



**Grand Lodge of California**  
**Independent Order of Odd Fellows**

**Dave Rosenberg, Grand Master**

1112 Westfield Terrace

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Phone: 530.756.0697

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November 2, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

January is coming up soon, and that is the month that elected officers of Odd Fellows Lodges are typically installed. In my capacity as Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of California, here are some new protocols and dispensations that are hereby instituted, effective January 1, 2015:

- 1 Every Lodge in good standing in this jurisdiction may choose the date, time and location for installation of its officers during the month of January, and in no event later than February 15.
- 2 Every Lodge is free to determine if it will hold the installation as a closed or a public installation, and is further free to choose if it will hold it as a joint installation with a Rebekah Lodge, or another Odd Fellows Lodge.
- 3 No District Deputy Grand Master can mandate a date, time and location for an installation of a Lodge, nor may the DDGM override a Lodge decision on the date, time and location of its installation of officers.
- 4 The following individuals are authorized to preside at a Lodge's installation: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, any District Deputy Grand Master, any Past Grand of the installing Lodge. The presiding officer may choose his or her Acting Grand Marshal and other installing officers as appropriate. The decision as to who will be the presiding officer at an installation is a Lodge decision.
- 5 Once an installation of officers has been completed, the Noble Grand will immediately inform the respective DDGM who will, within three business days, notify the Noble Grand and Vice Grand of the Lodge as to the term password, and the meaning of the term password, for 2016.
- 6 As Grand Master, I encourage Lodges to make their installations festive and public occasions. I encourage Lodges to invite friends and family. I further encourage Lodges to consider linking an awards ceremony with the installation, to present appropriate awards to members who have distinguished themselves on behalf of the Lodge over the prior year.

F-I-T

Dave Rosenberg  
Grand Master

Attest:

Ray Link  
Grand Secretary



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November 5, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With nominations and elections of our Lodge officers underway, and with installations coming up in January, I write to clarify who – in my opinion as Grand Master – can preside at officer installation ceremonies.

First, however, let me encourage Lodges to hold public installation ceremonies, and encourage Lodge members to wear regalia at these public installations. The more we are visible to our friends and neighbors, and our communities, the better. Second, I encourage Lodges to make installations festive events. Consider having the installation in conjunction with a dinner, or even an awards ceremony (to recognize members of the Lodge who have made significant contributions during the year). Third, I encourage Lodges to send press releases to local newspapers about the installation and the officers being installed. Again, we need to increase the visibility of our Lodges and remind the public of who we are and what we do.

I authorize the following persons to perform installations of Lodge officers: The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Warden, a District Deputy Grand Master or a Past Grand of the Lodge. Who performs the installation is a choice to be made by the Lodge, subject to scheduling with the installing officer. If the Lodge wishes to participate in a Joint Installation with other Odd Fellows or Rebekah Lodges, either at the Lodge Hall or another location, that is perfectly fine. On the other hand, if a Lodge wishes that the installation be done at that Lodge's own Hall - that is also the Lodge's decision. A District Deputy Grand Master cannot dictate the date or location of a Lodge's installation. Also, a Lodge installation may occur either in the Lodge Hall or in a public place – again, at the discretion of the Lodge.

I encourage Lodges to conduct the Installation of Officers during the month of January, however, if no acceptable date can be found in January, the actual installation may take place during the first half of the month of February.

F – L – T

Dave Rosenberg, Grand Master

Attest:

Ray Link, Grand Secretary

**HELPING OTHERS TO HELP THEMSELVES**



"Link to the Future" Committee

October 3, 2015

To California Odd Fellow Lodges

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As most of you know, Past President of Rebekah Assemblies, Joyce Link of Elk Grove #136 has stepped up from Warden, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies (IARA), and was elected Vice President, IARA this August at the International Sessions in Fort Worth, Texas. She will be installed as President following the 2016 SGL/IARA Sessions in Rapid City, South Dakota. Joyce is a fantastic representative of Odd Fellowship from California!

Jurisdiction responsibilities exist to support her journey to and through the IARA Presidency, and a committee was appointed last year to lead these fundraising and coordination efforts. We worked with the Rebekah lodges and have raised over \$3.5 thousand so far. We are still needing a few more thousand, and are hoping that the IOOF lodges would be willing to step in this year with donations to the cause!

