



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

April 30, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Recently, I sent some questions to three leaders of our Order and asked them to give me their thoughts on the questions. I found their remarks quite interesting and I think you will, as well. The first one of the leaders from whom we will hear is John Morgan, a long-time member of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors (GLBOD), who currently serves as Chair of the Board.

Here are the three questions that were posed to John, and his responses.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg
Grand Warden

What do you consider the three greatest accomplishments of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors this past year?

1. Financial management. Another good year with managing the Order's assets. Over the past 6 years, our revenue has increased by 79%, our investment base (principal) has increased 78% and our expenses have only increased by 18%. This keeps our per-capita tax at \$45.00. Some may wonder why we don't lower the member's dues? Years ago, we annually used general funds to balance the budget, so the dues would remain at \$45.00. We have incurred debt over the past that needs to be repaid, example, we were forced to pay off a bank loan of \$1.4 million. A loan that a lodge/cemetery incurred. Grand Lodge was not aware of the loan until the Feds audited the lenders books and forced the bank to recall some of their notes.
2. Benefit Fund reorganization. After 2 years of attempting to get the Benefit Fund Board of Directors to agree to acceptable By-Laws, a decision was made by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors to dissolve the Benefit Corporation and replace the elected directors with a committee to manage any request for grants. In no way does this decision effect the purpose/or intent that this fund was created to do.
3. We were also able to recover funds that were misappropriated. In two examples it amounted to about \$155,000.



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What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the Grand Lodge Board of Directors in the next couple of years?

1. We have 4 sets of rules that we must live by
 - a. Calif. Corp Laws.
 - b. Code of General Laws
 - c. Roberts Code
 - d. Organizational By-laws

Roberts Code rules as long as we are in compliance with a. and b.

2. With our shrinking membership base to draw from in the future, effective leadership will be a big challenge. If all of the orders assets were placed in one bucket, it would amount to about a half billion dollars or more.
3. Detrimental behavior. We seem to have to many members who find it necessary to spread rumors that are not true, causing harm to ones character and integrity. It works its way through any organization. It affects lodge meetings, social events and board meetings.
4. Odd Fellow cemetery's that collect/or have collected funds that are held in trust, could be a serious liability to the order. Missing trust funds, poor record keeping, and unacceptable Cemetery Bureau audits, would/could be investigated by the Cemetery & Funeral Bureau, which is part of the Calif. Dept of Consumer Affairs.

Where do you see Odd Fellowship in California in the next 5 years?

1. I believe that the CA Rebekah Assembly will either be gone or broke.
2. We will most likely see another 15-20 Odd Fellow Lodges (or more) in the history books.
3. Today's active lodge's that are growing and involved in community and social activities will prevail into the future.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

John Morgan



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