand Lodge to get it taken care of. We look forward to getting it corrected so that the museum does not miss out on any further donations from people seeking tax breaks.

New Business-

- Election of Officers July 2023- June 2024 Joel Gosse- President, James Heisner- Vice President, Christine Heins -Secretary/Treasurer
- Museum bylaws were passed out. A discussion on revisions took place. Jody moved and Jeff seconded to have the board members look over the bylaws, make changes and bring them to the September meeting. Motion carried. We will then send revisions to the Grand Lodge for approval in June of 2024.
- A discussion on how to get members to help with future maintenance needs to be done on the museum took place. A list will be placed in the Wisconsin Odd Fellow each month with a letter asking lodges and individuals to help with the museum maintenance. We are hoping to lighten the burden of our "Tom of all Trades", Tom Heins who has put many years and hours into keeping the repairs caught up.
- Jody moved and Sharon seconded that the board compile an ongoing list of maintenance work need to be done at the museum and have the secretary send it to the Wisconsin Odd Fellow with a letter asking lodges to help with the work. Some discussion took place.

Jim then amended the motion and Jody seconded that the secretary should also include articles of interest about the museum's history with the maintenance list to be placed in the Wisconsin Odd Fellow. Both motions carried.

Jody brought up the idea of having a "Night at the Museum" for kids, to be held close to Halloween. Jeff moved and Jody seconded that we plan this activity. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be **September 23** at the museum starting at 10 AM.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.







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THE WISCONSIN ODD FELLOW



Our museum building was owned by several citizens from 1843 to 1926. Mineral Point Iowa Lodge #1, upon regaining its charter in 1873, did not seek to repurchase their original lodge hall. They met in a few lodge halls in town and ended up owning the top floor of 114 High St. for many years. In 1897 that lodge hall was completely gutted by fire and was rebuilt that same year. The lodge records and furnishing were lost in the fire, leaving little information about the lodge's functions before 1897. Iowa Lodge #1 never lost sight of that beautiful Federal building at 112 Front St. May 22, 1926 the lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin

to purchase the building and preserve it as a historic relic of early Odd Fellowship. A copy of the original petition is kept at the Museum. Mineral Point Iowa #1 members pledged to clean it up and get back to its original state with no more than \$3,000 to be solicited from its members and other lodges. Those that could not afford cash, offered their services to help revive the building. The Grand Lodge has owned the 185-year-old building for 97 years. Wow! It is filled with beautiful artifacts that tell the story of being an Odd Fellow, Rebekah, Encampment, Patriarchs Militant (Cantons), or Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant member.

Odd Fellowship is more than just a building. Wouldn't it be grand to have just one afternoon to sit and visit with and hear the stories from those men and women who brought Odd Fellowship to Wisconsin back in 1835. What a fun filled informative meeting it would be. They truly had Odd Fellowship in their daily life, visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and educating the orphan. God bless their diligence.

Keep on being an Odd Fellow and/or Rebekah, making this world a better place. Stay tuned for more Museum Meandering next month. In the meantime, consider visiting the Museum or helping with some of the tasks that need to be done.







The Odd Fellow & Rebekah Museum is a much brighter with the new sliding glass doors being put in place. What a nice addition. A huge thank you goes out to those who have contributed to the fund. It is much easier to view the items in the cases. At this time only the top cases will be getting new doors. Come see for yourself. Call ahead and someone from lowa Lodge #1 will be happy to open up the doors for you.



LODGE HAPPENINGS















Baraboo Lodge #51 came together for the Good of the Order for our workday. Four members from our lodge met in the spirit of odd fellowship to help the Odd Fellows Museum by taking some time to spruce it up a bit. Pamela Watson, Michael Thumm, Matthew Darnell, and Stephanie Darnell spent the afternoon painting the railings and porch on the front of the building. Pamela spent the afternoon prepping the railing and porch by power washing dirt and flaking paint, also power washed the stairs leading up to the building giving it a fresh look and making it a little safer as the coating on the concrete became a little slippery when wet. We as a lodge look forward to more projects to help our communities, other lodges, and of course the museum which we truly believe to be an extremely important asset to help preserve our history for future generations of Odd Fellows.



