



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



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GENERAL COMMANDING® SIR JOSEPH M. STRAUSSER, SR., PDC ANSWERS FINAL CALL • 26 NOVEMBER 2025



Brother Joseph M. Strausser, Sr., 82, of Ventnor, NJ, was initiated an Odd Fellow into Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on September 24, 1984 where he became a Past Grand on September 26, 1988 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on September 29, 1990. He excelled in Walker Lodge's degree team, mainly portraying David in the First Degree and High Priest Aaron in the Third Degree. He then became active with the Grand Lodge, serving several appointed offices: as Grand Conductor to PGM Morningstar in 1993-94 and Vaughn from 1994 - 95, Grand Chaplain to PGM Kelly from 1995-96 and Grand Guardian to PGM Arnold from 1998-99. He served

as District Deputy Grand Master from 1994 - 1996 and 1997 - 2000. He served on many committees, namely as chairman of the Lodge by-law committee for roughly 15 years. Following that, he went through the chairs of Grand Lodge to serve as our Grand Master from 2002 - 2003. He was an associate member for several years to Variety Lodge #37, Philadelphia. He served many years on the Board of the Home for Orphans of Odd Fellows and was active in the PA-5 Drill Team.

He was a Patriarch of Perseverance Encampment #135, Philadelphia, having joined November 13, 1993. He was a Past Noble Grand of Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 of Philadelphia, having joined November 21, 1987 and holding numerous elected and appointed positions. He received his Rebekah Assembly Degree on October 26, 1991 and became a member of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, Tamaqua, through consolidation on March 22, 2025.

Though his many accomplishments in the Odd Fellows, the Patriarchs Militant was truly his forte. He was mustered in to Canton Philadelphia No. 1 on November 4, 1993, where he served as Commandant from 1996 - 97. He served Pennsylvania as Department Commander from 1998 - 2000. In June of 1998 he was awarded the Decoration of Chivalry. He served the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant then as Chief of Staff from 2000 - 2001. He served as Department Adjutant from 1996 - 98 and then from 2000 - 2016. In 2016, he was awarded the Department Commander's Award from Col Dzyak for his many years of service. Since then, he has served several other offices, as Advisor from 2017 - 2018, 1st Regt Commander in 2000, and currently serving as Equipment Officer and President Elect of the Department Council. He served on many committees in the Department Council, mainly again in the By-Law committees and was a strong, guiding hand for many years.

Places to Go... People to See

+ denotes details to follow

2026

FEBRUARY

13 & 14 / Pilgrimage to honor
all Unknowns of the Civil War,
Biloxi, MS (see back cover)

MARCH

27 - 29 / Mid-Atlantic States
Conclave, Roanoke, VA+

MAY

1 - 3 / Pilgrimage to the Tomb of
the Unknowns, Arlington, VA+

All Lodges are reminded when planning
an activity, if you would like your state
officer's support please contact the Grand
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717-944-7419



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1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
717-944-7419
ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net
<http://www.grandlodgeofpennsylvaniaioof.org>

JUSTIN C. BAILEY

Editor

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OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE

PAUL E. LAUTENSCHLAGER	GRAND MASTER
101 Maplewood Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431 570-877-5925 pelmhl@hotmail.com	
JAMES W FULLER, SR	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388 jfuller@innernet.net	
DAVID McHUGH	GRAND WARDEN
20 Washington Terrace, Hughestown, PA 18640 570-655-8627 diggienf@gmail.com	
JUSTIN C. BAILEY	GRAND SECRETARY
1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-7419 ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net	
JOHN S. CUPP, JR	GRAND TREASURER
P. O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445 724-437-4629 jcupp275@gmail.com	
J. CARL GEORGE	GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
225 Sunridge Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 724-601-8098, quickcarl73@comcast.net	
DAVID A. YOUNG	GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7550 iamanoddfellow@comcast.net	
ROBERT B. RUFF	JUNIOR PAST GRAND MASTER
841 California Avenue, Apt 610, Avalon, PA 15202 412-621-0872 rruff2u@aol.com	
ANDREW L. KILMER	GRAND MARSHAL
940 Springhill Road, Sterling, PA 18463	
NICOLE B. INAMA	GRAND CONDUCTOR
153 Lake Drive, Nesquehoning, PA 18240	
TRACY L. KNIGHT	GRAND CHAPLAIN
747 Main Street, Duke Center, PA 16729	
BRIAN L. BARR	GRAND GUARDIAN
188 Peach Bottom Road, Willow Street, PA 17584	
FRANK A. HILT	GRAND HERALD
1022 Patriots Way, Quakertown, PA 18951	
DEBRA L. YOUNG	GRAND MUSICIAN
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022	
MICHAEL D. BETTS	GRAND LODGE ATTORNEY
887 West Bristol Road, Warminster, PA 18974	
PAUL L. MILLER	GRAND MUSICIAN EMERITUS
1105 Stinson Drive, Leesport, PA 19533	

