



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

October 6, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Lost in the miasma of time is the derivation of our name: Odd Fellows.

There are many tales that have floated around over the years and centuries regarding that unique identification for our Order. Some have speculated that the name was coined because fraternal orders at the time tended to focus on a single profession, but "Odd Fellows" were a conglomeration of shipbuilders, clerks, barristers, farmers, and the like. Others have hypothesized that the name was actually meant to be derisive - suggested by competing fraternal orders. Still others have said that the name "Odd Fellows" was designated because the members of our fraternity gave freely of their time and energy to help people in need and, at the time in England, that was "odd". There are many stories surrounding the origins of our name. But no one knows for sure.

One thing is certain, however. The name "Odd Fellows" is unique - in fact, one would say "catchy".

And so I would suggest that we enjoy the name we have been given. I suggest we revel in it. And I propose that we display our name proudly and prominently - and have some fun with it. I think an effective use of our name can be a great adjunct to our efforts to interest people in our Order, and recruit new members to our Lodges.

What do I mean by all that?

Let me give you an example. My Davis Lodge has, for year, put on an Oktoberfest. But we don't call it Oktoberfest. Rather, we call it Oddtoberfest. Last night our Lodge put on our annual Oddtoberfest - we had a great turnout, and in fact, one of the guests (a young man of 22) has already submitted his application to join our Lodge.

So, let's celebrate our "oddness".

If you schedule a meeting, set the start time for 7:01 p.m., rather than 7:00 p.m.

If you want to go on a hike, call it "Odd Hiking".

And why stop there? How about Odd Bowling, or Oddly-Brewed Beer, or the Odd Movie Series, or Odd Bunko Night. You get the idea.

As a fraternal order we are often engaged in some pretty serious and important business. But nothing says that we can't also have some fun.



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Dave Rosenberg, Grand Warden