



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

May 13, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

As we prepare to attend the 2014 California Grand Lodge Sessions in Modesto starting tomorrow - the 162nd such gathering in the history of California Odd Fellowship - I just wanted to drop this short note to DMC Members and pass along this very interesting and encouraging article from the New York Times.

The article talks about Odd Fellowship in one of our sister states - Texas. IOOF in Texas has also been steadily losing members (just like IOOF in other states and fraternal orders everywhere). Texas once had over 500 Lodges with over 250,000 Odd Fellows. Today, Texas has just 42 Lodges with a sparse 1,234 members. However, the article is not about the losses. The article focuses on the resurgence of one Lodge in Texas which, with 106 members, has now become the largest Lodge in that state.

What is impressive about this article is that it shows how one member can make a difference, and can start the process of change in the culture of the Lodge. One member can be the spark to reinventing, refocusing and re-energizing a Lodge. So, for the DMC members who read this, don't be discouraged or diverted. Lodges can evolve and change, and YOU can be the spark that charges that engine.

Below is the link to the article from the New York Times. Enjoy!

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Dave Rosenberg, Grand Warden

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2014/05/11/us/antiques-and-ink-master-play-roles-in-renaissance-of-fading-fraternal-order.html?_r=0&referrer