OFFICERS OF REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

IZETTA A. MCGILL	PRESIDENT
304 Constantine Road, Smock, PA 15480 724-677-2264	
RUTH A. GOOD	VICE PRESIDENT
P. O. Box 115, Fairmont City, PA 16224, granma9295@yahoo.com 814-275-4614	
SARAH M. BAER	SECRETARY
115 North Centre Avenue, Leesport, PA 19533 610-916-1990 s.baer@baersservice.com	
ELLA LEE TRULICK	TREASURER
161 Stover Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 814-383-4476, ellietrulick@aol.com	

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

JAMES W FULLER, SR	GRAND PATRIARCH
577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388 jfuller@innernet.net	
COURTNEY V. FRANKLIN	GRAND SENIOR WARDEN
163 Upper Village Way, Tannersville, PA 18372 215-275-6528 cvfranlin@aol.com	
SANDRA L. HUCHEL	GRAND SCRIBE
1809 White Oak Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608, shuchel@hotmail.com , 484-794-6781	
JAMES W. SELLERS	GRAND TREASURER
2453 Tower Road, Mohrsville, PA 19541 610-926-7023 gramboppy@aol.com	

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT COUNCIL, PATRIARCHS MILITANT

LTG WILLIAM F. HANBY, III	DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
16 Lark Drive, Holland, PA 18966 215-704-5973 williamfhanby@yahoo.com	
COL MICHAEL J. WALLIS	DEPUTY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
1080 Ridge Road, Montgomery, PA 17752 570-419-6507 mmm7wallis@gmail.com	
BG NICOLE B. INAMA	DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 570-778-6211 inamanicole@gmail.com	
COL® JOHN J. DZYAK	DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER
126 Hilltop Drive, Scottdale, PA 15683 412-558-3350 jjdzyak@aol.com	

GRAND PATRIARCH VISITS TAMAQUA

On November 7th, Grand Patriarch Fuller visited the Patriarchs of Scott Encampment No. 132 of Tamaqua. There were 15 Patriarchs in attendance. Also visiting was Grand Treasurer/DDGP James Sellers. The meeting was conducted by Chief Patriarch Andrew Kilmer, assisted by Senior Warden Jen Swett and Junior Warden Will Oertel.



Official Visit by GP Fuller to Earl R. Leiby Encampment No. 106, Leesport

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates the following on achieving milestone years in Odd Fellowship this month.

40 YEARS

J. Ed Chamberlin, #562
Curtis L. Cramer, #562

45 YEARS

Robert J. Feaser, #307

50 YEARS

George F. Cooper, #447

60 YEARS

Charles R. Grimm, #88

70 YEARS

James M. Hiles, Jr., #278

115 YEARS

Shillington Lodge No. 1175

170 YEARS

Alma Lodge No. 523, Johnstown

175 YEARS

Earl R. Leiby Encampment No. 106,
Leesport

180 YEARS

Pine Grove Lodge No. 148
Metropolitan Lodge No. 150, Rockledge
Centre Lodge No. 153, Bellefonte

THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Mount Zion Lodge No. 74, York
Gail Clough – initiated November 20th

Freedom Lodge No. 88, Honesdale
James L. Potucek – initiated
November 19th
Milton Roegner

Mackinaw Lodge No. 380, Landisburg
Connie Kisner – initiated
November 20th
William Kisner

Earl Lodge No. 413, New Holland
Giovanni Alvarez – initiated
November 18th
Carter Ulrich

Shenandoah Lodge No. 591
Mariah Bayliff – initiated
November 10th

Nakomis Rebekah Lodge No. 497,
Honesdale
Kerry Bell – initiated November 11th
Joe Bell
Keira Pfeifer

201 TREE MEETING

Instead of spending Saturday recovering from Halloween festivities, Brothers Steve, Rod, and Dmitry joined a community tree planting event organized by the Malvern Borough Environmental Advisory Council and supported by Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards.