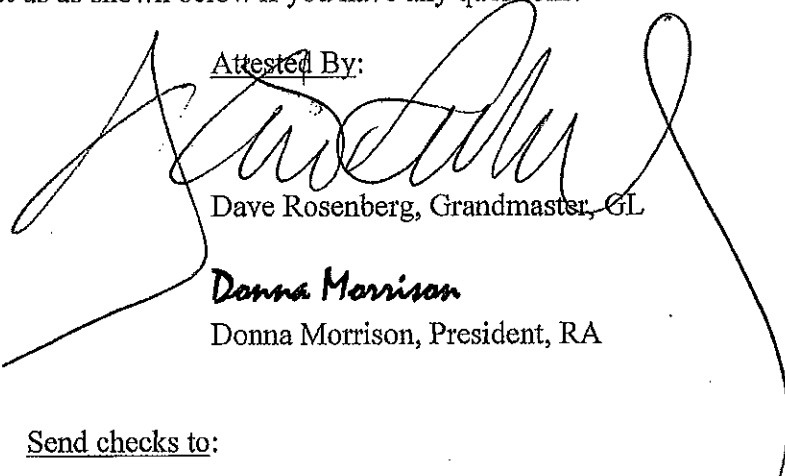
Some of the major activities and events that this Committee will be coordinating, hosting and/or supporting are:

- August 2016 IARA luncheon for Joyce's incoming officers and California members;
- The reception after her 2016 Installation;
- Gift exchange for officers at close of 2016 Sessions;
- Testimonial Banquet (February 25, 2017; Embassy Suites, Old Sacramento) including invitations, table decorations, favors, flowers, and corsage(s); and a pre-testimonial event hosting out-of-town visitors.

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated!! Be part of the team to make Joyce's journey a roaring success for California!! Feel free to contact us as shown below if you have any questions.

In F, L and T,  
"Link to the Future" Committee

Attested By:

  
Dave Rosenberg, Grandmaster, GL

*Donna Morrison*

Donna Morrison, President, RA

Send e-mail/other correspondence to:

Sandra Bierer  
3011 Royal Drive  
Cameron Park, CA 95682  
[Sandra.bierer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sandra.bierer@sbcglobal.net)

Send checks to:

"Link to the Future" Committee  
c/o Judette Rippetoe  
7221 Hedge Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95829-1005  
Financial inquiries: [prlamphere@yahoo.com](mailto:prlamphere@yahoo.com)

I am confident that we can all agree on the Number One Challenge facing our Order. Without a doubt, it is the problem of declining membership. In fact, many of the problems and issues that Lodges face (e.g. financial challenges, property repair and maintenance challenges, lack of competent members to handle Lodge duties, etc.) are symptoms of a declining membership. Recognizing a problem is half the battle. The other half is solving it. That, is the more complicated part of the equation. In this column, I am going to offer the solution. And, it won't be complicated. It just entails two steps: Be aware and be prepared. Simply put, if you follow the steps outlined below, I guarantee that you can bring new members into your Lodge. So, strap on your seat belts and let's go!

1. **Be aware.** To this day, it's amazing for me to learn that the vast majority of Odd Fellows don't bring in new members. I talk to many members who have been Odd Fellows for 10, 20, 30 years or more and they tell me that they have not brought even one new member to the Order. Apparently, they think it is the job of someone else in the Lodge. Wrong! Bringing applicants to the Lodge is a job of every single one of us. We are seriously remiss if we ignore this responsibility and simply believe that it's somehow the job of the Noble Grand, or some other members of the Lodge. So, what's the first step in the process of bringing new members to Odd Fellowship?

First and foremost, you have to be aware of the possibility of a potential new member. Many people you talk to every day might be that new member: The plumber who fixes your sink, the clerk you see every week at the grocery store, your dentist, your hairdresser or barber, your real estate agent, your lawyer, etc. etc. It might be someone in your family like your spouse, son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, brother or sister, cousin, nephew. And certainly, do not ignore half the population of your community by failing to invite women to join your Lodge. Odd Fellows Lodges opened to women in 1999. And even though women comprise 50% of our population, they still only make up just 25% of our California Lodge membership. Lodges are remiss in failing to actively bring women into the Order. My own Lodge in Davis is virtually 50-50 men and women and we are the stronger for it.

Sometimes, the opportunities smack you right in the face, if you take a moment to think about it. You just have to be aware. I'll give you an example. My Lodge, through our Good Fellowship Committee, sponsors what we call "Club Night at the Lodge" every Thursday evening which is just a relaxed social time for the members, applicants for membership, and family and friends to gather at the Lodge. Dinner is typically available, and we often have a fun program (like trivia). On one particular Club Night evening, we ordered pizza for dinner. When the pizza delivery guy - a young man in his early 20's - came into the Lodge with his six large boxes of pizza, he looked around and asked me, "Gee, what is this place?" For many Odd Fellows, the response would have simply been, "It's the Odd Fellows Lodge. Put the pizzas right there. How much do I owe you?" But that would have been an opportunity lost. I chatted with the young man, told him about us and what we do, took him for a quick tour, handed him a tri-fold brochure of the Order and our Lodge (that we had previously prepared with the help of a Grand Lodge Membership Development Grant), and invited him to come back to a future Club Night so we could discuss it further. We exchanged e-mail addresses. In fact, he is coming back to Club Night to discuss further, and I believe there is a high likelihood that he will submit an application.

