



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

March 3, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

In the DMC Newsletter, we spend the vast majority of our time discussing the topic of membership and providing suggestions to members and Lodges on techniques and programs that can bring in new members to our Order. And on occasion we engage in a philosophical discussion of the qualities of Odd Fellowship and friendship, love and truth. Today, we are taking a step in a more pragmatic, but important aspect of Odd Fellowship: Governance. Here is an article written by one of our most active members, Nancy Johnson, who also serves as one of the Grand Master's Officers this year, as well as President of the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California.

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Dave Rosenberg  
Grand Warden

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What is a Board?

I would like to step aside from our membership drive for a minute to pose the question; What is a Board? In our search for members, we often tell our friends and family of all the great causes we support, several of which are owned by the Odd Fellow's and Rebekah's, jurisdiction of California. These have great benefit to their communities and we should all be very proud to be a part of their success. To name them; Odd Fellows Homes of California, Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California, Odd Fellow-Rebekah Youth Camp, California Odd Fellows Foundation. Also Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly are corporations that support many causes in their own right.

These great corporations each are governed by a Board of Directors, elected by our assemblies. The purpose of these boards is to assure that these corporations are managed to the best of their potential. There are: Governing the organization by establishing broad policies and objectives. Selecting, supporting and reviewing the performance of the CEO. Ensuring the availability of adequate financial resources. Approving annual budgets. Accounting to the stakeholders for the organization's performance. Setting the salaries and compensation of company management.

Each of these boards has a very important job to do and as a board member, you must be committed to the position for which you have been elected. The job of a board member is very important and the ability to do that job is key to the success of the organization we all are a part of owning. John Adams said, "Commitment; There are only two creatures of value on the face of this earth - those with a commitment and those who require the commitment of others." As a person who values commitment it is essential that, when you are running for one of our boards,



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you understand the commitment that will be required of you. It is not just a day, on the weekend, that you will attend a board meeting and vote. It is a month of preparation to report to the rest of the board how the committee you are chairing is performing. It is an ability to provide the corporation any knowledge that you and your skill sets can bring to the table. And it is sometimes the difficult task to back a board's decision, by unanimous vote, even though you may not agree with that decision.

Therefore; I will put it out to any of our membership that has considered running for a board, this is a very important job, one which requires commitment, dedication and humility. In, or outside, the board room is no place for back talk or back stabbing. You are one, very professional voice that speaks to, and for, the entire membership of this Jurisdiction.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Nancy Johnson