While planting young trees and saplings, the Brothers discussed Lodge and district matters, deer hunting, and shared information about the Odd Fellows with fellow volunteers.

By noon, they headed home tired but in great spirits, knowing they had contributed to improving both the borough and the environment.



The picture shows brothers Steve, Rod, and Dmitry with the organizers

Facebook link to this article: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17XLUmq2SS/>

Fraternally,
Dmitry Panchenko
Malvern Pocahontas Lodge #201, IOOF



Members of Nakomis Rebekah lodge #497 braved a cold evening for the Honesdale Santa parade
Photo by Chantelle Hager

WILSON HONORED FOR SERVICE



On October 7th, PDDGM David J. Wilson was honored by his Lodge for 70 years of Service to the Order. Presenting the pin was DDGM Bobby Gallahar. Brother Wilson joined Catasauqua Lodge No. 269 on January 5, 1955, where he became a Past Grand in 1958. Fifteen years later, on November 5, 1970, they consolidated with Coopersburg Lodge No. 390. Fifteen years after that, on July 16, 1985, Coopersburg consolidated with Jordan Lodge No. 192, where he has been a member ever since. He served several years as DDGM, from 1987 – 1993 and from 2023 – 2024. He is the Financial Secretary of Jordan Lodge and served many years as Director for the Home for Orphans of Odd Fellows.

Also shown is PDDGM Wilson giving Bro. Kenny Bailey some sage advice on Odd Fellowship, and his reflections of 70 years in the Order. I'm sure Bro. Wilson said nothing but good things about Kenny's father.

LANCASTER COUNTY INITIATES NEW MEMBERS

Strasburg Lodge No. 361 conferred the initiatory degree on three new members of Lititz Lodge #1050 (seated front left), and two new members of Earl Lodge #413 (seated right).

Earl Lodge welcomed 2 new members into the lodge in November. Welcome to Giovanni Alvarez and Carter Ulrich!



ON THE ROAD WITH THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Canton York #14 recently hosted an outstanding evening of Patriarchs Militant activities as Canton Commandant Major Graham welcomed Lieutenant General Hanby, Department Commander, for his Official Visit to the Canton. The evening began with a truly outstanding meal arranged for by Chevalier Paules. After opening the Canton, an exemplification of the Chevalier Degree in lecture form was presented, during which time Chevalier Will Oertel was mustered as a Chevalier of Canton Philadelphia #1 and Chevalier Charlie Males was reinstated into Canton York #14. Deputy Department Commander Colonel Wallis, aided by Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Hallock, then conducted the annual inspection. The newest members of both Canton York and Canton Philadelphia enthusiastically participated in the drill work and did an excellent job. Also in attendance was Department Military Advisor Lt. Colonel Calhoon with a total of 13 Chevaliers present. Department Commander Hanby concluded the evening by congratulating Canton York for its recent influx of new members and renewed energy under the direction of Canton elected Officers Graham, Hamilton, Calhoon and Paules.



LODGE NO. 96 INSTALLATION CELEBRATION



Lewisburg Lodge No. 96 of New Columbia went out for breakfast to celebrate the newly installed officers.

L to R: VG Gary Anspach, Chaplin Dale Ruhl, Warden Vince Fowler, NGRS Vince Fowler, PDDGM Michael Wallis, Treas Gary Hallock, NG Jim Diehl. Missing from photo Sec Peggy Diehl and Bro Scott Robinson.

DISTRICT THREE HONORS VETERANS



On Veterans' Day, November 11th, District 3 of the Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia County, catered a dinner for over 200 live in client of the Delaware Valley Veterans Home.

They enjoy chicken parmesan, chicken marsala, turkey and stuffing, potatoes, string beans, mix vegetables, cranberry sauce, pasta and of course dessert. There were 12 Odd Fellows to come out to volunteer and also Grand Master Paul E. Lautenschlager and his wife. District Deputy Mike Serverson and Walker Member Tom Kutchner would like to thank all the Odd Fellows in the district!!! We look forward to do more things in the future as an Odd Fellow group in District 3 of Pennsylvania. We also encourage other districts to do things as a group.



GM Paul Lautenschlager came down to assist District 3



DDGM Michael Serverson serving the Veterans.

BRADY LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Brady Lodge No. 116 of Muncy held their Christmas party tonight with great food and fellowship enjoyed by everyone. ~ PDDGM Arthur Danley



Secy Lucy Temple presents her brother, DDGM Allen Smith with his 15-year pin



Past Grand Chris Miller presented to his wife, Kaydee Miller, a Past Grand jewel.



At the Christmas party for the Odd Fellows I had the honor to present to my son Charles a jewel for 40 years of membership.

MALVERN LODGE #201 LIVE BAND FUNDRAISER



Some photos from our 9/27/2025 Malvern Lodge #201 live band fundraiser. The band was JUST ADD WATER. They were terrific and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to Vincent Lodge for their support of our event!! Suzanne McNellis, Secretary



DISTRICT 9 FEEDS THE NEEDY FOR THANKSGIVING



Members of Tunkhannock Lodge 699 donated to Sevens Loaves Food Bank



Canawacta Lodge No. 207 donated to feed my sheep food back in New Milford PA for Thanksgiving. Photo by Andrew Kilmer

WARREN LODGE CELEBRATES THE SEASON



As in past years, Warren Lodge No. 339 set up a display and passed out hot chocolate and candy canes at the annual Warren Christmas Parade and Walk. Members Conny and Katie spend the entire time in the booth that Al and Troy had equipped with lights and heaters for their comfort. Dan S and Lou kept the pot filled with fresh hot chocolate.

Members of Scout Troop 8 and Order of the Arrow also had booths at the parade selling Walking Tacos and Popcorn. After the parade the Scouts spend the night at the Lodge for fun and games. Lodge members Danielle and Wendi, also Scout leaders, spent the night supervising the event.

~ Lou Dussia



Rush Lodge No. 471 gave their monthly paper products donation to tre/hab food bank.

photo by Andrew Kilmer DDGM 9

SOMERSET LODGE INSTALLATION



On Monday, November 10th, the officers of Somerset Lodge No. 438 were installed by acting DDGM Shawn Miller, assisted by Doug Close, Christina Fullem and Everett Sechler.

From left to right Trustee Don Sechler, NG Doug Close #1010, PG Everett Sechler #1010, Warden Joe Delancy, Secretary Ralph Shippey, NG Dustin Chathams, Chaplain Daniel Delancy and Acting DDGM Shawn Miller. Photo taken by Sis Fullem, #1010

SPRING CITY SUPPORTS THE LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM



Vincent Lodge #762 supported the Odd Fellow Living Legacy Program by sponsoring the planting of a new community Christmas tree at the Spring City Library.

The Living Legacy Program was started in 1989 and we are proud to participate in such a worthwhile cause.

~ Sue Grumblatt, Secretary

JANUARY OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.

John D. Baker

Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55
September 23, 2025

Brother John D. Baker, 82, of Flinton, PA, was initiated into Fred R. Korman Lodge #55, Fallentimber, PA, on March 24, 2014. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's inside guardian.

He was a member of the Roseland Christian Fellowship Church, Glasgow, PA.

Surviving is his wife, the former Martha Stevens, and one daughter. Burial was held at the Beavervally Cemetery, Flinton, PA.



Kenneth R. Rothrock

Jordan Lodge No. 192
November 17, 2025

Brother Kenneth R. Rothrock, 82, of Neffs, PA, was initiated into Jordan Lodge #192, Schnecksville, PA, on October 4, 1966. He left the Lodge in 1972 and reinstated August 7, 1979. He became a Past Grand on October 21, 2008 and received his Grand Lodge Degree

on April 20, 2013. At the time of his death, he was the current treasurer of the Lodge.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of Jordan United Church of Christ, Allentown.

