

Message from the Department Commander and Lady President, DALAPM

To all members of the Order:

GREETINGS OF THE NEW YEAR 2004!

By the time you read this, we will have just completed work on the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Float for the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, where we had the privilege of hosting the International Officers from the General Military Council and the International Association of Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant. We sincerely congratulate all of the members of our Order who worked so diligently to decorate our float and the thousands of other members whose monetary contributions or purchases of raffle tickets and/or float-related merchandise make our participation in this parade possible. It is always a thrill to watch our float coming down the parade route, either from the grandstands, as we were able to do, or along with the millions of others on television. The Rose Parade Float is one of our projects, as it will continue to be. Each of us has come up with a new pin, sales of which will raise money for our projects. The Lady President's new pin is her lavender rose. The Department Commander's new pin is a windmill crossed with a lance, representing "The Impossible Dream." Many of the Commander's original submarine pins, signifying "Discover the Depth of Odd Fellowship" are also still available.

As we write this, we have just finished presiding over the 2003 Department Council and Department Association sessions in San Mateo, where Grand Patriarch Ralph Stevens and Grand Matriarch Betty Stevens also presided over their sessions of the Grand Encampment and Grand Ladies Encampment Auxiliary. We congratulate them on their term of office. They did an outstanding job of promoting not only their branch of the Order but our branch and Odd Fellowship as a whole. We are already working with Grand Patriarch Gene Razor and Grand Matriarch Erni Olson and their officers to continue this process. We sincerely congratulate them on their elevation to these offices. We are indebted to all of the members of the Committee who did so much to make this Convention so successful.

Our own sessions had many highlights, beginning with getting to know our Representatives from the General Military Council and the IALAPM, Executive Officer Major General Bob Leib, Sr. from the Grand Jurisdiction of Tennessee and President Lady Mary Jo Snowden from the Grand Jurisdiction of Kentucky. Like so many high-ranking members of our Order, they are delightful people, very knowledgeable in the work of our Order, yet fun to be around. It was an unexpected thrill for each of us, along with Lady Ruth Schuyler, to receive from them a Medallion for "Outstanding Performance in Charting the Course toward Unity" that is being jointly presented this year by the heads of all four International units. We will wear them with humility, knowing

that it is only the hard work and dedication of hundreds of the members of our Order that can allow the leaders of any Grand Body of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs to accomplish worthwhile ends.

Another highlight of the session was the ceremony on Wednesday afternoon presenting the Decoration of Chivalry to four Ladies, none of whom (not even the President of the DALAPM) were aware that they had been selected for this highest award available to a Lady of this branch of our Order. (All of the recipients are named in a separate news item elsewhere in this publication. - see pg 19) It is an honor just to participate in this beautiful ceremony. We want to thank all of those who did so, not only those with speaking parts, but also all of the Chevaliers and Ladies that marched in the flag detail and supporting army. We are especially indebted to the family of the Lad and Young Miss who presented and pinned the Decoration on the recipients.

Yet another highlight of the session was the approval of a Petition for the institution of a new Canton to meet in Sonora. We are indebted to Patriarch Walter Fox and his Brother Patriarchs of Bald Mountain Encampment No. 4 for bringing this to fruition. We will schedule the Institution ceremony to activate this unit as quickly as we can, and Lady Dorothy will see about organizing an Auxiliary there. The success of these Patriarchs in this endeavor makes an important point: It is easier than many might believe to create new units of our Order.

We will be seeing many of you up and down the state as we install the Canton & LAPM officers for 2004, and as we bring the Greeting of our branch at receptions for Officers of all the branches of our Order.

Chivalrously,

*Brig. Gen. Richard Brouse, Department Commander
Lady Dorothy Brouse, President, DALAPM*

It's a Mystery!

San Francisco - Apollo Lodge # 123 recently hosted a Mystery Trip! First stop was the Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield, CA. Here members enjoyed browsing the facility, tasting the "belly flops" (rejected candies) and had a leisurely lunch. They then proceeded to the State Capitol in Sacramento for a tour. Later in the day, they visited Old Town and enjoyed a trip on the river with dinner and refreshments.