



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

June 21, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Our ritual makes reference to Odd Fellowship as "progressive" and it's gratifying to note that our progressive Grand Master Rick Boyles has now designated Dedicated Members for Change (DMC) as an official committee of the Grand Lodge. DMC will continue to beat the drum of membership, membership, membership - for unless we all attend to and reverse the decline in our membership, we will falter as an organization. Simply put, we cannot continue to lose members every year and we cannot continue to shut down or consolidate our Lodges. The numbers will inexorably lead to the diminution of our Great Order. So, DMC continues to focus on this, our greatest and most daunting issue. And we don't just talk the talk; we walk the walk. We have suggested many practical methods to reverse the trend and start the process of growth in our membership.

One interesting and intriguing facet of this issue is to reflect on the lack of great and notable men and women in our ranks today. Remember, we were once the Order which boasted giants - members like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Leland Stanford, and Earl Warren. Where are these great leaders today? A reflection of our steep drop in members is also our steep drop in notable men and women who became leaders of state, of industry, of literature, of law, of medicine, government, etc. Attached is a commonly-accepted list of great Odd Fellows in our history. There are very few of these great Americans alive in our ranks today.

But we can and should recapture that golden ticket. As a way of increasing visibility and membership locally, Lodges should do their utmost to attract great local leaders as applicants. Mayors, newspaper publishers, Judges, business leaders, school board members, and the like should be encouraged to join their local Lodges. When these folks join, they invariably bring in other community giants, which in turn, can do a great deal to re-invigorate membership and re-charge the Lodge.

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Dave Rosenberg



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