



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

April 9, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

A few days ago I received an e-mail from a young lady - a DMC member from Northern California - who was a relatively new member in the Order and who was a bit frustrated by an attitude often displayed by some of the long-time members of the Order. Whenever she or some of the newer and younger members step up and attempt to put a new idea on the table, they are invariably met with the words "it won't work" uttered by some of those long-time members. I guess those long-time members of the Order don't truly understand how frustrating and demoralizing that lack of support can be to the newer members. Here's a suggestion. Rather than immediately saying "it won't work", how about trying the words "let's explore that" or even better, "let's talk about how we can make that work." Long-time members of the Order can play a significant role not only in teaching newer members about rules and rituals of the Order, but also in encouraging the newer members to make their own personal contributions. Look, just because it hasn't been tried before (or it was tried 20 years ago and didn't work then) doesn't mean that a new member with a new idea should be ridiculed or deflated, or even humiliated. Where's the brotherly love in that? If we don't support each other, who will?

Even Sovereign Grand Lodge now realizes that we all have to emerge from the four walls of our Lodges and start reaching out to our communities in ways that we haven't done before. So, it's OK to have some social meetings, open to potential new members. It's OK to work on community projects - such as helping seniors, planting trees, working with youth groups, helping raise money for charitable causes, etc. - and to open our Lodge Halls to such projects. It's OK to be visible in our towns and communities and to issue press releases when we do good works.

So when that young, new member proposes a community pasta feed to raise money for the local high school football team, or proposes that the Lodge sponsor a breakfast with Santa for the children of the community, or proposes that the Lodge members have a poker and wine evening, or proposes a Lodge bike-a-thon to raise money to combat child abuse, or proposes any other new idea, don't immediately respond with the words "it won't work". Every member has to feel that his or her ideas and contributions matter. Every member has to be given the opportunity to put his or her imprint on the work of the Lodge, and add to body of our work. Praise that new member for proposing an idea, and engage in a good-faith discussion to see if it can be made to work. It's what a true Odd Fellow should do.



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And here's a reminder: Our Second Annual DMC Dinner Meeting is coming up. We already have over 60 paid reservations, and we still have about six weeks to go! Looks like we'll have a GREAT turnout. Keep in mind that we are subsidizing only the first 100 who attend - so get your reservation check in soon. The dinner normally costs over \$18, but we are able to subsidize the first 100 due to donations made by generous members of DMC.

On Thursday, May 17, DMC will have its Second Annual Dinner Meeting during Grand Lodge Sessions. No-host cocktails begins at 5 p.m. and dinner commences at 6 p.m. - attire is comfortable and casual. The location is El Torito Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, which is less than a block away from the Grand Lodge Hotel, the Doubletree. El Torito is located at 1598 Arden Way, about a four-minute walk from the hotel. The entire dining room of the restaurant has been reserved for us! The dinner will feature El Torito's famous taco buffet with fresh handmade corn tortillas filled with grilled steak, chicken or carnitas, as well as cheese enchiladas, rice, re-fried beans, sweet corn cake, seasonal fresh fruit, guacamole, lettuce, cheese and fresh salsa. In addition, the dinner includes soft drinks, iced tea, coffee or lemonade, and flan for dessert. That's quite a meal. No one will leave hungry.

As noted, DMC is offering the first 100 who reserve a special price of \$10 per person. After the first 100 (unless we receive additional donations), the charge will be the full \$18 for the dinner.

We invite Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, and their spouses and family members to this special dinner. We promise speeches will be brief and will be kept to a minimum. Speakers will include Rod Metoyer (Deputy Grand Master of California), Rick Boyles (Grand Warden of California), Don Smith (Past Sovereign Grand Master and Past Grand Master of California), and Dave Rosenberg (Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Odd Fellows Homes of California). Come out to enjoy a wonderful Mexican meal and a good time with your brothers, sisters, and friends. I promise you that the DMC Dinner will be a highlight of your Grand Lodge experience.

To reserve your place at the Second Annual DMC dinner please send your list of names of attendees and \$10 for each attendee (checks payable to "Dave Rosenberg") to the following address:

Dave Rosenberg
Davis Odd Fellows Lodge
415 Second Street
Davis CA 95616



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Hope to hear from you very soon!

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Dave Rosenberg

p.s. And our DMC e-mail list is growing every day. If you have someone you would like to add to the list, please check with that person to make sure they wish to be added, and if so, please send me their name and e-mail address. We will promptly add them to the DMC e-mail matrix. DMC is all about increasing our membership and growing our fraternal order - no more, and no less. We understand that we cannot continue the status quo of the last 65 years and we cannot continuing losing members and closing Lodges. Losing 100-200 members year after year and closing or consolidating 5-10 Lodges each year is unsustainable and unacceptable. In this regard we should ALL be Dedicated Members for Change.