He was preceded in death by his daughter. Surviving are two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Jordan UCC Cemetery.



Henry J. Mullen

Shillington Lodge No. 1175
November 17, 2025

Brother Henry J. "Hank" Mullen, Sr., 88 of Wernersville, PA, was initiated into Shillington Lodge #1175 on September 13, 2000.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Rita Duffy. Surviving are three children and eight

grandchildren.

Entombment was held at Gethsemane Cemetery, Reading, PA.



J. Lawrence Urey

Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573
November 23, 2025

Brother J. Lawrence "Clem" Urey, 89, of Sandy Lake, PA, was initiated into Sandy Lake Lodge #573 on March 19, 1956, where he became a Past Grand.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Dona Harrison. Surviving are three children, one

grandson, five step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild on the way and 10 step-great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Oak Hill Cemetery, Stoneboro, PA.



John W. Kreger, Jr.

Kingwood Lodge No. 1010
November 25, 2025

Brother John W. Kreger, Jr., 75, of Markleton, PA, was initiated into Kingwood Lodge #1010 on October 26, 1970, where he became a Past Grand in October, 1996. He was a member of Kingwood Church of God.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Rita Gindlesperger. Surviving is one son, William, also of Kingwood Lodge, and one daughter.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Kingwood IOOF Cemetery.

Sir, Joseph M. Strausser, Sr.,

General Commanding Retired, GDC
Past Grand Master/Past Department Commander
Called Home
November 26, 2025

His Chivalrous duties did not end in Pennsylvania. He served several Appointed offices in the General Military Council, serving as Bannerette from 2004 - 05, Inspector General from 2005 - 06, and then in 2007 he was elected as Executive Officer. He led the Patriarchs Militant Army as their General Commanding from 2009 - 2010. He was the only elected General Commander from Pennsylvania. On June 24, 2025, General Strausser was awarded the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, the highest honor that can be bestowed on an Odd Fellow.

He was a Graduate of Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia, served in the US Air Force from 1961 - 1964 and was a retired Philadelphia Police Sergeant.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Marlin and Lorraine Strausser. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ken, also of Walker Lodge, his sister, Lillie Panichelli, of Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge, and his wife, APP Nancy Gallo-Strausser, in 2019. Surviving are five children, one step-son, 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Brother Joe had a deep love for the Odd Fellows. He was meticulous in what he did, whether it was working with by-laws, or with drilling Chevaliers. He was an integral part of our Order for so many years and will truly be missed in our halls.

Department Council and Grand Lodge conducted services with a Patriarchs Militant Honor Guard and burial was held in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon. In lieu of flowers, donations are asked to be made to the Department Council of PA, IOOF, 1001 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4848.



Alex T. Frantz

Clover Lodge No. 348
December 6, 2025

Brother Alex T. Frantz, 91, of Baden, PA, was initiated into Clover Lodge #348, Baden, on May 14, 1994. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest living member.

He was a National Guard Veteran and a member of the former Lighthouse Lutheran Church.

Surviving is his wife, Loretta, three sons, two daughters, 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of the Lodge.

THE TREASURER'S TALES - JANUARY 2026

Winter is cold and snowy, the days are short and the night is long. January 1931 was no exception. The snow and cold sometimes makes going to meetings difficult and causes gaps in lodge activity. Many hours were spent in a chair by the fire, while the younger and more energetic members sought outside diversions.

On January 1, 1931, Alabama beats Washington State in the Rose Bowl (don't forget to watch for the IOOF float in the Rose Bowl Parade.) On January 6, Thomas Edison submitted his last patent application. On January 5, Robert Duvall was born (still living). On January 13, Rip Taylor was born (died 2019). On January 17, James Earl Jones was born, the voice of Darth Vader (died 2024). On January 31, Ernie Banks, Hall of Fame shortstop was born (died 2015).

The lodge decided that they would try to raise a little money to buy coal to heat the large hall. They decided to sponsor a pancake breakfast. To keep civic interest, they held a snow man making contest in the parking lot of the lodge hall.

