



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE

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<http://www.glpaioof.org>

From the office of the Editor of the Pennsylvania Odd Fellow magazine
Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men



A TRUE ODD FELLOW SPREADS
FRIENDSHIP, LOVE & TRUTH BY
BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER
TO THOSE IN NEED



For the full story turn to page 4.

Places to Go ... People to See

* denotes furnished by Planning Board
+ denotes details to follow

2015
DECEMBER

12 / Philadelphia Home for Orphans Meeting, 11:00AM *
13 / Centre Lodge #153 Music Jam, Bellefonte, 1:00PM*

2016
APRIL

1-2 / Mid-Atlantic States Conclave, Ocean City, MD+
23 / Hampton Lodge #1004 125th Anniversary Dinner, Allison Park, 6:00PM*+

MAY

8 / Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington VA, 3:00PM+

** On the second Sunday of each month, at 1:00PM, year round, Centre Lodge #153 of Bellefonte is still conducting their Music Jams!

All Lodges are reminded when planning an activity, if you would like your state officer's support please contact the Planning Board Secy, Mary Giebel, PO Box 49, Cassville, PA 16623 or 814-305-2011. mcgiebel@msn.com

The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

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be sure to mention the former address.

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be sure to mention the former address.

Articles for publication must reach the office of
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in next month's issue.

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

Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55, Glasgow
Thomas Shomo – initiated August 10th

Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 86, Tamaqua
Ashley Guscott – initiated November 4th

Ernestine Rebekah Lodge No. 548, Rush
Delbert Wooden – initiated October 9th
Todd Groover
Wayne P. Martin

Kingwood Lodge No. 1010
Dakota S Close - initiated November 5th
Thomas L Keller
Brandon E Lytle

COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Emilie has scheduled the following visits for December. I am sure she would appreciate seeing you there.

- 1 – Warren #339 - 7:30PM
- 4 – Aluta #488 – 8:00PM
- 7 – Sandy Lake #573 – 7:30PM
- 13 – #386 Christmas Party
- 18 – #510 Christmas Party
- 19 – OF & Reb Assoc of W/PA Christmas Party – 12:00PM
- 19 - #2 Christmas Party

COME VISIT THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT & GRAND PATRIARCH

President Tufts and Grand Patriarch Ramsey will not have any official visitations this month. They both wish all a wonderful and safe holiday season and will see you in the new year!

GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. The holidays are a great time for relaxing and enjoying time with family. Hard to believe that another year will soon be over and Winter is upon us. I plan to curtail my visits in January and February and begin anew in March through the end of my term.

Over the last five months I have met many wonderful people and made many new friends. Almost every lodge I visit will say we painted the walls; washed the walls; washed the curtains; waxed the floor; or just spruced the lodge up before my visit. If I have done nothing else for the lodges during my term, I am sure there are many cleaner lodges out there. Through the month of November, I have visited 41 of the 77 lodges in Pennsylvania. In October, I visited the Grand Lodge Session for West Virginia. It is always nice to visit another jurisdiction to see how they run their Grand Lodge.

Since my last column I purchased the note cards with PGM Giebel's billboard on them. These cards have a blank area to write the telephone number of the membership chairman for each local lodge. I am asking the lodges to place these cards on community bulletin boards in their area so that interested individuals can contact the local membership chairman about joining our Order. I have been distributing them to lodges I am currently visiting. I am providing the cards, thumbtacks and a black sharpie to write the telephone number on the cards. My brothers and sisters you must do the rest. I will be mailing packets of cards and materials to the lodges I have already visited.

December looks to be a busy month for Christmas Parties. I am scheduled for a Christmas Party on a Friday evening; a Christmas Luncheon the next day (Saturday) and another Christmas Party Saturday evening. I should really be in the holiday spirit by then.

In closing, it is a pleasure to pause and wish you a wonderful Holiday Season. May your holidays be filled with good times and good cheer and may you receive the richest blessings and inspiration throughout the New Year.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

~Emilie J. Cupp, Grand Master

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

30 YEARS

Charles B. Loper, #74

35 YEARS

Thomas J. McHugh, PGM #512

60 YEARS

Richard J. Barry, Jr., #457

BELLEFONTE CENTRE LODGE #153

Bellefonte Centre Lodge #153 enjoyed a day of degree work, fraternal fellowship, and fun on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Members: Art Moyer; Jerry Kistaski; Jeff Weaver; Mackie Levine; Burton Reese; Bob Perry; Tony Tamburini held a degree rally for the lodges' new members, with Grand Lodge of PA dispensation. Degree ceremonies for 1, 2, and 3 were presented via DVD format. New members: Mark Holland; Frank Sciabica; Jerry Watson; Scott Sampsell; Bob Lillie all received the 3 degrees of I.O.O.F./F.L.T.