<image>

Iowa Lodge #1 held a food drive to benefit local pantries during a Mineral Point volleyball match. Iowa #1 members, Mary and Pat collected many items. No, you are not seeing double! They are twin sisters.



Iowa Lodge #1 members James Heisner and Mary Joestgen presented the Iowa County food pantry with food and a check for \$200.00.





Mary Joestgen, member of Iowa Lodge #1, presented the Mineral Point food pantry with food and check for \$200.



Iowa Lodge #1 presented the Pointer Pantry and Mineral Point Excellence in Education with \$500 checks from the proceeds of their pulled pork sandwich project. They also were able to give \$300 to the high school chorus from a pancake breakfast benefit.



LODGE HAPPENINGS





Green Bay Lodge #19 held an all Degree Day on Oct. 21. They welcomed 5 new members along with Grand Master Jeff Jones who helped with their Degree Day. Pictured (L to R): David Edwards, Danielle Vandeberg, Derek Vandeberg, Ellen Tews, Jody Tews and Grand Master Jeff Jones.



Grand Master Jeff Jones presented Tami Adams, acting Noble Grand of Green Bay Lodge #19 with a Community Service I.O.O.F. Award and The I.O.O.F. Award to Higher Education.



Grand Master Jeff Jones presented Teresa Froseth, Green Bay Lodge #19 with several awards for the *Wisconsin Odd Fellow*. The awards are for: Best Overall; 1st Place Monthly; Monthly 1st Place Tie Best Column; Monthly 1st Place Jurisdictional Leadership; Monthly 1st Place News Content; Monthly 1st Place Best Use of Photography; and Monthly 1st Place Layout & Design.



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



September 2023

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

Installation Address:

I want to thank you for electing me your Sovereign Grand Master. When my grandfather joined the Order in West Virginia over 100 years ago, I am sure he never thought that his grandson would lead this great Order. I am overwhelmed.

I would like to thank the installing staff for the fine job tonight. I can tell you have done this before, because you are so proficient at it.

I would like to thank Sister EllenJean Whited, President of the IARA, and General Howard "Doc" Malin, General Commanding of the General Military Council for their friendship and support.

To my brothers and sisters in Pennsylvania and Florida, I am truly grateful for what you have done and will be doing. Brother David and Sister Debra Young and Brother Bill Ramsey, your efforts in preparing these events, my testimonial and the 2024 session in Pittsburgh, require more thanks than I know how to give. To my brothers and sisters at Nucleus Lodge and Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge in Pennsylvania and Orange, Gulf and Tarpon Springs Lodges and Clearwater Rebekah Lodge in Florida, my thanks for your support. There are numerous members of each of these lodges present. I know the Noble Grand of Clearwater Rebekah Lodge is here, because she is my wife Emilie.

My wife Emilie has shared most of my journey in Odd Fellowship; I have been a member for 48 years and I have been married to Emilie for 35 years. We practiced law together for 25 years before we retired. We progressed through the Order. Emilie has been Grand Master and Grand Patriarch in Pennsylvania, Grand Representative from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and currently serves as Grand Representative from the Grand Encampment of Florida. We have shared many journeys together and I would not be in this spot if it weren't for my loving wife Emilie.

I want to thank my appointive officers. You have volunteered for a mission where no Odd Fellow has gone before. I am going to ask each of you to help me communicate with members of the Order. We must boldly go forth to find the future of the Order.

Let's look at the problems we face. Lodges and Grand Lodges lack a leadership plan. When a member dies, retires and moves away, or succumbs to the vagaries of old age, we are lost. Your secretary and treasurer will not live forever. You cannot elect the same person Noble Grand year after year and expect to grow.

