



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 10, 2013

One of our long-time DMC members and an Odd Fellow for well over 50 years, Alan Thomas of Morse Lodge, has written an article - attached - which I commend to you for your reading pleasure.

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Dave Rosenberg, GW

Personality traits are as individual to all of the lodges that make up Odd Fellowship just as they are to the individual members who make up the lodges. We are all a combination of inherited traits, environmental influences and learned behaviors that are formed from our home lives, schools and work situations. We all have one primary and important trait in common: we have all affiliated with Odd Fellowship because family members or friends told us about it. Now how different can we be from each other? Our common thread is that we all joined Odd Fellowship, we all enjoy the fellowship and it is believed that if we don't enjoy it to the fullest, we should!

There have been several communications lately about getting along. This is a new mode of communication and a lot of this communication comes from the highest levels of Odd Fellowship, both from the State and Sovereign level. I think these admonitions come from our leadership because there is an underlying fear that Odd Fellowship may be failing. The analogy is that I belonged to a church some years ago that was not doing well and the first sign was that the membership turned against each other. I understand that the church survived but it took much work and a large loss of members. Sound familiar?

My own lodge runs quite harmoniously. I am pleased at this positive condition because since I joined Morse Lodge 54 years ago, we have gone from an all-male, all Caucasian membership to a lodge of total acceptance and tolerance. We have a 50-50 male-female membership ratio and representation of the several ethnic and social groups that make up San Francisco and the Bay Area. We enjoy our meetings, our social events and outside friendships comprised of our membership. We do not need communications within our lodge about getting along. While we



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do have a very diverse membership, the diversity is not used as a bludgeon or a sanctimonious model for others. We get along simply because we enjoy each other's company and we share in the importance of the goals and principles of Odd Fellowship and those individual to our lodge.

It is easier to be positive rather than negative. Leaders, lodges, individuals: Let everyone know what is good! The articles that are sent to the California Odd Fellow and Rebekah magazine tell of the good that is being accomplished within the Order. Tell us about gains, enthusiasm, good works and charity, tell us about the best that Odd Fellowship can offer. It is still out there—we just have to focus on it.

Alan Thomas

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