Back row left to right: Jerry Watson, Bob Lillie, Scott Sampsell, Frank Sciabica, Front: Mark Holland



Back row left to right: Jeff Weaver, Jerry Watson, Bob Lillie, Scott Sampsell, Frank Sciabica, Mark Holland, Front Row Left to right: Jerry Kistaski, Bob Perry, Burton Reese, Art Moyer, Mackie Levine

Continued from front cover.

A TRUE ODD FELLOW SPREADS FRIENDSHIP, LOVE & TRUTH BY BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THOSE IN NEED

On December 19, 2014 Bob Hinderliter (who slightly resembles Santa Claus) and his son and his wife, Bob & Carol left for Collins Chapel United Methodist Church in Lumberbridge, NC. This is a primarily Native American Church with Christian beliefs. It's a trip Bob looks forward to every year because the church and families welcome him with open arms. He's been doing this for 25 years. Hinderliter buys, collects and takes toys and other gifts galore and enjoys handing them out to more than two dozen children after Sunday worship. He also takes non-perishable food for the families.

Bob likes to do mission trips to Native American Churches. He also does one in the summer to the Lakota-Sioux Rosebud reservation in South Dakota where he takes among other things lots of good usable clothing.

Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #57 I.O.O.F. helps with gift and clothing collection and some expenses for both trips.

Bob is planning on going to the Collins Chapel Church again this year and is looking for new, unwrapped gifts for the children. If you would like to donate you may contact him at: brutherbaabhindy@aol.com or 610-459-2740.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Continued from last month's magazine

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Grade of the Degree of Truth. In this degree you found Truth to be a cardinal virtue, it being the foundation stone upon which the preceeding degrees stand. Without Truth there can be no Friendship, no Love, no Virtue. You found this to be a place for examination to test out your fitness for advancement into the higher grades embraced in the Grammar Department or Patriarchal Branch.

Let us now stop for reflection. You have now gained rank with a vast army of Odd Fellows and are privileged to sit in a Subordinate Lodge and learn, many lessons which will aid you in life. But my brother, you have not completed the course of this great school, you have not yet attained to a knowledge of its 'intrinsic excellencies' and it would seem to us that the Odd Fellow who only goes to the Fourth Grade is in much the same position as a certain County Superintendent found himself on a visitation to a country school. In order to impress the young teacher with a duty she owed to the pupils, he took her aside and explained to her that she was not teaching her pupils to observe and that they were not using their eyes to their advantage; then to illustrate he went to the black-board and asked a young boy to give him a number; the boy said 78; turning to the board he wrote 87, then he asked another little fellow for a number and was given 43; he wrote 34 on the board, and not seeing any indication on the faces of the children that they had noticed what he had done, he quietly said to the teacher, "Now you see that they are not using their eyes, they do not observe and you must drill them hard along these lines." Then in order to further prove his point, he asked the third boy for a number. This little fellow was sitting at the end of the bench and was apparently very inattentive, lisping somewhat he said, "Theventy theven, twiht that you old thucker."

More to follow next month as we start out 2016 with the Fifth Grade or the Patriarchal Degree.

~ Justin C. Bailey, Grand Secretary

MEET YOUR GRAND LODGE APPOINTED OFFICERS

Blanche A. Corey, Grand Guardian of the Grand Lodge of PA, I.O.O.F. was initiated into the Order at General Worth Lodge #386, Connellsville, on November 30, 2010, where she became a Past Grand in 2014 and received her Grand Lodge Degree on May 15, 2015. Currently, she serves as Chaplain of her Lodge. She is also a member of General Worth Encampment #188 of Connellsville.



For the past 25 years she has been a member of the New Madison/ Middletown Methodist Church, also serving as Treasurer. She is employed by Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital for 38 years, working in various departments and currently in medical records. She also served on the Board of Directors for 30 years at the Westho Federal Credit Union.

Blanche has 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. During my youth, I was taught to honor, help and obey others while I was a Girl Scout. This was helpful to me when joining the Odd Fellows. Having the opportunity to meet other members has shown me how we can help other Brothers and Sisters. Advancing in the Odd Fellows has been a fantastic experience which has helped me make a difference in serving my community.

I was honored to become Grand Guardian on the Grand Master's staff. Visiting the other lodges is something every IOOF member should do. It is such a learning experience and an advantage to learn what others do and gain new ideas to bring back to our Lodge. I thank you Emilie for this life changing experience. It has been an honor to serve on your staff!

