



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

June 16, 2011

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

We certainly made substantial progress at the Grand Lodge, and we're already beginning to think of next steps in the evolution of our Order. We're already looking forward to the 2012 Grand Lodge.

Lest we forget, I wanted to remind DMC members of the sad numbers revealed by the "Advance Proceedings" that were distributed at Grand Lodge. As to Odd Fellows Lodges, at the end of 2010 we were down to 141 Lodges in California (from the 145 that were in place at the beginning of 2010) - so, once again we have a year where we have a net diminution in Lodges, not a net increase. The number of members also declined (again) in 2010. At the beginning of 2010 there were 5,104 members. At the end of 2010 there were 4,985 members for a net loss of 119 members. The only "good news" in this is that the decline numbers seem to now be going down a bit. Removing associate members and non-contributing members, at the end of 2010 there were only 4,566 dues paying members in California. If one extrapolates that only 50% of these members are "active" - then we have a shade over 2,200 active members left in California!

Even more telling are the statistics for "net gains". Of our 141 remaining Lodges, only 29 had a net gain of members in 2010. This means that the vast majority of Lodges in California were either stagnant (no net gain or loss) or actually had a net loss of members. Of the 29 Lodges which showed a net gain, 12 only had net gains of 1 or 2 members. And of the 17 remaining lodges that had a net gain of 3 or more, only 5 Lodges had a net gain in double digits.

As to Rebekah Lodges, in 2010 the number of Rebekah Lodges in California declined from 92 to 90 and the regular dues paying membership of all Rebekah Lodges was down to only 2,811. In the Encampment, only 217 regular dues-paying members of the Encampment survive in the entire State of California.

If these statistics don't shock you into action, nothing will.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg