



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

May 13, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Happy Mother's Day to all. I am pleased to send along to you some thoughts from Don Smith. Brother Don has been an active and involved member of our Fraternal Order for over 60 years. He has served the Order in numerous capacities, in his Lodge, at Grand Lodge and at Sovereign Grand Lodge. He has held the office of Noble Grand, Grand Master, and Sovereign Grand Master, and continues to hold office in his Lodge. He is one of the founding members of Dedicated Members for Change. Heed well his words - they come from age, experience and wisdom.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg

Success Favors the Bold

They say success favors the bold. Fortuna, the Roman goddess of luck, was rumored to reward those who take action and embrace risk.

At times you do have to be bold and embrace risk to be successful with any undertaking, but recently it seemed more like you just needed to participate. Attending and participating in the "Dedicated Members for Change" dinner at Grand Lodge can be a first step or a continuing step. You will be participating with other Brothers and Sisters who are sincere in wanting Odd Fellowship to show an increase in membership.

We can learn much from successful lodges. One idea can be the start of achieving success in your lodge. It is time we view successful lodges as offering us a plan or blueprint for success. As pointed out on many occasions what works in one lodge or locality may not work in every locality, but let's look at all successful lodges, and I am sure some will offer you ideas to utilize in your lodge. The spark for a growing lodge must come from an individual that desires to see Odd Fellowship grow and prosper. It only takes one dedicated individual Brother or Sister to start the increase of membership in individual lodges. That one person can be a current member



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

or a non member that is invited to join the Order to help with the revitalization of Odd Fellowship.

For the past 60 plus years there has been stressed the need for change in Odd Fellowship. Then as now there was a lot of talk about change, but it has grown louder through the years. We have tried to legislate change, but it hasn't produced a growth in membership over the years.

Back in the 1970's, I and Past Sovereign Grand Master Shelby McCauley of Arizona had discussed and recommended some changes. Together we were successful in making a few changes, but not enough to produce a consistent growth in membership. Changing the requirement for all business in the local lodge to be conducted in the Initiatory Degree rather than in the Third Degree was one change, but that hardly produced enough change to make our fraternity successful.

Brother McCauley had listened to beautiful phrases, speeches and orations about streamlining, modernizing and rebuilding Odd Fellowship. With all the wonderful slogans, catchy words and phrases he pointed out we have managed to change very little in our fraternity. He pointed out that if you want a tree to be healthy and to do the job for which is was planted, you prune it. An orchardist does what is best for the tree and not what is best for the branch. There is no time for sentiment and weakness but a time for wisdom and courage. Are we wise enough to be a good husbandman for the tree of Odd Fellowship? It is time to save Odd Fellowship, or it may well die.

The contribution from Dave Rosenberg's "10 Helpful Hints to Bring New Members into the Order" can well provide you with initial steps to take for achieving success.

Attending the DMC dinner on Thursday, May 17th, during Grand Lodge in Sacramento may reinforce your determination to attract new members for our Order.

Don R. Smith