



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

May 23, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Grand Lodge Sessions for 2013 have ended and we now enter the Grand Lodge year under the leadership of newly elected Grand Master Rick Boyles. Over the past few years I have come to know our new Grand Master as a dedicated Odd Fellow who holds the interests and the progress of our Order close to his heart. He has a droll sense of humor and an even-handed approach to issues. Rick is one of the most positive people I know. He is progressive in the same sense that our ritual talks about Odd Fellowship as progressive. When a new idea or concept is raised, while some may immediately say "no", Rick is the kind of man who will say "let's see if that can work." I am very pleased to be serving as Grand Warden during Rick's term as Grand Master. He and I both believe that our major three focuses for Odd Fellowship are: (1) membership, (2) membership, and (3) membership. The "ship" of Odd Fellowship will sink in a few years if we don't increase our membership. In this regard, there will be a renewed focus on the things that we - each of us - need to do to make our Lodges more visible in our communities, and thus more relevant to the new members we must attract to our Order. And I am delighted to note that DMC will be playing an ever-increasing role in membership development.

I'm pleased to pass along Grand Master Rick Boyles' Grand Master speech for your reading pleasure. It is attached.

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Dave Rosenberg

Brothers and Sisters,

First, let me thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master. This is a job that I take seriously, and I will do everything in my power to do a good job. I wish to thank the Past Grand Masters who have gone before me, all of whom have done a job with no salary and yet in each case, each man has done his best to uphold the finest of Odd Fellow traditions. Whatever your political view, these men should be admired for taking a difficult job and doing their utmost to keep us going. Of course, I would like to thank Past Grand Master Rod Metoyer for all he has done to keep the order on an even keel. And, I certainly want to thank my sponsor and my friend, Past Grand Master Gene Breeland for all of his tutelage and kind words. I have learned a



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lot from him, particularly to keep personal animosity at low ebb and to view the order with a long history and hopefully just as long a future. He is a great man and I am proud to call him my friend. Of course, I am pleased to have a partner like Paulette Lamphere, and my Deputy Grand Master Tim Brown, and his partner, Debbie Shuler who are all very helpful. I also wish to congratulate the new Rebekah Warden Donna Morrison and Grand Warden Dave Rosenberg.

Secondly, I wish to thank my family, my wife Laurie, my daughter Jamie, who are here today in attendance. My family has always been supportive of my membership in this fine group and is always willing to assist me in my various endeavors. My son, Michael and my eldest daughter Jessica could not attend but also have shown their support constantly.

Of course, I wish to thank my lodges for their support, the Alameda and Fremont Lodges on the Odd Fellow side and the Fremont Lodge on the Rebekah side have all shown their support and I have been happy to serve all three lodges however I can.

Then there are my favorite people in the order that I should take note of. I am thankful for Peter Sellars for accepting the position of Grand Instructor. Not only is he instructing our members he is instructing the Grand Master as well, who probably needs it most of all. I am thankful for brothers Dave Rosenberg and Don Smith. Dave, Don and I formed the DMC committee a few years ago and it has grown to become an important force within our order. I am sorry that some seem to think it has a political agenda. Change is evolution, nothing more, and we must change in order to grow. Both Dave and Don are tremendous members who have nothing but good things in mind for the order. Any resentment that is directed towards them is simply childish, and somehow we have to realize that turmoil is an enemy of all of us no matter what agenda any of us may have. All those who oppose change or oppose the status quo, in other words, either side of the issue, must someday come together and become as one or we will collapse from the additional stress of simply attempting to connect with one another. I am thankful for my friend Bob Murphy from my own lodge. I give him a lot of grief but he has been a great help to me over the years, and a true honorable Odd Fellow. I thank the Grand Secretary Ray Link, who has helped me a great deal and kept me focused on important issues. I thank my friends John Morgan and Randy Krassow for being friends and being intent on doing a job that has many detractors and yet no one seems to provide a viable alternative. Without the Board of Directors, we would be reliant upon mainly the Grand Master to make all decisions and quite frankly, most Grand Masters are not knowledgeable enough to make fiscal decisions. We need to remember that this state controls probably more property, more business interests, and has to make delicate choices that may go beyond the ability of what just one man is able to make.

Lastly, I have reeled off some of my favorite Odd Fellows, and have left one out on purpose. He and I have been great friends for many years now. I seek his advice continually and have found him to always be wise and a great help to me. We like to make fun of each other, but in



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truth I defend him wholeheartedly and he defends me even though he always says I should ride in his trunk. I wish to thank my friend Jay Johnson and his wife Nancy Johnson.

In the medical profession there is a phrase in the Hippocratic Oath that goes *Primum non nocere* in Latin; in English that means "first, do no harm". This is my initial goal. To do nothing whatsoever that would take away from our future. We must stop all this turmoil. We must end all these tireless disputes. No one is wrong. Everyone is right. Each person has their own point of view and who are any of us to imply one or another is incorrect? In order to grow, first we must do no harm to ourselves, we must remember that we are all brothers and sisters and walk hand in hand to our future. Our future is entirely up to all of us. We must carry the burden together, or individually it will cripple us one by one.

In closing, I just want to state that we all need to connect somehow. We all have to realize that the leaders don't matter, if we just want to disagree about everything. There will always be disputes, but we need to remember that we are here for one reason, and that is to remain a viable group and quit trying to burn our own bridges. Our history is very significant, and should be greatly admired, but we also want to work on our future and ensure that, like our wonderful history, we allow the brilliance of our future shine through.

Thank you very much.