COLUMBIA COUNTY INTERESTING FACTS:

In Honor of the Pittsburgh Rally hosted by Unified Lodge... here we go! How many Odd Fellow Lodges were in YOUR County?? Did you ever wonder if your town had an Odd Fellow Lodge? Do you know where it was or do you even remember some of these Lodges? If you can take a picture of the Lodge Hall that was once in your town and mail it in, we'd be glad to have it for our archives and it could perhaps end up in the magazine!

COLUMBIA COUNTY:

Benton – Benton Lodge #746 – consolidated 1968
 Berwick – Berwick Lodge #246 – defunct 1984
 Bloomsburg – Van Camp Lodge #140 – defunct 1980
 Catawissa – Concordia Lodge #60 – defunct 1974
 Centralia – Centralia Lodge #586 – defunct 1955
 Espy – Espy Lodge #681 – defunct ~1900
 Iola – Iola Lodge #711 – defunct prior 1900s
 Lumberville – Lumberville Lodge #305 – never opened
 Mifflinsville – Concord Lodge #626 – defunct 1961
 Millville – Millville Lodge #809 – consolidated 1958
 Numidia – Goodwill Lodge #310 – consolidated 1974
 Orangeville – Mountain Lodge #264 – defunct 1977
= 12 Lodges with 0 active. 1st Lodge – Concordia #60 in 1838

Next month – Huntingdon County – Get your pictures and articles in now!

GRAND MASTER EMILIE'S BUCKET LIST



On September 25th 2015 Mt. Hor Lodge had the pleasure of having the Grand Master Emilie Cupp and her husband John Cupp, Grand Treasurer, visit us. That afternoon we made two of her goals in life come true. First she had told me one time that she had never seen Lake Raystown. When Emilie and John had their law offices in Bedford she



would get brochures about it and thought that she and John might like to visit it someday. Well guess what? I met them at the Lake Raystown Resort where they had a bungalow on the beach reserved for them. After they got settled in we proceeded to make another of her goals come true ... at one time when we were traveling at one time or another she had mentioned to me that she would like to drive an 18 wheeler or maybe just get to ride in one. Well it just so happens that my brother Rodney Ramsey Sr. is an owner / operator of a Kenworth W900 walk in sleeper with the works. His truck is what you would call a working show truck that has won several awards at the truck shows and was featured on billboards across the country as a recruiting tool for the company that he was leased to. He had spent two days washing and waxing and polishing for the Grand Masters visit. After looking over the truck and trailer he took us for a ride to Huntingdon to Wendy's where we had a little bite to eat then he drove us back. He stopped on the top of the mountain and turned to me and said "do you think that you still have it?" I said absolutely! So he got in the back and I got behind the wheel and the Grand Master said "when was the last time you drove one of these?" I said "about 10 years ago or so." Her response was "oh s*#@!" But I got us back to my place without putting anyone into the giggly weeds. Then we headed back to the resort via Trough Creek State Park where I showed them the Ice Mine, Swinging Bridge and the Balanced Rock. Then I dropped them off at their bungalow which was named "Skinny Dippin", just saying. We had a very good meeting and afterwards we had a potluck dinner for everyone. We at Mt. Hor hope we made the Grand Masters visit a special one along with her husband John. We hope they made memories that will last forever.

William L Ramsey, Jr.
 Secretary

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



The members of Fred R. Korman Lodge #55 of Glasgow/Fallentimber with visitors from Alma Lodge. The unique lodge hall has three links painted in the ceiling.



The Grand Master and Officers with the members of Mt. Zion Lodge #74 of York. Mt. Zion Lodge has some unique activities to attract new members. The lodge has completely redone the social room and made it more attractive to younger members. The Grand Master sends a big thanks to all who came to the meeting.



The unique Odd Fellows Lantern light at Mackinaw Lodge #380 of New Bloomfield.



Always a pleasure for the Grand Master to visit Warfordsburg Lodge #601. This is the only lodge in PA that the Grand Master can travel to through Maryland. We also welcomed the members from Waterfall Lodge #773 at this Official Visit.



Installation night at Vienna Lodge #847. We welcomed members from Aluta Lodge #488, Jordan Lodge #192 and Victory Lodge #658.



Look how many members were at Lewisburg Lodge #96 for the Grand Master's Official Visit. We had enough chairs, but it was getting iffy.



