



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

February 15, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

It's time once again to reach into the old e-mailbag (we get lots of e-mails) and pull comments from DMC members for your reading pleasure.

First, here's an e-mail from a member on yet another technique for targeting potential new members for the Lodge:

"There is an implied network between organizations. I feel that if someone belongs to the Odd Fellows, he or she may also hold membership in other organizations. Rest assured that those other organizations are trying to get new members just as Odd Fellows are. I belong to about six organizations. I am always trying to cross-channel members from one organization to join the other ones provided the geography, meeting times, dates and basic principles suit prospective members. In some cases it has worked. Unfortunately I live in an area removed from my Odd Fellow lodge but that doesn't stop other members from bringing in new members from their common areas. We have a member in our lodge who is a Girl Scout leader. She has gotten parents of Girl Scouts to join our lodge and has brought in an impressive number of members in this way. Don't limit your possibilities for members just to friends, neighbors or relatives. If you belong to other organizations which I am sure that many do, this can be an unlimited source of new members for your lodge. I have found that people who are joiners usually do not limit their membership to only one organization. Membership in multiple organizations brings a richness and variety to your life and it is claimed even results in people living longer."

In a recent DMC Newsletter, I discussed the issue of some members only wanting to bring in the "right people" as potential members, and what does the "right people" really mean. Here are some thoughts by another DMC member on that subject:

"As you know, I have expressed this concern for a long time. To my mind when I hear the term used, I see a lodge of clones. All look the same, think the same, and act the same. These lodges are also the ones who see nothing wrong with meeting twice monthly, never engaging the community, making financial contributions only within the order, having a piece of cake and a cup of coffee, and going home. Once again, VERY SAD."

Here's another member expressing regret and some frustration in failing to submit an application to potentially receive a \$1,000 membership development grant from the Grand Lodge Membership Committee. I had written a recent DMC Newsletter article expressing surprise and disappointment that only 12 Lodges had submitted requests for grants - that is less than 10% of the California Lodges!

"I must have been asleep at the switch. I feel really stupid in not having my Lodge submit a request for this money. There are so many ways we could have used the \$1,000 to help us gain new members for the Lodge. And we just blew it!"



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Well, here's some good news! The Grand Lodge Membership Committee has opened the Membership Grant application process up again - any California Lodge (including the 12 that previously submitted requests in 2013) are eligible to submit a request for up to \$1,000 - specifically to help the Lodge reach out and recruit new members. Frankly, I would like to see dozens of Lodges apply this time around and use this money to grow their Lodges and grow this Order. To submit a request, just send an e-mail to Peter Sellars - Chair of the Membership Committee and Grand Instructor - and indicate the amount you are seeking, outline the specifics of your membership development plan, and take a best guess as to how many new members this might generate for your Lodge. It's that simple. Peter can be contacted at ioofsf@earthlink.net.

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Grand Warden