



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

February 22, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Below is an article written for the DMC by Grand Lodge Director and DMC Member Peter Sellars. This article may be of particular interest to the newer members of your Lodge. I urge you to share it with them, and also see if you can include it in your Lodge newsletter.

Also, two DMC reminders for you:

(1) Our DMC e-mail list grows every day. This group was formed for the sole purpose of re-focusing our Order to obtain new members and to retain existing members. If you know members of your Lodge (or other Lodges) who wish to be included in our e-mail matrix, simply check with them, obtain their consent, and then send me their names and e-mail addresses. They will be promptly added to the DMC list.

(2) DMC will be hosting its Second Annual DMC Dinner Meeting during Grand Lodge Sessions this year. The dinner will be on Thursday, May 17 at El Torito Restaurant & Cantina - a four-minute walk from the Grand Lodge hotel, the Doubletree. Our group is so large, we're taking over the entire restaurant! No-host cocktails and drinks at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Through the generosity of DMC members and certain Lodges, we are able to subsidize the cost of the dinner for the first 100. For those first 100, simply mail in a check (payable to "Dave Rosenberg") for \$10 per person, identify the persons attending, and mail the check and RSVP list to Dave Rosenberg, Davis Odd Fellows Lodge, 415 Second Street, Davis CA 95616. Please note: Checks are already coming in and we have received a substantial number of RSVP's - Grand Lodge is less than three months away!

Dave Rosenberg

A DIRECTION OF LEADERSHIP

If you have been an active member in this organization for over a year you have probably asked yourself some familiar questions by now: How does one become a leader in this organization? What is the Grand Lodge? How do I become active in the Grand Lodge? Where do I learn more about the history and the terms used in this organization? Who is in charge? How did that person become the Grand Master or a Grand Lodge officer?

And more questions...

True, in some lodges a member will have a difficult time finding any of the answers to these questions. If a lodge lacks leadership and experience, the answers may never come unless you work to get the answers yourself. Because there are lodges with so few members and most of



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those are members have never attained the title of Past Grand, there is little chance of knowing what lies out beyond your lodge doors. A Past Grand is the key to getting most of the answers to your questions. Becoming a Noble Grand and then graduating from that seat and becoming a Past Grand is the key.

As a lodge member, your goal should be to visit a session of the Grand Lodge. Any Third Degree member may attend a session as a visitor. You may not be a representative (a Past Grand who has been elected to attend the session as a voting member), but it is at these sessions where you will learn how Odd Fellows laws become laws. The sessions are where you meet your contacts and the committee chairpersons. That is the place you will discover more answers to your questions. This is where you have all of the Order's leaders in one place. Most of them are very approachable and feel honored to be asked questions. It makes them feel important even in this all-volunteer organization. It actually makes them feel appreciated. These volunteers put a great deal of energy into helping the Odd Fellows survive in today's fast-paced competitive world.

If you attend the sessions, which are held every May, either as a Third Degree member or a representative, then you will become more knowledgeable because of the exposure you will have from listening to bills and new laws being presented by the members of our Order. You will hear the reports being given by the various committees. The State of the Order, Membership, Legislation, Judiciary, Historical and many more reports all play an important role in the success or failure of the Odd Fellows. Many of these reports are in writing. You become a leader by showing that you are interested in what happens beyond your hall's four walls. You learn by asking questions. There is no dumb question. When you listen to the reports being read or read what has been written, you will have the opportunity to ask the writer your questions. There are breaks during the sessions. Find an opportunity to ask your questions. The more answers you get to your questions, the quicker you will become a leader.

Fraternally,

Peter Sellars