LODGE PARTICIPATES IN GHOST TOURS

Alma Lodge No. 523, Johnstown - This past weekend, members of the lodge assisted with the Ghost Tours being conducted by Col. Jacob Campbell Camp #14, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. The members met the tour groups across from the lodge hall, explaining the history of Odd Fellowship, along with stories about

Alma Hall during the 1889 Johnstown Flood. Several participants of the tours took information, including applications for membership. Some even had relatives who were members of our lodge. A special thanks to Ed Sheets, Ray Sheets, Laura Huchel, and Sandy Huchel for serving as the representatives at our stop.

ALERT LODGE 936 ODDFELLOWS

The Alert Lodge 936 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows recently sponsored their annual Halloween Party for local children on Saturday, October 24, 2015. There were treats, activities, and prizes, and about 40 children and their families attended despite the threat of rain. Special treats were clowns, balloons, and face painting, and the children appeared to have a delightful afternoon. But as usual, the large pile of leaves seemed to be the biggest hit.

The Odd Fellows is an ancient benevolent organization, dedicated to making the world a better place to live. Across the life of Alert Lodge 936, other area Lodges have dissolved and joined this Lodge, located in Rochester Mills, PA above the Post Office. Other Lodges that have joined Alert Lodge 936 include Blairsville, Cherry Tree, Creekside, Elderton, Indiana, Marion Center, Plumville, Punxsutawney, Rossiter, and Valier.



TAMAQUA CELEBRATES THE HALLOWEEN SEASON



Harmony Lodge #86, Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 and Scott Encampment #132 all of Tamaqua took to the streets for the annual Halloween parade to pass out candy and glow sticks to the spectators. Over 5,000 people were watching the parade. It's always a great time with fraternal friends and family and a good way to get our name out!

CURING RETINAL BLINDNESS FOUNDATION (CRBF) NEWS

HEY, REMEMBER US AT CRBF? WE ARE GRAND MASTER CUPP'S CHARITY IN HER TERM & HERE'S SOME NEWS.

We are so very proud to announce that the Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation has been accepted as a member of the National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD)! For more than 30 years, NORD has led the way in voicing the needs of the rare disease community, driving supportive policies, advancing medical research, and providing patient and family services for those who need them most.

From NORD:

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is pleased to inform you that the Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation has been accepted as a NORD member organization. We are pleased that you and your organization have chosen to join NORD's growing number of patient organizations in our membership community. Your involvement is important as we all work closely together to represent the needs of people with rare diseases. We value your partnership with NORD and very much look forward to a long and rewarding collaborative relationship.

From CRBF: We couldn't agree more, Many thanks to all that have joined our mission and volunteer their time and expertise to make the CRBF the type of productive, effective organization that NORD partners with. Stay with us on the journey and watch for the upcoming opportunities that this partnership will provide! With much pride and gratitude, The Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation.

*Sincerely, Kristin Smedley - President & Co-Founder -
Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation*

Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation | 267-566-9068
curingretinalblindness@gmail.com | <http://www.crbf.org>
35 Sienna Circle, Ivyland, PA 18974

***** Together We Can Do So Much *****

NOW FOR SOME LOCAL NEWS EVENTS:

On November 2, 2015 the CRBF held their 3rd Annual "Fore Sight Golf Tournament" held at Spring Mill Country Club in Ivyland, Pennsylvania. The affair was a sell out again and another great fund raising event. Among the players were a four from Walker Lodge No. 306 and four from Perseverance Encampment No. 135. Pictured are the two:

Courtney Franklin, Bruce Payntner, Bob Smedley and Jack Cohen from the Walker No. 306



From Perseverance No. 135 were: Charlie Danihel, Joe Danihel and good friends of Joe Danihel

UNITED NATIONS DELEGATE RECOGNITION PROGRAM - OCTOBER 10, 2015

Walker Lodge # 306, Perseverance Encampment # 135, Variety Lodge # 37 and Mystic Lodge # 270 held their Delegate Recognition Night on Saturday, October 10, 2015. The delegates, their families and Lodge members enjoyed dinner and socializing with others. Following the dinner all went into the Lodge Hall and entertained the attendees with their trip stories. The program commenced with opening comments by Charlie Danihel who gave an overview of the evening program recognizing: Candy Bowser, 2015 "Bus Mom" and Rick Meagher, 2015 "Bus Pop;" Charlie Shorten (Sovereign Grand Lodge UN Pilgrimage Committee member); our sponsored delegates; and all families and friends in attendance.

Each delegate came to the microphone and gave some very moving, comical, informative and appreciative comments about their experiences on the trip. Some even did Audio/Visual presentations. Also, a common theme mentioned was that their initial apprehensions about the trip quickly evolved to one of

developing lasting friendships as well as enjoying vast educational experiences and final thanks for the opportunity of having such a life changing event via the UN trip.

