



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

January 1, 2011

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

I've just received this e-mail from Brother Rick Boyles, and at his request, am forwarding it to all of you.

Best,

Dave

All Members -

We have formed a committee entitled Dedicated Members for Change. We are not a committee formed for any other reason. In our order, there are any number of committees formed, which often make little or no progress because their main direction loses focus. We can't concern ourselves with internal lodge issues. This is not part of our reason to exist. If you have an issue with your lodge, you must direct your complaints to the proper outlet - The Grand Master, The Grand Lodge Board of Directors, or The Grand Lodge Office. All of these people can be reached by email, the addresses easily enough obtained on the Grand Lodge Website. That website is www.caioof.org.

We are also not trying to ignore our history. We love ritual work. We honor the unwritten work. No one has ever mentioned that any part of our history should be lost or abandoned.

Our main focus is to modernize. We feel that we must make changes or become part of the history we are all so enamored with. Along those lines, we have garnered a great deal of support. Many prominent members now belong to our committee. What we are trying to do is simply modernize. We love all members, and love you whether or not you belong to our committee. However, the only thing true odd fellows should object to is turmoil. We should not allow turmoil to enter our lodges or our conversations. The basic tenets of our order implies friendship and love. That is our primary goal.

Our fearless leaders are Brothers Dave Rosenberg and Don Smith. As you may have heard, Brother Don is seriously ill. Our prayers are with him.

In closing, please remember that whatever your beliefs, we love all members. Our goal is amicable change. Change sounds unnerving but really does not entail much more than each



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lodge operating the way that lodge feels that it should to gain new and vibrant members. Everyone agrees that our membership is dwindling. Everyone sees that lodges are closing due to a lack of members. Obviously, something new must be done. If a lodge sees a way to gain in members why should anyone block their path? I have heard the famous counter that other fraternal groups are also losing members, but we are losing members quicker than most. Something must be done, and we may want to be the leaders for a change rather than the followers. We don't have all the answers, but simply the status quo will sooner or later no longer be an option. Anyone screaming that they would rather die than change has not studied their own lodge closely enough. As Don Smith has noted, many states are now too low in members to even govern themselves. It is time to change, but please remember that change is easy if we still prize each other's opinions. We proudly love all members, and welcome all walks of life equally.

In F., L., & T., Rick