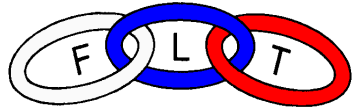


The Three Link Fraternity

Striving to make this world a better place in which to live.



Motto

“Friendship, Love and Truth”

Objective

“To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man through the Promotion of Universal Brotherhood”

History of Odd Fellowship

In 17th century England, it was odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called “Odd Fellows”.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the North American continent in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26, 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Order from England instituted Washington Lodge No. 1. This lodge received its charter from the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England.

Odd Fellowship became the first national fraternity to include both men and women when it adopted the beautiful Rebekah Degree on September 20, 1851. This Degree is based on teachings found in the Holy Bible, and was written by the Honorable Schuyler Colfax who was Vice President of the United States, 1868 to 1873.

Who May Become a Member?

A man or woman of good character, whose life and acts have been worthy and honorable, is eligible for membership. It is required that a member, in good standing, recommend the candidate as worthy of sharing the duties and enjoying the privileges of Odd Fellowship.

Odd Fellowship strictly forbids any interference with one’s religious beliefs or political opinions, either directly or indirectly. It requires acknowledgment of God and complete obedience of civil laws.

What is Odd Fellowship?

A simple explanation would be: Odd Fellowship is a world wide Fraternal Organization, based on a belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Through its teachings and ceremonies, it seeks to elevate the character of man, and thereby make this world a better place in which to live. It exemplifies this belief through active involvement in charitable work on various projects in our communities, states and nation. It must be emphasized that Odd Fellowship is not a religion. Odd Fellowship does, however, require that you are 18 years or older, must believe in a Supreme Being, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, be of good moral character, and be loyal to their country.

A Family Fraternity

We in Odd Fellowship encompass the whole family. We all believe in the same principles, but separate our members for meetings. Odd Fellow Lodges use to be for the men and Rebekah Lodges for the women, but now both can join either lodge. The Rebekahs and Odd Fellows work together on many projects. A very important part of Odd Fellowship is the Junior Lodge (for boys 8-18) and Theta Rho Clubs (for girls 8-18). Our young members are offered interesting, enjoyable and educational opportunities that will assist them during this important phase of their lives. We feel Odd Fellowship is truly a family oriented Fraternity, finding an interest for all members of the family.

Homes - Camps - Parks

California Odd Fellowship has assumed an obligation to care for the aged, widows and children. The Odd Fellows Home at Saratoga, which replaced the one established in 1895 near Oroville, has provided a home for nearly 4,000 Odd Fellows, their wives or widows and Rebekahs since its founding in 1912. The home is now open to the public. Construction of phase II was completed in 2005, with two apartment buildings, new cottages and retrofitting of the old building. It became a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), with independent living, assisted living and a skilled nursing facility. It is now one of the most beautiful retirement communities in the state.

In 1992 California Odd Fellowship purchased the four year old multi-million dollar “Meadows of Napa Valley”, senior living facility in Napa, which has been expanded to provide for independent living, assisted living and a 69 bed skilled nursing facility. More than 300 residents call The Meadows home. The 100% occupancy rate at The Meadows is a good indication of the quality of service and accommodations.

Fellowship Plaza, also located in Saratoga, was built in 1979, and has 150 independent living apartments for seniors on limited incomes. It maintains a waiting list for future admissions.

For nearly 100 years the Odd Fellow Rebekah Children’s Home of California, located at Gilroy, has been serving the needs of children unable to remain in their own homes. Originally an orphanage for children related to Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, the core of the Home’s current services are residential treatment, wrap around and foster care for seriously abused children.

The Three Link Camp in Tuolumne County was founded in 1958, and provides a summer camping program for children and families, camping and RV facilities, and year around recreation facilities. Other Odd Fellow recreation areas include Odd Fellows Sierra Park, Odd Fellows Russian River Park and Redding Odd Fellows Camp in Shasta County.

Fraternal Visitation

Being an Odd Fellow or Rebekah entitles you to visit any lodge in any city or community in the United States, Canada or the twenty five other nations where lodges meet. The influence of Odd Fellowship is spreading throughout the world as new lodges are established.

California Odd Fellowship

The "Three Link Fraternity" was officially established in California on September 9, 1849, with the institution of California Lodge No. 1 in San Francisco. This was one year before California was admitted to the Union. From this modest beginning soon many Lodges were established throughout California.

Coping with ever changing conditions throughout our universe, maintaining a viable service driven organization, dealing with important environmental, social and community service issues, and charting a future course for growth and prosperity are among the many goals of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs throughout California and the world.

In addition to local community service, California Odd Fellowship is involved with medical support and research into arthritis, diseases of the eye and heart disease; education, through scholarships and student loan programs; drug abuse prevention; and numerous other service and education related programs.

THE THREE LINK FRATERNITY

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Grand Lodge of California

Located at: 14414 Oak St., Saratoga, CA

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2669

Saratoga, CA, 95070

(408) 867-0231 Phone

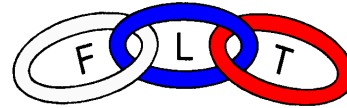
(408) 867-8206 Fax

E-mail grandlodge-ca@sbcglobal.net

Website www.caioof.org

Additional Information

Additional Information about Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and other units of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows may be obtained by contacting:



OUR BASIC CREED

Genuine **Friendship**, which hears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment, and the teachings of Temperance, Prudence and Justice.

Love is the basis for all life's ambitions, service to humanity and more family oriented.

Truth, the imperial virtue, promotes economic stability, equality under law, freedom of enterprise, the highest of ethical standards and lasting peace, the ultimate goal of fraternity.

Universal **Brotherhood of Man** under the **Fatherhood of God** is imperative to the survival of the world, and can be accomplished only through the practice of fellowship and understanding among all peoples and nations.

VALEDICTION

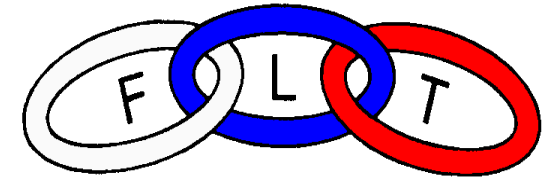
I AM AN ODD FELLOW

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind:

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan" and as I work with others to build a better world because, in spirit and in truth, I am and always must be grateful to my Creator, faithful to my Country and fraternal to my fellow man:

I AM AN ODD FELLOW!



**The
Three
Link
Fraternity**

**A
Fraternal
Experience**

**Independent
Order
of
Odd Fellows
of
California**