Pictured is Charlie Danihel leading off the program with Candy Bowser and Rick Meagher looking on; a group picture of all the delegates with Candy and Rick; and a group picture of all the delegates and their parents. The delegates were presented with Certificates of Recognition from the United Nations Educational Pilgrimage. Also pictured is Candy presenting Rick (who always jokingly says the delegates never take his picture) an award (with his picture included) for his "team work" with her for many years as Bus Mom and Bus Pop. A great social evening was had by all and we're looking forward to the next UN Delegate Recognition night in 2016.

Bob Smedley - member of the sponsored lodges.



THE TREASURER'S TALES - DECEMBER 2015

December is most notably identified with Christmas. In 1920 Christmas was chilly in Grover's Mill. Barney and his family had stored a fair amount of firewood for the winter and were always looking for ways to keep warm. Corn cobs and other things that would normally be discarded were used in the furnace and the heaters. Coal was stock piled for the coldest nights.

Barney contended with cold weather at school as well. The boiler took a little time to crank up and some mornings there was frost on the window panes in his class room. Barney had a challenge keeping the students under control for most of the month, since Christmas anticipation had destroyed most of their attention spans.

Barney decided he would engage his students with poetry during the month of December. He settled on Horatius at the Bridge, by Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay (1800-1859). This was a popular subject of study in public schools of the period. The entire poem may be found at: <http://www.bartleby.com/360/7/158.html>. This did not quite suit the task.

Barney was trying to spur the students to literary endeavors. He soon found that stories of snowball fights would serve better. The Katzenjammer Kids was a popular cartoon strip that is published to this day. It was a popular strip in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph until that paper was closed. He started it and other comic strips in class to maintain attention. This helped a little but still didn't quite carry the day. He finally settled on having the students bring in newspaper articles about automobiles and summarize them through oral reports. This worked better than his other efforts, after all, automobiles were still a new sort of thing.

The lodge planned a bonfire the week before Christmas, and Barney was in charge of gathering the firewood and putting the event together, on Wednesday, December 22, 1920. He was expecting Elizabeth to be there, and he would not be disappointed. His disappointment came from other sources. Barney built the bonfire on December 21, so that all he needed to do was light it the next day. Carol singing and hot drinks would entertain the lodge, at little expense. Since he was a farmer, he built the wood pile in a field, far enough away from the buildings to avoid a potential fire. You can find a list of the popular 1920's Christmas Carols that were sung, here: <http://yuleplay.com/playlist/?pid=1524&pname=1920s%20Christmas%20Songs>.

Barney and the lodge had several run-ins with raccoons in prior episodes. These furry little creatures attract attention and some sympathy in winter, with many thinking they were cute. Scurrying about to find a bit of garbage to munch on, they presented a nuisance. The raccoons were bedded down most of the day, to keep warm, and were fairly inactive.

There were several inches of snow on the ground and the temperature hovered in the mid-20's. Other animals were wandering about, however.

On Wednesday, December 22, 1920, Barney was off school for the holidays, and was eating breakfast when he heard Warden and Conductor barking at the pile of wood. He thought their curiosity had got the better of them and he yelled at them to stop. This did not calm them, and he was to light the bonfire that night. Barney wanted to make sure things would go well, so he went out after breakfast to investigate.

There were very small tracks through the snow, running from the woods to the wood pile. Barney went around by Conductor to see what he was barking at. It looked like small patch of snow had blown into the wood pile. Suddenly, the white patch of snow started to change shape. Barney grabbed Conductor by the collar and started to back away from the wood pile. Warden was still barking intently and disobeyed Barney's command to heel. A slightly perturbed skunk ran from the wood pile and sprayed Warden as he scampered past. Warden ran for the barn, whimpering. Barney got Conductor back to his box, hoping the smell would blow away before he had to light the fire.

Next, Barney had to find Warden and clean him up. Finding him was easy, the scent probably blew all the way to Trenton. After Barney located Warden, under a pile of hay, he had to figure out what to do. In the cold barn, Barney poured two gallons of tomato juice his mother had canned during the summer in a wash tub, coaxed Warden into the tub and scrubbed him. It was all Barney could do to keep from losing his breakfast. He moved Warden's box to the other side of the barn and tried to comfort him. It took all day.

At six-thirty Barney lit the fire and at seven the lodge members arrived. They sang carols for about an hour then went in the house where there was coffee, hot cider and cocoa. Barney was fairly well preoccupied with Elizabeth, but the strange smell from the bonfire puzzled her and the lodge member.