The big day required a major effort from members to prepare the pancakes and sell tickets. Elizabeth and her mother, Alice, volunteered to watch the children outside with the snow men.

Barney organized the lodge into groups. Everyone would do advance ticket sales and two members would take tickets, process sales at the door and generally do the accounting for the function.

The menu would be pancakes, buckwheat cakes, home fries with onions, whole hog sausage, apple sauce and coffee or tea. The price for a ticket was \$0.50 for an advance ticket and \$0.55 if purchased at the door. The Rebekahs made the apple sauce and had gallons available. Barney donated a hog and 150 pounds of potatoes. Brother Clancey had a nephew who was a farmer in Friendsville, Maryland, and he got the buckwheat flour from him at a low cost. The Chief Patriarch, Art Weathers, owned a store and supplied the pancake mix at cost. Barney donated four dozen eggs to mix the pancake batter. Brother Browning donated fifty pounds of onions. The supplies were cheap. The breakfast was Saturday, January 24, from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm.

On Thursday evening January 22, they butchered the hog. He ground the whole hog and mixed it with salt, pepper and a half cup ginger for every 100 pounds of meat. The sausage was made into patties to be baked early Saturday morning. On Friday, January 23, Elizabeth gathered the eggs. Friday before the breakfast was the critical date. The batter had to be started. Barney and Vic met at the lodge hall and combined 1 cake Fleischmann's fresh yeast (no dried yeast in 1931), 1 teaspoon salt, 1 quart water (lukewarm), 3 cups buckwheat flour, and let raise over night. They were anticipating a large crowd so they used four crocks and did this four times.

On Saturday morning, when they reached the lodge hall at 6:30 am, the crocks were overflowing and had to be whipped down before adding ½ teaspoon baking soda, ½ teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons sugar, 1 cup hot water (or half milk and water) to each crock. The sausage was already made into patties and the oven was filled with numerous cookie sheets covered with the patties arranged on parchment paper. The potatoes and onions had been sliced the night before and were being fried on the stove. Vic was an expert on buckwheat cakes, having eaten them in his native West Virginia for almost 60 years. Barney was to mix the pancakes.

Barney had always left Elizabeth make the pancakes (although she usually made buckwheat cakes) so he was a bit unfamiliar with the process. He read the instructions on the mix and followed them as best he could. He was not an expert at beating eggs before dropping them in the mix and several small pieces of egg shell made it into the mix. The directions required scalding the milk, but Barney boiled it, making the pan a mess. When the first customer walked through the door, Vic

had buckwheat cakes ready on the griddle. Barney was a bit behind with the pancakes and his batter was too thick. Vic's cakes were about 3/8 inch thick. Barney's pancakes were about 3/4 inch thick. This had the potential to be disastrous, but by 9:30 everyone knew to order the buckwheat cakes and Barney was just standing around waiting for an order. The other members of the crew were doing well and the breakfast was making money.

In the parking lot, there were about a dozen snowmen. The smallest snowman was only a little over three feet tall. It was in the form of a raccoon, and by far the most realistic. Melchizedek had brought his whole family to help build the snowman. The children were anxious to win the best snowman contest but they were so amused, seeing the crew of raccoons build the little snowman that they stood around and cheered. The winner was supposed to get a prize of \$3.00. Elizabeth and Alice had to award the raccoons the prize but they didn't know what they would do with the money. They decided to give each of the children who participated \$0.25 and give the raccoons the left over buckwheat cakes and sausage. There was a picnic table behind the lodge hall. At 1:00 pm, Barney whistled for Melchizedek, who came running with his four children. Barney gave them each a small pile of potatoes and a sausage patty. Vic brought out four buckwheat cakes for each raccoon. By 2:00 pm the raccoons were waddling off toward the woods, full to the top with buckwheat cakes.

Although it was work, the lodge made a profit on the buckwheat breakfast. It was decided they would do another in two months and every other month till June. The lodge decided Barney should remain in charge of the sausage and Bill Munce would take over the pancake preparation.

