

# **OMITTED IN ERROR**

## **STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS OF RITA COOPER FOR THE OFFICE OF GRAND LODGE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS**

I believe deeply in the Odd Fellows and the enduring relevance of our Mission: to be a beacon of Friendship, Love and Truth in a world that needs these virtues as never before. At the same time I view with alarm the steady erosion of our membership rolls and the darkening of once-thriving Lodges. And yet I have a sturdy optimism that we can work together to retain the great qualities of the IOOF and revive its attraction to new members. And with this positive outlook, I am seeking the position of Grand Warden and have the support and endorsement of my home Lodge, Morse Lodge No. 237, to do so. So my love for our Fellowship will continue to be expressed as a determination to see our Order, (to paraphrase a great American writer) not merely survive but prevail!

It has been my privilege and great honor to serve the IOOF in a number of capacities:

Grand Chaplain;

Member, Grand Lodge Board of Directors;

Special Deputy for Grand Master, Peter Sellars

Grand Lodge Liaison to the Rebekah Children Services

Chair of the Grand Lodge Legislation Committee

Instructor at Members' Educational Seminars -Developing Leadership & Management for our Fraternal Order; How to Improve the Appearance of Your Lodge Building;

Past Grand, Morse Lodge No. 257, San Francisco

Past Chief Patriarch, Golden Gate Encampment No.1; and,

Past Commandant, Patriarchs Militant San Francisco Canton No.5.

In addition to my home lodge membership in Morse Lodge No. 257, I am a Member of the Silver Star Rebekah Lodge No.336 in Fremont and am an Associate Member of the Alameda Lodge No. 3, as well as an Associate Member of the Berkeley Lodge No. 270, where I am President of the Board of Trustees.

In all of my work for the Order, membership building has been of the highest priority, so at Morse Lodge I have arranged popular events such as the Luau Night, Vita Bella Italian Night, and Bingo Bonanza and strongly supported the Odd Fellows' Bay Area Day at the Races, all opportunities to invite potential members to share in the warmth and fun of our Fellowship.

Prior to joining the IOOF, my focus and accomplishments were in the private business sector, primarily in marketing and organizational development. After receiving my degree in Business Administration in my native United Kingdom, I served, over the years, as a marketing executive for the international organizations, Shell Oil, Clark's Shoes, and Ecco Shoes (for which I founded Ecco Shoes USA) where my work took me to 42 countries. Now, in the United States, with Bankers Life & Casualty, my emphasis has shifted to outreach and consulting regarding financial services for retirees.

Volunteer work has always been important to me and has included my efforts with the San Francisco Food Bank and as an instructor at 40+, a national organization providing career management and job-search strategies for mid-level executives and professionals.

As a believer in the balanced life, I am an Advanced Certified SCUBA Diver, and satisfying my theatrical interests, I have been trained by the Voice Factory and am a graduate of the Bennet Theater Lab.

My time as Grand Chaplain has greatly deepened my appreciation for our Order, our traditions, our rituals, and above all the qualities of our fraternal brothers and sisters. As Grand Warden, drawing upon my enthusiasm, my skills and experience, I can bring to the IOOF's California jurisdiction my deep commitment to encouraging and facilitating a vibrant and growing Fellowship. I will seek to invigorate the vital effort to rebuild memberships, to save dwindling Lodges, and to sustain for the present, and project for the future, our noble message of Friendship, Love and Truth.

I respectfully ask for your vote so that I may serve you and our fraternal order as Director of the Grand Lodge.

## **LATE SUBMISSION**

### **GRAND LODGE RESOLUTION #17**

Submitted by: Chris Greenwood, America #385

A resolution to correct errors in the Odd Fellows Initiatory and Third Degree.

WHEREAS: The Sovereign Grand Lodge has undertaken to rewrite the Odd Fellows Ritual and

WHEREAS: There were several errors made;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Grand Lodge direct the Grand Representatives to submit legislation to correct said errors.

RESOLVED: that in the Initiatory Degree an important phrase was omitted and that the phrase 'Lead On Our Friends' be reinserted in the ritual in the appropriate place. This phrase is the signal to commence the ceremony.

RESOLVED: in the Conductor's charge in the initiatory degree at the scene change the word 'Observe' back to 'Behold!'

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Odd Fellows Grip be changed back to the original grip in the Initiatory. The current grip to be replaced with 'With the first two fingers of the right hand, seize and link the first two fingers of the members right hand, with the thumb, your own, touch each of the two fingers, your own, and thus form the link'. The symbol of our order is the three links and this a more appropriate grip. Our current grip is very similar to the Masonic hand grip, in addition many of our newly initiated sisters having smaller hands, have a difficult time in performing the grip correctly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that in Third Degree lecture by the Left Supporter to the Vice Grand (Priest of the Initiatory Degree) the ritual now ends with the term 'King of Kings'. This should be changed back to 'King of Terrors'. We are a non-denominational organization and 'King of Kings' refers to Jesus Christ while the king of terrors is the 'Grim Reaper'.