When you visit a lodge that would rather close its doors than change, you have a problem. If you can't motivate that lodge, shut them down before the disease spreads. Go to The Sovereign Grand Lodge web site and read about our history. Learn who and what we are and take that message back to your lodge.

It is easy to blame the outside world, COVID, television, other activities, the economy and shifts in human nature and habits for our problems. Thomas Wildey experienced the obstacles of poor communication, bad roads, popular distrust of fraternal organizations and lack of literacy, and yet he built our great Order from a small group. Remember our heritage, but don't try to use 19th century lifestyles to grow a 21st century lodge. Tell your own members what you are doing and

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NOVEMBER 2023

the world. Last month The Sovereign Grand Lodge began emailing the I.O.O.F. News to every member. We are going to tell you what we are doing. One fourth of our emails bounced back as improper addresses. If you don't get emails from The Sovereign Grand Lodge, check with your lodge secretary to confirm your email address on your lodge roster. Lodge rosters are very important, make sure your secretary updates your roster every year and sends it back to The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

When you were initiated into Odd Fellowship, a dirge or funeral hymn was sung, it is Pleyel's Hymn. A dirge is a lament for the dead. Ignatz Joseph Pleyel was a composer, music publisher and piano maker who was born in Austria and located in France. He was a follower of Mozart. We use the music and a small portion of the lyrics of his hymn. I read a magazine article that described Pleyel's hymn as a perfect sermon.

The purpose or message of the hymn is to impress upon the listener that we are short-lived. Our lives on Earth are quickly consumed by the furnace of time. The sixth verse of the hymn is used, in part, in our degree. We should look to the entire sixth verse to see a fuller lesson, "Lord of all! Below - above. Fill our hearts with truth and love; When dissolves our Earthly tie, Take us to thy lodge on high."

Reflecting on our initiation into the Order, we are not to be saddened by emblems of mortality, we are to have faith and hope from our faith in God. We must look beyond ourselves for inspiration to carry on the work of our great Order.

There is something called a comfort zone that we create for ourselves. This comfort zone allows us to feel at ease and relaxed. There is nothing wrong with being comfortable in your home, your job or with your family. When you get too comfortable with your lodge, you stop looking for new members and ways to keep your membership active. Step out of your comfort zone and embrace new ideas and find new people to share those ideas with.

My father was an Odd Fellow. When he passed on, he was an appointed officer in the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania. He held a number of jobs in his life, but the longest he held and the job at his retirement was being an elementary school teacher. He loved poetry, an interest he acquired from his mother. His favorite poem was "If" by Rudyard Kipling. I have modified that poem slightly and had it printed in the joint program for 2023-24. Please read it.

"If" is a song of self-confidence. You must believe in yourself. You must be certain about our Order and your place in it. Become informed. Learn our history. Live in faith and be a beacon of faith to those around you. Beyond a faith in the almighty, you must have faith in our Order and faith in yourself. I exhort you to go forth and spread your faith among others.

We started emailing every Odd Fellow. The Sovereign Grand Lodge is going to communicate with you. My email address is going to be printed everywhere. I want you to communicate with me. I read my email in Pennsylvania and Florida, and I read it on the road. Send me your ideas. I will do my best to respond to everyone. All I ask is that you read my response. Thank you and good night.

Fraternally in F, L, &T,

s/ John S. Cupp Jr.







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

> September 2023 Love + Unity = Peace



This is real Dreams do come true. To start, thank you to Iowa for the wonderful SGL/IARA /GMC Sessions. You went the extra mile to make everything perfect. Thank you only touches the surface. To S0vereign Grand Master John, General Commanding Howard, I pledge to you both my passion for our fraternity.

At this time, I would like to share my program. For the joint awards see the program that you received in your registration packet. Do you know how hard it was for me to keep quiet until tonight?

My program is a little eclectic, but it works.