2. **Be prepared.** So, now that you are chatting with a person who you believe could be an applicant for membership, what can you tell him or her? Simply put, you have to be ready to talk about Odd Fellowship and your Lodge. Tell the potential applicant about the great history of our Order, about F-L-T, about our retirement communities, about programs that are offered and run through Grand Lodge and Sovereign. Most importantly, tell this potential applicant about what YOUR Lodge does. Having a handy brochure - as was available to me for the pizza guy - can really help. And any Lodge can develop its own tri-fold. It's easy and inexpensive.

Now, as Shakespeare might say, "Here's the rub." If your Lodge is active in the community and is active in hosting fun events for the members, this conversation is easy. On the other hand, if your Lodge does little more than concentrating on how to fix the Lodge roof, writing a yearly check to the local boy scouts, and having an occasional pot luck, there is - to be brutally frank - very little to attract that potential member to the Lodge. So, in that case, you have to convince the potential member that, if they join, he or she can certainly make suggestions which will enhance the Lodge. Perhaps the new member wants to develop of Lodge website, or convince the Lodge to sponsor a program, or support a local charity. This potential new member can bring new energy to a moribund Lodge. And (hint, hint) you have to be ready to support this new member in his or her efforts.

I will tell you a fact of life. The Lodges that are active, and put on events at the Lodge, and actively participate helping a charitable or community group, have great exposure to potential applicants. I can tell you that every time my Lodge organizes a community event, people ask me about the Lodge and about joining. If you have a Lodge that does little more than meet behind closed doors, you have shut yourself off from society and you have little chance of growing, let alone surviving.

Finally, follow-through is important. You can't just talk to this potential applicant one time and hope for the best. Be prepared to exchange e-mails, or texts, or phone calls with this potential new member. Better yet, meet with this new member face-to-face. Invite him or her to a Lodge event or a Lodge social meeting. We must, as an Order, open ourselves to the community. For too many years, too many of our Lodges have been virtually invisible. As I have said many times, as we move into the 21st Century: It's not OK to be seen as a secret society any longer. Instead, we must become a society with secrets.

## Three Programs That Can Help Your Lodge

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In case you missed it in past letters to Lodges, allow me to remind you about three very important programs that have been launched this year for your direct benefit. If you fail to take advantage of one or more of these programs, then all I can say is "have a nice nap." These programs were developed to benefit YOU and YOUR LODGE. And the cynosure of all the programs, at bottom, is helping us to address the Number One challenge facing Odd Fellowship (and a major focus of my year as Grand Master): Increasing membership of the Order and in your Lodge. Please take a moment to read about them, and then follow up.

**Membership Development Grant.** This program provides grants of up to \$1,000 from the Grand Lodge Membership Fund. It is administered by the Membership Committee, chaired by Deputy Grand Master Peter Sellars. Any Lodge may apply for the grant money. It is all about providing funds to Lodges to help them in their membership development activities. Since declining membership is a concern to all of us, I encourage all Lodges to apply. It's easy. All the Lodge need do is send a letter or an e-mail to the Grand Lodge, making a request for a specific amount (up to \$1,000) and outlining the membership development program the Lodge seeks to fund. The programs and activities you choose to fund are completely up to each Lodge to determine. Let your membership development imagination be your guide. Past grants have been awarded to help fund Lodge open houses, the creation of a Lodge tri-fold brochure, and Lodge activities that include the public, etc.

Membership Development Grant applications may be mailed to the Grand Lodge office, attention "Membership Development Grant", at 14414 Oak Street, Suite B, Saratoga CA 95070. Or e-mailed to Peter Sellars at [ioofsf@earthlink.net](mailto:ioofsf@earthlink.net).

This year, we have already given out some 16 or 17 of these grants, which is an all-time record - yet that's only 14% of our Lodges. We have 118 Lodges in this Jurisdiction, and every single Lodge is eligible to apply for the grant. Why hasn't your Lodge applied?

**Membership Educational Seminar in Reno.** You may recall that, in year's past, we have organized various gatherings in Santa Nella (an isolated spot sort of in the middle of California) that we have called "Noble Grand and Vice Grand Training", or "Officer's Seminar" or the like. This year, under the leadership of DGM Sellars, we are doing something different. We have organized a gathering open to any and all interested members (whether you are an officer or not) of the Order, and it will take place in Reno, Nevada. All are invited, and I know that all members will benefit from this weekend of education and social time. Plus, it will take place in Reno, so there is lots to do.