Have a happy new year. Stay safe and keep warm.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer and Past Sovereign Grand Master. You can contact him by email at jcupp275@gmail.com or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopewood PA 15445.

BRADY LODGE #116



Brady Lodge #116 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows donated \$500.00 to the Son Light House Light House food bank to help those in need of food assistance for the holidays
~ PDDGM Arthur Danley

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...

MY FRIEND JOE

When I received news of the passing of General Strausser I felt like I got punched hard in the stomach. I froze, I choked - I felt like I could hear his actual voice in the room. I wanted to call him on the phone and in my confusion I thought that I could. I had forgotten what this kind of pain felt like - the only other time it ever happened to me was when I lost my own father almost twenty years ago. Joe Strausser and I had become good friends over the years, but the way that this hit me told me that he had become someone more important to me than a friend.

We travelled together extensively and talked for hours about all kinds of things. We talked on the phone about twice a week. He wanted a full report after any Patriarchs Militant event and it was my pleasure to provide it. I would stop by his home in Ventnor City, NJ quite often where we would catch up on paperwork and then talk. I was there so often that I kept beer in his refrigerator! He knew so much about Odd Fellows and in particular about the Patriarchs Militant. He usually had a good answer to things and when he didn't I knew that in a day or so he would call me and say, "I was thinking about what we talked about and ..." after which he gave his wise advice. A few times, when I was tired and frustrated, I went off on some rant about someone or something that got under my skin. When I would tell him in a day or two that I should not have said those things he would always say, "Said what things? My memory is getting bad - I don't remember you saying anything." He would say it with a smile on



The last time I saw Joe - SGM Calabrese Testimonial

"For us the march goes on. We take up the work where he left it off, and with lines unfaltering, pressing onward and upward until we reach OUR final goal, OUR journey ended and the long day done, may we also hear the voice of the Great Commander, 'Well done, good and faithful servant - enter into the Joy of the Lord'."



Saying goodbye to Joe

his face and it made me feel better. The last time I saw Joe was at the Sovereign Grand Master's Testimonial in Atlantic City. We sat together and had some good laughs, had a good time - he was so happy to be there and was optimistic. We talked on the phone a few times after that. The last time was just before his planned operation. We talked for about 40 minutes and he was so looking forward to recovering and getting back to Patriarchs Militant activities.

I do not know of anyone who cared more about the Patriarchs Militant and every Pennsylvania Chevalier than did General Strausser. You may have not known him personally, but I guarantee that if you are in the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant he knew who you were and was interested in you and your well being. This is true even of our newest Chevaliers. Next to his family, the Patriarchs Militant was the most important thing in Joe's life and so every Chevalier was important to him.

The happiest that I ever saw General Strausser was when he received his Grand Decoration of Chivalry. The picture you see in his obituary was from that evening. To all the Brothers and Sisters of Odd Fellowship that helped make that happen - thank you. I can tell you that a tearful Joe

Strausser told me he felt his Odd Fellows journey was made complete with that ceremony. That was just six months ago.

General Strausser once told me that he had spent most of his life in uniform - Air Force, Philadelphia Police and Patriarchs Militant. He now rests eternally in one of them - the uniform of our Order. I must admit that the Patriarchs Militant will never be the same for me - I miss him, I respected him and looked up to him - I loved the man. But he was a man of principle, who believed strongly in the ways of our Order, and I know he would have us remember the sacred command set forth in our Patriarchs Militant Memorial Service:

"For us the march goes on. We take up the work where he left it off, and with lines unfaltering, pressing onward and upward until we reach OUR final goal, OUR journey ended and the long day done, may we also hear the voice of the Great Commander, 'Well done, good and faithful servant - enter into the Joy of the Lord'."

LTG William F. Hanby
Department Commander

ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA 2025 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania has announced the recipient of the "Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania 2025 Graduate Scholarship Awards."

The Association's Award Committee (Chairman Robert Grant, George Hogan, Debbie Young, and Robert Ruff) presented its candidate recommendation to the Association's Board during the Association's Christmas luncheon/meeting in Grove City on Saturday, November 29, 2025. Cameron Oaks, the only student applying this year, fulfilled all the requirements for the Award and was unanimously approved by the Board. He received a \$4,000 monetary award, which was sent to his attending university.