Theme: love + unity = peace

Motto: Weave us together with friendship, joy, and love

Colors: purples, blues, and soft green

Scripture: Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 17:22 - "A cheerful heart does good."

Flowers: all spring flowers to include dandelions

Emblem: teapot

I am usually in hot water and the teapot is full of hot water so let me tell you why I chose the teapot because, to me, it is a symbol of friendship, joy, and love. Although it can be small and delicate, it is made to be hot and is filled with soothing warmth. It sits on the table between my friends, our teacups and me, keeping the tea warm, listening to our chats, and keeping our secrets. It also brings perfect moments of solitude and reflection. Some of my most happy and memorable times were spent around the teapot.

I have dedicated my year to:

1. To the Rebekahs who laid the groundwork. To the Rebekahs who carry on the work today. And the Rebekahs who will come after us I pledge my utmost to lead our Order the best way I can.

2. To my family who have put up with me, supporting me all the way. You are my rock upon whom I cling. I Love you.

3. Lastly, to my Rebekah Sisters and Brothers who have placed their faith in me to lead us into the future, to grow in Unity and Love.

Projects: I am asking each Jurisdiction to choose one or two of The SGL/ IARA programs to support this year as well as your favorite programs at home. Please let me know what you are doing to enhance your community (ies).

Together WE CAN DO THIS! Why? BECAUSE LODGE IS A WONDERFUL PLACE.

EllenJean





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



September 2023

Acceptance Speech as General Commanding, General Military Commanding, 2023-2024

Sovereign Grand Master, The Honorable Michelle L. Heckart; President Ruth A. Earle, International Association Rebekah Assemblies; General Earl F. Wys, General Military Council; my special counterparts: Brother John S. Cupp Jr. and Sister EllenJean Whited; Dignitaries; Brothers; Sisters; Patriarchs; Matriarchs; Chevaliers; Friends; and Guests:

Greetings:

At this time, I would like to thank all Chevaliers for the camaraderie we have enjoyed for the last two years.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Chevaliers for having elected and mustering me in this evening as General Commanding for the ensuing year, 2023-2024. I am most humble to serve the General Military Council and will work diligently, with your support, to perpetuate our beautiful tenets of this branch of the Order.

Second, I would like to thank the Mustering Team this evening. You did an outstanding job. Thank you, General Suder for Mustering me as General Commanding and General John Beebe for being my Installing Chaplain.

Third, I would like to thank my Department Council of Virginia for your endorsement and support throughout my journey these past two years in the General Military Council. I would not be standing here this evening if it were not for you.

Fourth, I would like to congratulate my elected and appointed line officers who I shall be working with during

this ensuing year. With the blessings of our Creator, Almighty G-d, to Whom I am most grateful, and with your support, I am sure this General Military Council will look forward to a very productive and prosperous year and that my Goals will be attained.

I would like to acknowledge my Planning Committee who worked diligently to make this evening a great success and who is continuing to work very diligently to make my forthcoming "Testimonial" a huge success. My Testimonial will be held at the Dulles International Airport Marriott Hotel on December 1-2, 2023. I am most appreciative.

I would like to recognize my fellow Chevaliers throughout the world and my priceless friends who came a distance to attend my Mustering this evening as General Commanding. I am most appreciative.

Please review the Program for this ensuing year, 2023-2024, that you received in your registration packet. Let us promote "The Spirit of Odd Fellowship": Inspiration creates innovation.

The Spirit of Odd Fellowship

We, as Odd Fellows, are truly blessed to belong to a fraternity whose "Valediction" exemplifies the very essence of "the spirit of Odd Fellowship", that is, community service to our fellow man: "... as I perform my duty to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." Within the embodiment of our "Valediction", it clearly captures the "spirit", or pure essence, of what we, as Odd Fellows, stand for. It is that human "spirit", that immaterial part of humanity, which connects us with our Creator, Who blesses each of us with divine inspiration, or an intangible energy force, so as to implement new ideas in our society;

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thus spreading our fraternity's valued service to benefit our communities. This is what we call innovation.

