



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 1, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Yesterday, I sent out some thoughts from Don Smith about the need for personal communication in recruitment of new members. Long-time DMC member Robin Oliver wrote in to supplement Don's thoughts. I forward Robin's personal observations, below.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg

You are right, Don, that a personal touch is far more important than any other form of less personal communications...

When I was young, my dad brought my brother and me into Boy Scouts. There were many useful lessons that I took from this experience. Personal engagement and cooperation with others was, of course, a very big part of that...

But one of the things that seemed to make a major impression on me was the fire triangle. Fire requires three components to become a flaming fire: oxygen, fuel, and heat. Take away any one of those elements and the fire goes out...

In similar fashion, a conversation with anyone about Odd Fellowship who may not be familiar with the Order requires three things:

* First is a knowledgeable Odd Fellow who understands what Odd Fellowship is and why it exists. It takes time and effort to learn Odd Fellowship and to develop the skills to be a competent Odd Fellow both in the Lodge and in the community. There is no Tinkerbell pixie dust solution to learning Odd Fellowship. Even with the strong mentoring of Lodge brothers and sisters, it is not a simple mastery. And THAT is why we have Lodge meetings and the Ritual...

* Second is that those who are approached must be curious and must have a mind that is open to Odd Fellowship. The conversation can never even begin unless the Odd Fellow is talking to somebody who is curious but curiosity by itself is never enough. Only the presence of an open mind will yield a commitment to give something new an honest try...

* Third is a compelling purpose. We only embrace those things that have a real and compelling purpose in our lives. If there is anything less than a compelling purpose in our busy modern lives, quite frankly, we politely tolerate the conversation at best we can until our escape or, in our worst moments, we walk away with rejection in our hearts. Odd Fellowship offers the



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opportunity for some very satisfying ways to live our lives but that compelling purpose is not always easy to reveal to outsiders who see the Order as something other than its purpose. It is not about the fun experience itself. Odd Fellowship is about learning HOW to have fun, HOW to live a good and meaningful life...

When these three elements can come together then that personal and very satisfying conversation can be had...

Just a couple of my thoughts in FL&T. Thank you for your thoughts...

Robin