Barney cranked up his Amberola and played several cylinders of Christmas music by Vernon Dalhart, a popular musician of the era. He and Elizabeth watch the fire flicker and reflect on the Christmas tree, long after everyone else had gone. 1920 had been a good year.

Next month will be January and I will surprise you.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer. You can contact him by email at jcupp@verizon.net or conventional mail at 2 West Main Street, Suite 517, Uniontown, PA 15401-3403.

ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ESTABLISH NEW SCHOLARSHIP

During the October 31, 2015 Board meeting of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania, member Bob Grant made a proposal to the Association's Board regarding the establishment of a scholarship award specifically designed for graduate school students. He stated that at several times over the ten (10) years as chairman of the Association's Scholarship Award Committee, numerous inquiries have been made as to whether or not the Association had any kind of scholarship program available for students who were continuing their schooling after graduating from college.

Being that the Association was in a good financial position, he felt that there was definitely a need for this and requested the Board to seriously consider offering this type of award. This graduate scholarship award would be in addition to the Scholarship Awards presently offered by the Association, that being four (4) - \$3000 scholarship awards annually to students attending college (undergraduates).

With the distribution among members in attendance of a set of rules and an application, and after some discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to being the Graduate Scholarship Award as soon as possible.

Thus, the inauguration of two (2) - \$3000 awards is now being offered by the Association. A copy of the "Rules" and an "Application" for the 2016 *Graduate Scholarship Award* can be obtained by contacting Robert Grand, 40 Cypress Way, Charleroi, PA 15022 or by emailing your request to robagg@comcast.net.

Regarding this new scholarship award, the applicant or a living family relative must be a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows or Rebekahs of Western Pennsylvania and enrolled in the graduate program of an accredited college/university. Also, the applicant must be: a) a college graduate continuing their education or b) enrolled in a degree program requiring more than four (4) years to complete. The only three (3) areas of concentration being consideration for this award are Music Education, Teacher Education, or a Health Related Field. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2016 *Graduate Scholarship Award* will be January 20, 2016.

Note: Previous recipients of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship Award may apply for this scholarship award.

OBITUARIES

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

SHIRLEY GERNSBACK

Unified Lodge No. 2
August 16, 2015

Sister Shirley Gernsback, 85, of White Oak, PA, was initiated into Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, on March 11, 2010.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George. Surviving are two daughters and five grandchildren.

Burial was held in Temple Cemetery, Versailles Boro.

VIRGINIA C. REED

Past RA Outside Guardian
Red Rose Rebekah Lodge No. 586
September 13, 2015



Sister Virginia C. (Krepps) Aumiller McCreary Reed, 92, of Reedsville, PA, was initiated into Lady Butler Rebekah Lodge #316, Milroy, PA, on January 6, 1948. She was a recipient of the Decoration of Chivalry, having received it June 25, 1990. She then held the position of Outside Guardian for the Rebekah Assembly under PPRA Bonita Morningstar in 1993. At the time of her death, she was a member of Red Rose Rebekah Lodge #586, Middletown, PA. She was a Lady of Harrisburg Auxiliary #54, having then consolidated with Leesport Auxiliary #2. She was also a member of the Past District Deputy Association, having served as a PDDP.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Siglerville.

She was preceded in death by husbands Alfred Aumiller, Samuel McCreary and Paul Reed, one son and one daughter. Surviving are six children, 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren and 6 step-great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Salem Cemetery, Siglerville, PA.

JOHN C. COOPER

Charleroi Lodge No. 1030
October 4, 2015

Brother John C. Cooper, 90, of Monongahela, PA, was initiated into Charleroi Lodge #1030 on March 20, 1984.

He was a U.S. Navy WWII Veteran and a member of the First Christian Church of Charleroi.

Surviving is his wife, the former LaVonne Moss, two sons, one being John S. of Charleroi Lodge #1030, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Monongahela Cemetery.

HOWARD H. HUMPHRIES

Walker Lodge No. 306
October 5, 2015

Brother Howard H. Humphries, 96, of Woodbury, NJ, was initiated into Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on June 9, 1966.

He was a U.S. Navy WWII Veteran.

Surviving is one daughter, two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

His urn will be buried out to sea by the U.S. Navy.

PARK K. SNYDER, JR.