As long as we, as members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, continue to give gratitude to our Creator for our daily well-being, He, in turn, will continue to bestow upon us our blessings and inspiration to do our very "best work, our modest pride, our earnest faith, and our deepest loyalty" for our fraternity. With this in mind, our inspiration will help create and "build a better world" in which to live via new technological ideas, so as to benefit humanity, especially our communities, friends, and neighbors.

Finally, this concept of inspiration creating innovation will indeed perpetuate the advancement of humanity and, especially, our fraternity, into the future. Remember, we, as members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, are that "spirit" as long as we work together as a unit in **peace** and **harmony**, exhibiting Friendship, Love, and Truth; Faith, Hope, and Charity; and Universal Justice. It is that "spirit" which our founder, Brother Thomas Wildey, exhibited when he had established the first American Odd Fellows Lodge in Baltimore, Maryland on April 26, 1819. It is that same "spirit" which exists today at the Local, State, and Sovereign level in all Branches of our beloved Order.

Aim: Let us, as Chevaliers, sow the seeds of Universal Justice throughout the world, inspiring and building bridges of peace and harmony and, working together, moving Patriarchs Militant forward into a bright and prosperous future.

The Bridge Builder By WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

An old man going a lone highway, Came, at the evening cold and gray, To a chasm vast and deep and wide. Through which was flowing a sullen tide The old man crossed in the twilight dim, The sullen stream had no fear for him; But he turned when safe on the other side And built a bridge to span the tide. "Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near, "You are wasting your strength with building here; Your journey will end with the ending day, You never again will pass this way; You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide, Why build this bridge at evening tide?" The builder lifted his old gray head; "Good friend, in the path I have come," he said, "There followed after me to-day A youth whose feet must pass this way. This chasm that has been as naught to me To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be; He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

Thank you for your kind attention. May Almighty G-d bless each of you with continued health and safe travels. And, until we all meet again, Happy Trails to you.

Chivalrously,

s/ Gen. Howard G. Malin





TO BE READ IN ALL LODGES:

General Proclamation

To the Officers and Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Fraternal Greetings:

I, John S. Cupp Jr., Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by authority duly vested in me, do proclaim the following:

September 20, 2023: **Rebekah Degree Day,** commemorating the 172nd Anniversary of the Degree of Rebekah. All Rebekah Lodges are encouraged to initiate an 'Anniversary Class' commemorating the day.

January 15, 2024: **Thomas Wildey Day,** in celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of Thomas Wildey, founder of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in America. All units are encouraged to initiate a '*Wildey Class*' in celebration of the occasion.

March 23, 2024: Schuyler Colfax Day, in honor of the anniversary of the birthday of Schuyler Colfax, author of the Degree of Rebekah. Rebekah Lodges are encouraged to initiate a 'Colfax Class' in honor of the occasion.

April 15, 2024: Make a Difference Day.

April 26, 2024: Founder's Day, commemorating the 204th Anniversary of the founding of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Baltimore, Maryland. All units of the Order are encouraged to hold special festivities in celebration of the day: *Degree Day (name the class for someone in your jurisdiction)*, Anniversary Ball, Community Work Project, et cetera.

June 11, 2024: **Memorial Day,** for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. All units are asked to set aside time to remember.

I ask that you observe the above-mentioned days on the date noted or a date as near as possible.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 31st day of August 2023 in the 205th year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T, s/ John S. Cupp Jr. Sovereign Grand Master

Attest: s/ Terry L. Barrett Sovereign Grand Secretary





MISTY'S Recipe Exchange





Out Of This World Rotel Chicken Spaghetti

Out Of This World Rotel Chicken Spaghetti is a family favorite one-pan meal. Made with tender chicken, tomatoes and green chilies tossed in a creamy, cheesy sauce, this is pasta casserole taken to a whole new level!

