



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

July 9, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

At last May's Grand Lodge Session in Modesto, I had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman from Georgia by the name of Jimmy C. Humphrey. Brother Jimmy is a well-spoken, smart and refined member of this Order. He has a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of this fraternal order, he has vision, and he has an understanding that Odd Fellowship must evolve and change if it is to prosper in the 21st Century. Significantly, Jimmy is the Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, and is next in line to be elected Sovereign Grand Master at Sovereign Grand Lodge Session in Victoria, Canada, next month.

Brother Jimmy is on our DMC e-mail list and after reading an article I had written on July 7 (about the need for Lodges to reach out into their communities to do good community works, and the need for Lodges to plan more social activities together), he wrote to me that same day saying "I liked what you said" and penned the following e-mail (below) to me.

Bottom line: This Order needs to evolve and change. Many changes will have to be made at the Sovereign level; some changes can be made at the Grand Lodge level; but ultimately, the need for change has to occur at the Lodge level - and it requires a commitment from each member of this Order.

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Dave Rosenberg
Deputy Grand Master

Bro Dave,

Read your post of July 7, 2014, felt compelled to answer. Perhaps you could send this onto your list. Two points I would make, The Sovereign Grand Lodge is made up of Representatives and they guide the old barge. The elected Officers try to guide those folks but that doesn't work all the time. I will probably be elected as Sovereign Grand Master this August and if so will continue doing what I have done these last two years.



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Try to get the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs to "BUY INTO THIS PROGRAM".

The success of our Order is going to start, going to continue at the Local Lodge Level. Be it Rebekah Lodge, Odd Fellow Lodge, Encampment, Canton. The SGL, the Grand Lodge of Cal can establish programs, (some great, some workable, some exciting and worthwhile) but the desire to succeed as a Lodge in a community has got to come from the local lodge members. I believe that in almost every lodge hall in the land, there are Brothers and Sisters that want to have a vibrant lodge, one that works joyfully in the community, one that is a part of the community serving their brothers and sisters of the lodge and the community.

The first change is ATTITUDE, Yours, because that is the first step. I have heard all the "EXCUSES" about why we can't, why we don't. I tell you this. That dog don't hunt anymore. The new you is this, I think I can, I think I will, then, I know I can, I know I will. My Brothers and Sisters, take the first steps. What do you want your lodge to be? Make plans on how to get there. Use every tool you have, lodge members, other non-profits, tools from your Grand lodge, from the SGL.

The Attitude has got to be, Don't Quit, Don't give up. Never Quit, Never Give Up. I know what I want for my lodge and we, as a lodge are working toward that goal. Clean the lodge hall, open the doors to the community, assist the lodge members, assist the community. I am committed to making this happen in the world of Odd Fellowship. You can make it happen in your lodge.

Jimmy