Vincent Lodge No. 762
Chosen Friends Encampment No. 88
Canton Leesport No. 2
October 11, 2015

Brother Park K. Snyder, Jr., 88, of Phoenixville, PA, was initiated into Phoenix Lodge #212 on January 8, 1947, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree on January 21, 1950. He was active in the installation team. He held the position of Secretary for many years, even through the consolidation with Vincent Lodge #762, Spring City, on May 24, 2001. He was a Patriarch of Phoenix Encampment #79, also of Phoenixville, where he held the position of Scribe for many years. He became a Past Chief Patriarch September 27, 1951. He then became a Patriarch of Chosen Friends Encampment #88, Malvern, through consolidation on August 15, 2001 at the time of the consolidation, he was the Encampment's Scribe. He was a Chevalier of Canton Pottstown #6, then Canton Leesport #2 through consolidation on April 27, 2005. Last year, he was presented with a merit jewel by his Lodge for his decades of dedicated service to the Lodge.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of Phoenixville Baptist Church.

Burial was held at St. Peters United Church of Christ Cemetery, Chester Springs, PA.

ELLA P. DURHAM

Mahoney Rebekah Lodge No. 428
October 11, 2015



Sister Ella P. Durham, 95, of Duncannon, PA, was initiated into Mahoney Rebekah Lodge #428, New Bloomfield, on May 4, 1954, where she became a Past Noble Grand in 1972 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree May 8, 1973. At the time of her death, she was the Lodges oldest living member.

She was a member of the Roseglan United Methodist Church, Duncannon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William and two daughters. Surviving is a daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Duncannon Cemetery.

JOHN B. GIOVENGO

Unified Lodge No. 2
October 12, 2015



Brother John B. Giovengo, 93, of Pittsburgh, PA, was initiated into Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, on January 31, 1989 where he became a Past Grand in 1991 and received his Grand Lodge Degree June 22, 1998. He also held associate membership in Hampton Lodge #1004, Allison Park, joining September 29, 1999.

He was a U.S. Army WWII Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Norma Mascio. Surviving are two children five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

HERBERT H. SWANK

Triune Lodge No. 307
October 14, 2015

Brother Herbert H. Swank, 88, of the Middletown Home, formerly of Harrisburg, PA, was initiated into Steelton Lodge #184 on May 31, 1966, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree November 11, 1967. He became a member of Harrisburg Lodge #68 through consolidation on September 15, 1975 and finally Triune Lodge #307, Middletown, through consolidation on May 14, 1996. He also held associate memberships on Lititz Lodge #1050 and Bowmansdale Lodge #1179. He held the position of Recording Secretary for many years and at the time of his death, was the last surviving member of Steelton Lodge #184. He was a former Patriarch of the defunct Dauphin Encampment #10, having been initiated October 7, 1978 and holding the positions of Chief Patriarch and Senior Warden for several years until the Encampment went defunct. He was a resident of the Odd Fellows Home of PA in Middletown, serving during his time as president of the resident council.

He was of the protestant faith.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Churchville Cemetery, Oberlin, PA. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Middletown Home at 999 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057.

FLORENCE WILSON

Past District Deputy President
Lady Emily Rebekah Lodge No. 452
October 16, 2015



Sister Florence "Dale" (Deitrich) Wilson, 94, of Pleasant Gap, PA, was initiated into Crystal Springs Rebekah Lodge #25, Bellefonte, PA, on November 13, 1952, where she became a Past Noble Grand in 1962 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree on November 8, 1962. She then became a member of Lady Emily Rebekah Lodge #452, State College, through consolidation on May 22, 2006. She also served as a Past District Deputy President.

She was a member of the New Hope United Methodist Church of Axeman.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Milo.

Burial was held in Union Cemetery, Bellefonte, PA.

CHARLES E. MCCORMICK

Past District Deputy Grand Master
Charleroi Lodge No. 1030
October 18, 2015



Brother Charles E. "Pap" McCormick, 93, of Washington, PA, was initiated into National Lodge #81, Washington, on January 20, 1955, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree November 4, 1961. He then became a member of Charleroi Lodge #1030 through consolidation on July 19, 2007. In the past, he was very active in Monongahela Degree Lodge #88 and Lady Hogue Rebekah Lodge #102, also Washington. He was also a PDDGM, serving from 1986 to 1990.

He was a WWII U.S. Army Veteran and a member of the West Washington United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by one son and one grandson. Surviving is his wife, the former Marna Hicks, one son, two granddaughters, one grandson, two great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

Burial was held in Prosperity Cemetery.

DAVID C. WEIMER

Somerset Lodge No. 438
October 21, 2015

Brother David C. Weimer, 89, of Somerset, PA, was initiated into Somerset Lodge #438 on March 14, 1949, where he became a Past Grand.

