



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

August 26, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Here is an important message from California Grand Master Rod Metoyer and California Deputy Grand Master Rick Boyles, both members of our little e-mail matrix: Dedicated Members for Change. I hope you all take the time to read this short essay. As Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, let's accept the following as our thought for the day, the week, the month and the year. It's an important message.

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Dave Rosenberg

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Congeniality is the key

Lately, our order has become fractured along philosophical differences. Some of us desire change and want to revamp many facets of the order. Others of us want to stick strictly to historical rituals and merge our future with the past. Whatever our personal philosophy may be, we must remember that all of us are Odd Fellows; all of us live under the masthead of friendship, love and truth. Change or no change is not the most important issue, it is merely the means to an end; the most important issue is our survival. We can't survive by arguing. No one person is absolutely right. Each person is right for themselves. Our order has had many critical junctures, but in each case, it is important to face it together. Divided we fail, united we succeed.

Many lodges we have encountered in our journeys are failing or barely making a quorum; therefore, it seems ludicrous to not encourage some change in those cases. Other lodges are successful and have many happy members on different committees, structured around their own personal interests. In the case of successful lodges, we should encourage their success, and in the case of unsuccessful lodges, we should do what we can, congenially, to encourage growth. If one person screams and hollers and disrupts a lodge, that one person can disrupt a lodge and cause its closure. Conversely, a lodge which practices congeniality can often survive decades, and even grow, merely due to their own congeniality. So, it becomes obvious that nothing nurtures a lodge like happiness and nothing destroys a lodge quicker than disruption.

It's important to take note that while controversy exists; controversy always exists, as long as we are living. It is not endemic to one lodge or one personality. One person can cause



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considerable damage if all they do is disrupt a lodge. Let's try and remember that all members deserve respect, and that all of us are in search of the same goal, which is the growth of our order. Obviously, congeniality may not alone lead to our survival, but it would not hurt to practice it with every member we see.

Lodges are like our souls. Most of us want happiness and contentment. What makes us happy? We can find the answer if we ask the question in earnest. Why did we join? What would keep us as a member? If we can answer those simple questions, we are on the path to survival, both as members and as human beings. We must realize that all members search for similar rewards.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,

Rod Metoyer & Rick Boyles