



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 30, 2013

The Membership Committee has been in communication no less than three times in the last two months. We also find our committee being reinforced by the messages being written and shared by the newly formed Dedicated Members for Change Committee. Clearly, the messages are similar, but needed.

Membership issues are nothing new to our Order. We keep working on improvements and now we are identifying the lodges that are successful in membership matters and who are growing. Sycamore, Davis, Garcia, Yerba Buena, Ocean View, Santa Paula, California, and several others are proving that by aligning with the community, per the Sovereign Grand Lodge directives, these are the lodges that are growing. Membership is not an issue with these lodges.

We find those lodges with decline in members are still not permitting women, people of diverse backgrounds, or employing standards beyond the simple "Membership Requirements," laid out for us in the Code of General Laws. These are the things we are noting and looking for when we step into a lodge. We look around and see if the lodge room is reflective of its community and what activities does the lodge share with the community.

The Membership Committee will be utilizing the Educational/Membership Seminar again this year to share membership ideas, along with the internal lessons for having a better lodge, training for lodge officers and trustees, etc. The Educational/Membership Seminar has been contracted for January 25 & 26, 2014. It will be at Santa Nella, whose facility is under new ownership. The cost will be slightly increased, but still expect over 100 members. An article has been submitted to the CA Odd Fellow & Rebekah Magazine. This year, we will be tapping into the Membership Promotional Fund for the printing of 100 Manual. Brothers Ron Carrey and Dennis Carrey will be returning, to join with Don Lang and Pete Sellars. There is not a more successful program in this Order.

The \$1000.00 Membership Redevelopment Grant Program is in full swing. The Membership Committee has been informed that it will be receiving copies of requests and deciding on the awards. There are several lodges who will be awarded the money. The criteria for a submission is based on three aspects of a Grant Proposal: 1. Scope of the Event (Where, What, When, Why, & How). 2. Cost of the Event/Idea. 3. Projected success of the Event. The Membership Committee will be notifying the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer of the recipients after the committee has reviewed the proposals. Although this action does not require Board approval, the Committee wishes the Board to be informed and to also encourage lodges to participate.



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Membership articles are regularly submitted to the Magazine and shared by this Chairman.

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Pete Sellars