The event takes place in an excellent location - Reno's El Dorado Hotel and Casino on January 16 and 17 (a Saturday and Sunday) with arrival on Friday, January 15. The cost is \$190, and that price tag covers two night's stay at the hotel, meals and materials. Really quite reasonable, and

only about \$10 more than we paid in the past at Santa Nella. I have attached the details of the seminar and the application form. Please do not hesitate to fill it out and apply. Note the registration deadline of December 10 - which is not that far away. If you wish to attend, I recommend that you apply NOW.

I would love to see members from all over California attend this important gathering. I will certainly be there. We will cover topics of interest and concern to all of you. And experts will be there to answer all questions.

**Lodge Beautification Challenge.** Let's face it. Some of our Lodge Halls, on the outside, look dowdy and run down. In fact, some of our Lodge Halls haven't been upgraded in years, and are virtually invisible in our communities. How can you attract new members if no one knows about you, or if they look at the outside of your Lodge and see a shabby, unpainted, run-down building? What message does a dowdy, run-down Lodge building send to the public about the state of our Order or the state of your Lodge?

Enter the Lodge Beautification Challenge. I have launched this program to help Lodges spruce up the outsides of their Lodge Halls. This sprucing up can take many forms: New signs, painting, new doors or windows, new trim, clean up, landscaping, etc. Lodges need to accomplish the tasks during the period October 2015 to March 2016. Deadline is March 30, 2016. On or before that deadline, please submit "before" and "after" photos and a brief narrative of what was done to upgrade or beautify your Lodge. Entries should be submitted to the Grand Lodge, attention "Lodge Beautification Program" at the Grand Lodge address I have listed above.

I have appointed Past Grand Master Rod Metoyer to chair a committee which will evaluate the submissions and pick winning Lodges. This evaluation will be done in April, and the winning Lodges will be recognized in May and at Grand Lodge Sessions. Plaques will be given for up to 10 Lodges. In addition, the first place Lodge will receive \$500, the second place Lodge will receive \$300 and the third place Lodge will receive \$100 - plus up to seven Honorable Mention Lodges will be recognized.

Take the challenge and beautify your Lodge Hall.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg  
Grand Master

# MEMBERSHIP EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

The Annual Membership Educational Seminar is upon us again! This year's seminar will be held at the beautiful El Dorado Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada. The seminar is being held on January 16 and 17, 2016. Arrive on Friday, January 15th.

What started out as the Noble Grand/Vice Grand Seminar twenty years ago, has evolved into a new popular gathering of members throughout the state. The seminar expanded to include all members. It had been in Santa Nella, but several members complained over the years of the hotel being too isolated or outdated.

In response, those who have been conducting the seminar since its inception, decided to look for a new location. This was based on the attendees' evaluations. Reno seemed a great location, given our Grand Encampment of California held its session at the Sands Hotel a few years ago. We are also inviting the members of Nevada to attend our seminar.

The El Dorado offers us beautiful rooms and wonderful meal selection, and it is not isolated, allowing the instructors to respond to those concerns of past attendees.

Brothers Ronald and Dennis Carrey, Deputy Grand Master Peter Sellars, our Grand Master Dave Rosenberg, and others will be presenting various topics. Membership will be the focus.

The price is only \$190 per member! The price has only increased \$10 from previous years. The cost includes a two night stay at the El Dorado Hotel, meals, and materials.

Come and meet members from two jurisdictions. It will be as enjoyable as previous seminars. All reservations and applications to attend must be received by December 10, 2015.

More information shall be provided by brother Don Lang, who is handling registration for the seminar. All payments should be sent to brother Lang at:

Don Lang, PGM  
11220 Monterey Court  
Cupertino, CA 95014

You may call Brother Lang at 408-252-3954 or Brother Sellars at 415 861-1737.  
Please come and join everyone for a fun time!

Please fill out the form below, with a check made out to Grand Lodge of CA and send it to the Membership Seminar, % Don Lang, 11220 Monterey Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014, Phone 408-252-3954, e-mail donlang@sbcglobal.net. If you do not know who will be the incoming, then you can leave the name blank and send the name to us at a later time. Money needs to be in by December 10, 2015, (Hotel requirement). We can assign you a roommate, if needed, just let us know.

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Members Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Incoming Office in Lodge if any \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge City \_\_\_\_\_

2 people in a Room, Each (\$180) \_\_\_\_\_ 1 person in a Room (\$190) \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate Need ? \_\_\_\_\_

Any Special Needs? \_\_\_\_\_