



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

October 10, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

A sure sign of intelligence is a sense of humor. And our Junior Past Grand Master Rick Boyles certainly has that sense of humor.

And having a sense of humor - a desire to be jovial and to enjoy life - is a very good thing, not only for individuals, but also for groups. Humor should not stop at the Lodge door. It is certainly my experience that Lodges where members enjoy a good social life are vibrant Lodges. And vibrant Lodges retain members and attract members. We should never forget that we are a FRATERNITY. We were founded in merry olde England by folks who met in pubs and enjoyed each others' company. Now, of course, our Lodge Halls are not pubs - but the spirit should remain.

Lodges that are dour, and dull, and straight-laced, and boring will certainly not attract new members. And bringing in new members is critical to assuring the continued viability of our Lodges and this Order.

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Dave Rosenberg  
Deputy Grand Master

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Have Fun and Grow...

I'm sure I angered some members out there when I decided on such a frivolous password as the one I did. However, I believe somehow in order to grow we have to remember what attracts a prospective member to our order. It is clearly not our ritual, nor our adherence to any code but rather something perhaps even more difficult to adhere to which is simply the nature of enjoying what we do. In our own lives, we feel lost if we don't enjoy what we do, but it's a fine line because most of us have to earn money to survive, but if that's the case, we should not be treated to the same type of abuse in our off hours. In my experience as an elective officer, I saw lodges where they barely smiled let alone laughed, and yet they seemed incredulous that attracting new members was so difficult. The point is that we need to lighten up. We need to realize that other fraternal groups are growing because they have injected the spirit of enjoyment into what they do. In order to grow, we must do the same thing.



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In a way to underscore this theory, look at the fraternal groups that have gone by the wayside, and the ones which still exist. Generally, the ones that have failed were deadly boring, and the ones that still exist retain a spirit of happiness, personality, and modern joie de vivre. In order to grow, we need to be true to ourselves and our name and be Odd Fellows thru and thru. It's not odd to practice friendship, love and truth, but to me it seems odd to do it without a smile on our faces or a song in our hearts. If we agree that laughter is the best medicine, it should logically follow that hatred, rumors, and hurtful gossip are the anathema to growth. We need to be friends no matter what our ideas for growth may be. As long as we want growth, want to survive want to be happy, not one of us is incorrect. We are only incorrect when we shut out each other.

So when you give the password for the rest of 2014, you are welcome to say that idiot Rick hung an amazingly goofy password upon us, but I did it with the best of intentions. I wanted us to share a joke, to have a little smile between us, to realize that among friends there is nothing that is impossible. We can grow we just need to look at the outsiders as a welcome addition to those of us inside. I received all kinds of ideas for prospective passwords, but I decided on one that reflected what I feel needs to be done in order for us to survive. This is my low cost theory for growth: the idea of exhibited happiness, the idea of a frivolous way to walk into the future, and not hang our heads. No one wants to join a drowning man, or walk into a burning house. In order to grow, we need to smile and show our jovial personality to the world. It can be done.

In Friendship, Love and Truth, Rick Boyles

Deputy Grand Master