Cameron Oaks- son of Jaime and Craig Oaks (Murrysville, PA). Cameron is a member of I.O.O.F. Alma Lodge #523 (Johnstown), along with his father and sister.

Cameron was awarded the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association's undergraduate scholarships in 2022, 2023, and 2024. He is currently enrolled in his final year of the accelerated BS/MS program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. Cameron will be awarded a Master of Science, Physician Assistant (PA) Degree in May 2026.

On behalf of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania, the Award Committee again wishes Cameron continued success toward the completion of his PA Degree and in all of his future endeavors.

GRAND MASTER PAUL VISITS MYSTIC LODGE NO 270



On November 6, 2025, Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager made an official visit to Mystic Lodge No. 270 located in Philadelphia. Grand Master Paul was accompanied by his staff members Frank Hilt (Grand Herald) and Andrew Kilmer (Grand Marshal).

The meeting was opened by Noble Grand Bruce Paynter who proceeded to "Order of Business - Introduction of Visiting Brothers and Sisters" at

which time Grand Marshal Kilmer requested the visiting Staff and District Deputy Mike Serverson to exit the lodge room and re-enter to be officially recognized. Pictured below is Grand Master Paul and his visiting staff which upon their reentering, received "Honors of the Order" and Grand Master Paul was seated to the right of Noble Grand Paynter. After completing normal lodge business, Noble Grand Paynter provided Grand Master Paul with the floor at which time the Grand Master gave a very inspiring talk regarding member retention and the need to encourage people to join the Order and in doing so provide much needed aid and assistance to the general populous in the area. He congratulated the six lodges in District #3 (which Mystic is part of) on their planned outreach in serving dinner at a Veterans home on Veterans Day November 11th, commenting we need to show our appreciation to our Veterans for giving us the freedom we have today.

GM Paul also congratulated Mystic on their donations to various Food Banks. On a personal note, he told of multiple instances of people he knew had committed suicide. These examples led him to select "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE" as his project in office and he is trying to raise \$25,000 for establishing a location for personal intervention. Finally, GM Paul thanked the lodge for the opportunity to visit.

After closing the informative lodge meeting, the Grand Master received a check for his project from Noble Grand Paynter - pictured. Also pictured below are photos taken at the meeting. (In FL&T: Brother Smedley)



Periodicals

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND		
2	Unified	50.00
PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
2	Unified	50.00
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION		
2	Unified	50.00
PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE		
2	Unified	25.00
VISUAL RESEARCH		
2	Unified	25.00

PILGRIMAGE TO HONOR ALL UNKNOWN OF THE CIVIL WAR

I would like to invite everyone to the Tenth Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns of the Civil War. This presentation is presented by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Military Units honor all of those on both sides that died in the Civil War. Many Americans on both sides gave their lives for a cause they believed in and were willing to die for! We feel it is fitting we Honor all that made this sacrifice for their country!

This presentation will be conducted at the Beauvoir Manor Cemetery, 2244 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531. The dates and time will be February 13, 2026 for the banquet, beginning at 6:30P.M. (to be held at the Quality Inn) and the wreath laying ceremony will be at 11:00A.M. February 14, 2026 (to be held at the Beauvoir Cemetery). In case of rain, the presentation of wreaths will be moved indoors. Arrangements have been made with the Quality Inn for discount on the room. Their address and phone number is 2414 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531, Phone 228-388-1000. Make your own reservations with the hotel, be sure to mention Beauvoir Pilgrimage.

On Friday, at 9:30A.M., there will be a demonstration of opening and closing a canton, conducted by GC® Michael Bowers. The banquet will be a buffet of southern food, held on Friday, February 13th at 6:30P.M., with social time beginning at 6:00P.M. The dress for the banquet will be suit or uniform for men and formal or military uniform for women. We thank you for your participation in this event.

Please reserve your spot with the form mailed to your Lodge, or on our website, www.glpaoof.org, by January 9th to MG Mitzi Rayborn, 1111 Hwy 29, Wiggins, MS 39577. Phone 601-466-9464, email mitzirayborn@gmail.com