He was a U.S. Army Air Corps WWII Veteran and a member of the First Christian Church of Somerset.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Elsie Bittner, and one son. Surviving are one daughter, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Husband Cemetery, Somerset, PA.

WALTER L. JORDAN

Vincent Lodge No. 762
Chosen Friends Encampment No. 88
October 30, 2015

Brother Walter L. Jordan, 92, of Phoenixville, PA, was initiated into Phoenix Lodge #212, Phoenixville, on October 3, 1945, where he became a Past Grand on October 12, 1981. He then became a member of Vincent Lodge #762, Spring City, through consolidation on May 24, 2001. He was also a Patriarch of Phoenix Encampment #79, having become a Past Chief Patriarch on March 25, 1957 and receiving his Grand Encampment Degree October 20, 1975. He then became a Patriarch of Chosen Friends Encampment #88, Malvern, through consolidation on August 15, 2001. At the time of the consolidation, he was Phoenix Encampments Chief Patriarch. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest tenured member, having celebrated 70 years of Odd Fellowship this month.

He was a member of Otterbein United Methodist Church in Mont Clare.

Surviving are two nieces.

Burial was held at Green Tree Cemetery, Oaks, PA.

SHILLINGTON MEMBER IS HONORED FOR HIS INSTALLATION

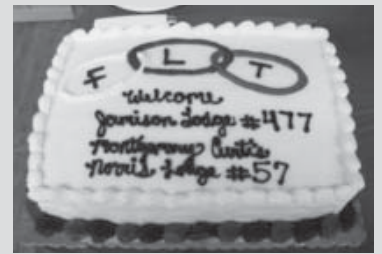


Shown here is Ralph A. "Skip" Geltz, who was installed as Vice Grand on his 75th birthday. Congratulations!

~Mike Duley ,PG#1175

DISTRICT 2 LODGES INSTALLED

On Tuesday evening, October 20th, about 20 members in all from the host lodge, and visiting lodges: Montgomery-Curtis-Norris # 57 and Jamison Lodge # 477 came out to be installed as officers for 2015-2016 by Victory Lodge #658.



Prior to Victory Lodge #658's meeting and installation, we gathered in brotherhood (and sisterhood, with Mary Landes) to eat a wonderfully prepared dinner by Brother Chef Bob Raffensberger. Everyone enjoyed the abundant meatloaf, peas & carrots, mashed potatoes and homemade applesauce. Dessert was a beautifully decorated cake for the occasion.

With our full stomachs, we went into the meeting and the installation of the officers of the visiting lodges.

Both visiting lodges members had such a great time with us, they asked Chef Brother Bob if they could join Mary and him on Thanksgiving Day, and return for another great dinner prepared by him.

Many appreciative 'Thank You's' to Sister Mary Landes for her hard work in the kitchen to make the evening a great evening for all.

*Fraternally yours
in FLT,
Steve Nathan*



GP RAMSEY VISITS STRASBURG

The Grand Patriarch visited Ridgley Encampment #217 in Strasburg on Monday October 26th. DDGP Gregory Dimick installed the officers for Ridgley Encampment and Mount Vernon Encampment #14 in

York, who were also visiting. We enjoyed the warm hospitality. Grand Patriarch, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Inside Sentinel, and Sovereign Grand Representative were in attendance.



Periodicals

IT'S ALL A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

I found a paper from 1972 of the Lodges with 20 or less members. Believe it or not, there were 69 lodges in this situation. Out of this, there were several hundred Lodges throughout Pennsylvania with over 22,000 members. Out of those 69 Lodges, only THREE exist. Congratulations for these three Lodges that have stood the sands of time and fought against the current to not follow suit with the others:

	1972	2015
Mineral Lodge #285 of Saint Clair	17	13
Oneida Lodge #371 of Dallas	14	24
Mt. Hor Lodge #736 of Cassville	7	50

From 7 members to 50... Unbelievable! Keep up the good work!!
~Justin C. Bailey, Grand Secretary

October Donations

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

1128	Fallowfield	60.06
2	Unified	50.00
		110.06

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

523	Alma	1,000.00
1128	Fallowfield	150.14
2	Unified	50.00
		1,200.14

MAKE-A-WISH

PGM Giebel Pin proceeds & donations		2,000.00
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VISUAL ASSISTANCE

8	Henry Disston	2,000.00
2	Unified	25.00
		2,025.00

VISUAL RESEARCH

1128	Fallowfield	60.06
2	Unified	25.00
		85.06

CAMP JRA

PGM Giebel Pin proceeds & donations		2,600.00
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