



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

August 7, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

I attach a hard-hitting, but important article just composed by one of the founding members of DMC and the Grand Master of California Rick Boyles. It deals with a sensitive subject, but it's something that needs to be said.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg, GW

“He’s Mad as Hell and Not Going to take it Anymore”

Lately, we have had the sad example of members who seem so mad or disturbed about various issues throughout the order that they feel compelled to actually scream and holler at other members. To me, this is extremely abhorrent since there is absolutely no reason for anyone to feel that their point of view is paramount. No person no matter how well meaning should really think that they have the one answer to our order. In fact, those that think they have the answer and try to bully everyone else often cause more problems than they solve. If you have been bullied by one of these sad individuals, let me know. I will speak to whoever has bullied you. My primary goal in my year is the unification of the order, and the quieting of this ridiculous madness that seems to be rampant among a few.

Some lodges my officers and I visit are happy environments where all members are honored and valued, no one slighted or ignored. Others have cowering individuals who have been bowed by the few bullies in their midst who practice sexual, religious, or political bias. Some hide behind a title figuring if their title is great enough that they can tear everything apart within their view. But then you’re struck by the question, what is their motivation beyond their own illusion of power? In actuality, power is not within the one, it is within the whole, and no matter how loud the bully screams, no matter how much he cajoles, or misquotes what he uses as his justification for madness, his is a futile madness, in reality only built to bring his own life full circle within his own despair.

Why do I write a note such as this? Because it’s time for us to take note of the mad ones, to see them for whomever they are. Mad bullies with no point never go beyond their own madness; and when given a job of authority it only serves to fulfill their own madness, and they generally



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self-destruct when asked to react in a normal human manner. Often times they bounce from lodge to lodge, almost living by their own scorched earth policy. The term is appropriate because they are scorching the path they are on. I have seen lodges decimated by one or two members who seem to think their own views are the only ones that count. This is not the way the order is meant to be. We are not meant to house mean bullies, blow-hard know-it-alls, racists, sexists, or anyone else who preaches an agenda of hate. Whatever your political view, you must by now realize that hatred is not an idyllic view, and when you walk into the church of your choosing why there do you drop your hatred and yet keep it held high in our hallowed lodges?

It's time to shed the hatred. It's time to smile at your fellow members. If we could just see the similarity in all of us and the heart that beats beneath all of our diverse exteriors, perhaps then we could progress and attract the outside wondering soul to visit and see what we ourselves may be proud about. Let's wear our love and camaraderie as an emblem and perhaps then we might see growth which is what we should all inevitably be in search of.

In F., L., & T.

Rick Boyles, Grand Master