



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

May 6, 2011

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Following is our 2011 Newsletter #6, written by one of the DMC founding members, Don Smith, respected Past Grand Master of California and Past Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The thoughts expressed in the e-mail below are, of course, those of Brother Don - but he is certainly someone worthy of being listened to - Don has attended almost sixty consecutive Grand Lodge sessions. He is the unsurpassed voice of experience in our Order.

I am delighted to say that our RSVP count for the DMC inaugural dinner and meeting at Grand Lodge continues to grow. Remember, the dinner is at the Grand Lodge Hotel (the Double Tree) on Thursday, May 19, beginning at 6 p.m. Attire is comfortable and casual - similar to the attire you would wear to sessions. Dinner will be delicious and plentiful, and the meeting will be interesting and lively. If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to me in response to this e-mail. (We still have a few seats available at the discounted and subsidized rate of \$19 per person.)

Believe me, it will be the best show in town on Thursday night. You won't want to miss it. And we have many leaders of the Order in attendance, including officers and board members. All of us are very excited about the future of our Order in California - the best is yet to come!

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Dave Rosenberg

DMC Newsletter #6

By Don R. Smith, PGM and PSGM

I feel strongly[y that those attending the Dedicated Members for Change dinner meeting on Thursday, May 19th, at 6 p.m. in Sacramento, are dedicated Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and



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want to see the Independent Order of Odd Fellows thrive and prosper in the future. We are all greatly concerned about our declining membership.

While there might be different solutions suggested for solving the huge drop in membership in our state-wide fraternity, I am sure we all agree that we are going to need to make changes.

Making a change is difficult for some people but from our experiences during the past 60 years points out that we are not on the road to success. On the contrary, our decline in membership shows we are on the road to decline. Every other fraternal organization in existence is having the same problem, with many of them passing out of existence.

Individuals attending the DMC Dinner Meeting will have the opportunity to socialize with and to share ideas for solving the problem of a declining membership. Three of us will be speaking on some of the history, current events, and plans for the future. Rick Boyles will bring everyone up to date on some of the current concerns facing Odd Fellowship today as a GL Board Member. Dave Rosenberg will discuss some of the legislation being presented at Grand Lodge along with the prospects for a healthy future. Having personally attended nearly 60 consecutive Grand Lodge sessions, I hope to share some of the steps taken to revive the Order in the past - because we can learn a lot from our past successes and our past failures.

I will be nominating two Brothers for offices in Grand Lodge this year including Jay Johnson for Grand Treasurer and Dave Rosenberg for Odd Fellows Home Director. I urge you to consider their qualifications. I am impressed with Rick Boyles, a candidate for Grand Warden; Paul Hamer, a candidate for the Grand Lodge Board; and Gerald Poarch, a candidate for re-election as a Home Director. Paul Pike, our Deputy Grand Master; and Rodney Metoyer, our Grand Warden will continue their climb up the fraternal ladder in Grand Lodge.

A limited number of reservations are still available for the Dedicated Members for Change Dinner in Sacramento. Contact Dave Rosenberg to make your reservations.

Fraternally,



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Don R. Smith, PSGM and PGM