This easy to make recipe is always a hit at the supper table, potlucks and makes a great freezer meal.

Course	Main Course, Pasta
Cuisine	American
Prep Time	10 minutes
Cook Time	45 minutes
Total Time	55 minutes
Servings	12
Author	<u>Donya Mullins</u>

Ingredients

- 3 chicken breasts cooked and shredded
- 1 pound spaghetti
- 2 10 ounce cans Rotel tomatoes and chilies
- 8 ounces cream cheese (1 block)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed tortilla chips

Instructions

- 1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. Prepare a baking pan with parchment paper or foil. Season chicken with salt and pepper and place on the pan. Roast in the oven for 15 to 20 minutes until done and chicken is no longer pink. To check that chicken is done, use a meat thermometer that registers 160-170 degrees. Remove from oven, and shred using 2 forks.
- 2. While chicken is baking, cook pasta according to package directions. When done, drain and set aside.
- 3. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat an 11x17 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Set aside.
- 4. To a large pot, over medium-low heat, add cooked chicken, cream cheese, sour cream, both cans of Rotel tomatoes and chilies, cumin, salt, garlic and, onion powder. Stir together until

0/23, 11:40 AM

- cream cheese is melted. Add-in 2 cups of cheddar cheese and stir. Add cooked pasta and stir together until noodles are coated. Pour into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle top of casserole with crushed tortilla chips and remaining ½ cup of cheddar cheese.
- 5. Bake in the oven for 20 25 minutes until heated through and top of casserole is golden brown and cheese is melted.
- 6. Remove from oven and serve.





DIRECTORY GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

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Richard Smith	2024
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Jeffery M. Jones	.Grand Master
181 Sunset Ave., PO Box 427, Footville, WI 53537, 608-931-7335, wioddfellowjeff@gmail.cor	n
Joyce ProulxGi	rand Secretary
1304 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301-2502, 920-406-9860, grandsecretary@ioofwi.org	g

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., , 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 3rd Tues. at 6 PM, 1930 7th St. So., Robert Liska N.G.; Amanda Kyle-Quaschnick, Sec'y, PO Box 41, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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GRAND TRUSTEES

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ones......2024 81 Sunset Ave., PO Box 427, Footville, WI 53537 08-931-7335, wioddfellowjeff@gmail.com

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 Schoepp Rd., Lot 13, Sauk City, WI 53583 608-448-9262

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, Beloit, WI 53511, 608-931-2586

MILWAUKEE—Wisconsin Encampment #1

Meets the 3rd Sat. at 10 AM, 4729 W. National Ave., Richard Smith, Scribe, 109 Dean Rd., Belgium, 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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papers as we can.

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THE WISCONSIN ODD FELLOW

NOVEMBER 2023

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608-931-2586, djs4300@yahoo.com	GREEN BAY—Canton Bay Verte #11
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262-476-5085, rsmith23@wi.rr.com	Clerk, 490 Tyrolian Dr., Green Bay, WI 54302-5143
Capt. Joyce ProulxDept. Quartermaster	JANESVILLE—Canton Black Rock #6
490 Tyrolian Dr., Green Bay, WI 54302	Meets the 3rd Sat. at 10 AM, 22 N. Main St.,
Capt. Rick JerryDept. Inspector	Contact: Lt. Col. Dale Stevenson, Clerk,
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920-621-5188, swenskimenski@yahoo.com	608-931-2586
General Commanding (R) Richard "Dick" Proulx	MILWAUKEE—Canton Milwaukee #1
Dept. Judge Advocate	Meets the 3rd Sat. at 11 AM, 4729 W. National
490 Tyrolian Dr., Green Bay, WI 54302	Ave., Contact: Lt. Col. Richard Smith, Clerk,
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THE WISCONSIN ODD FELLOW

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"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 E-mail: grandlodge@ioofwi.org Phone: (920) 406-9860

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