



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

April 19, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

I'm pleased to send along to you the latest article by Grand Master Rick Boyles as he nears the completion of his year of service as GM. Here are some insights he has gleaned.

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Dave Rosenberg
Grand Warden

Did you know...?

- 1) More than half of all active members now view the DMC favorably?
- 2) The largest 15 lodges of the 120 still in existence in the state of California comprise more than half of the order?
- 3) We quote the code often, yet very few have read it and even fewer understand it.
- 4) Charters from failing lodges are often given up willingly by those either too tired or too old to continue.
- 5) This year we would have recorded a net increase in members if our lodges had been keeping accurate count of their existing members.
- 6) The Grand Encampment Degree work still contains passages which talk about the "brown races", the "yellow races", and other racist passages that only a few seem to find offensive.
- 7) We have members walking around in the military branches wearing medals they did not earn thereby belittling the proud military personnel who did earn them.
- 8) Lodges that sit dark 90% of the time are destined to sit dark 100% of the time.
- 9) In order to grow, we need to make our lodges inviting to our members. Members should be encouraged to enjoy the environs; it should not be private property to a select few. Lodges that are welcoming all of the time tend to have much more activity.
- 10) That we are supposed to treat each person with respect and affection?
- 11) That we have members within our very order that are suffering?



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- 12) That all of us are unique and that the very fact of this uniqueness is fundamental to the oddity of our order.
- 13) That attempting to congeal the order into one flat low level of conformity is actually instrumental in our decline.
- 14) If we don't relate to technological change, it is destined to bowl us over.
- 15) Clubs, societies, friends, benefits, have all existed since the very beginnings of our order?
- 16) We are guided more by mortality rates than anything else, meaning that our order if we do not affect change quickly will fail completely within 10 - 15 years?
- 17) We are based upon the time honored precepts of friendship, love and truth and no amount of vindictiveness or petty in-fighting belongs within those glorious thoughts.

In closing, there is reason for hope. Those who think membership drives are silly or that the DMC serves no purpose are really not looking at the big picture. We are doomed if we don't do something, and that something has to have substance not just conjecture. We all have ideas, but it is time to put the ideas into practice. If we really wish to survive, we need to stop these petty arguments, view the order at large and stop acting like little Napoleons, or surely we will all be meeting our end together at our Waterloo.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth, Rick Boyles, Grand Master