



Celebrating Veterans

SAN FRANCISCO - On Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, California Rebekah Lodge No. 1, of San Francisco, held their 3rd annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Event to Honor Veterans of the Order in San Francisco.

Despite it being a holiday weekend over 50 people showed up to enjoy a delicious meal. In usual tradition, food was the focal point as this is the tradition of Thanksgiving. Our own Noble Grand, Sister Donna Schmidt prepared the roasted turkeys and baked honey-glazed ham. Other members brought dishes. There were pies of all sorts and an array of salads and stuffing, with gravy.



Thanks were given to all present and everyone was asked to reflect and be appreciative for the things that they have in their lives and to be thankful. All veterans in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized and to give their branch, years served and conflicts they engaged in. We also recognized those who lost their homes in Paradise, California.

Past Grand Master and current SGL representative Peter Sellars helped sponsor the event and is a veteran of the U.S. Marines. Grand Encampment Officer Henry S. Rosenthal, Department Council Officer Bonnie Sellars and Rebekah Assembly Officer Edna Casteel also attended and helped in the success of the Event. Brother Stark Dagesse and Sister Edna Casteel conducted drawings, which raised funds for Rebekah Children's Services. Special thanks to the many people who helped to make this happen. We could not have done it without all of your help!

Working in the Community

La Grange - It was summertime and the catfish were jumping at the 11th annual La Grange catfish dinner!

The catfish dinner is a long standing mid-summer community tradition and this year, California State Assembly Member Heath Flora presented La Grange Lodge #65 a plaque in recognition of all the years of service they have given to the community in putting on this yearly event. The lodge appreciated the recognition and look forward to hosting this event again next year!



Pictures are Lyle Ducheneaux, financial secretary, Heath Flora from the Calif State Assembly, who presented the plaque and Norm Varain, Noble Grand

National Night Out

VAN NUYS - Van Nuys Rebekah Lodge #239 assisted the San Fernando Police Department with National Night Out.



National Night Out is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States, held the first Tuesday of August

This is a community-wide event to get families to come out together to visit vendors, eat food, talk to government representatives, and enjoy the entertainment. Van Nuys Lodge was proud to help to set up and then work the area guiding people around the event.

4th Annual Wild Turkey Dance.

November 3 Coulterville Lodge #104 held its 3rd Annual Wild Turkey Dance in our Historic Odd Fellows Hall. Mountain Fever Band featuring Tom Phillips provided the music. We had over 100 folks in our



little hall dancing and enjoying the music. This is our main fund-raiser of the year. We were blessed with many raffle prizes from our local merchants and from nearby towns. Many of the Members supplied raffle items as well including 2 quarters of beef cut and wrapped!

Beer and Wine were served as well as snacks. Several folks from the Northern Mariposa County History Center helped out in the kitchen which gave IOOF Members more time to sell raffle tickets, help behind the bar and at the door with admissions.

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

DAVIS - In this game, you gotta know when to fold'em. This year thirty-two community members participated in the first annual Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament at the



Davis Lodge Hall. The first place winner received \$500 and bragging rights till next year!

Poker has been sanctioned at the Hall by the California Attorney General and all proceeds will be donated to the Davis Encampment to give local children a summer camp experience.

A Boo-tiful Evening

Van Nuys- On October 23, 2018 the Van Nuys IOOF #442 members and guests enjoyed a Halloween party at the home of Linda and Tony Delgado.

The evening included costumes, Halloween quiz, Homemade Stew dinner and karaoke. We also took the opportunity to use the party as a canned food drive for the holiday baskets being given to Kidney Quest patients.



Kidney Quest provides support to individuals awaiting kidney transplants.

Veterans Day Parade

San Jose - In a yearly tradition, many of the South Bay Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Chevaliers, Lady's, Theta Rho girls, Encampment members and AMOS members, took part in this year's San Jose Veteran's Day Parade. These groups have participated in the parade for the past 13 years. This year it was the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and the Veteran's Parade was even that much more extra special!



Grand Master Mel Astrahan was there as Grand Master of California. It is always a great feeling to be able to honor our veterans for their sacrifice.

Congratulations Ruth!

MARYLAND - In August 2018, Ruth Morgan was presented as Rebekah of the Year at International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, in Maryland.



Ruth proudly served as IARA Chaplain for Joyce

Link in 2016-17. During her year as State President (07-08) she worked diligently with our Children's Home in Gilroy to secure housing for children who were aging out of the system at 18.

Working with the directors and employees of the Home in Gilroy, she assisted them to start the Culinary Arts Program to provide funding for a career change that kept these young adults off the streets. As Ruth traveled California with her Officers, she consistently spoke about the need for these kids to have an opportunity to learn a vocation. The members opened their pocket books generously as Ruth and her Officers spread the word about TAY (Transitional Aging for Youth).

The Culinary Program is now 10 years old and thriving; thanks to Ruth's efforts to get it started. This trophy rests in a special place at Ruth's house and she is grateful to the Board and employees who assisted her along the way.

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Member
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Proofing Editors for this edition of the COF&R: Sandra Albers, John Fraher and Grand Lodge Officers. Pictures are desired of all fraternal activities about Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges and other units of the Order. In most cases, it is not possible to return pictures. We cannot reproduce pictures from a newspaper clipping or from faxes.

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Meet Me At The Fair

San Francisco - Yerba Buena lodge #15 and several members of other lodges are looking to have a booth at the California State Fair in Sacramento.

In the past few years, the Odd Fellows (not just one lodge, but several) have gathered to hold an informational booth, with history items, etc. at the Solano County Fair. The costs were very inexpensive for the exposure we gained as an Order.

This coming year, 2019, we are looking to have a booth at a much larger venue, the California State Fair, which draws hundreds of thousands of people, who would see the Independent Order of Odd Fellows are alive and well - and more importantly - ACTIVE!

The cost of obtaining the permit is \$3,100.00 for the enclosed booth. We are asking lodges to help us in this endeavor. And, if any members would like to participate in the booth, we would welcome the company and the help.

The dates of the CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR are Friday, July 12, 2019 through July 28, 2019.

The Grand Master, Mel Astrahan, has granted a dispensation, to request assistance from other lodges. We hope you shall see the benefit in this project and help us raise the funds to obtain the permit. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. We truly believe having a booth, where members can be visible is a benefit to all of us, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Kindly, send any contribution that your lodge decides to send to the address below, and designate the donation toward the "California State Fair IOOF Booth."

YERBA BUENA LODGE No. 15
ODD FELLOWS BUILDING
26 - 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

If we cannot raise enough money to obtain the permit, we shall return all contributions without delay. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth.

Military Sessions



FRESNO - This year, the Military Council again gathered in Fresno, CA for their business session. The group worked hard and still managed to have a great time!

Congratulations to Grand Patriarch Dave Rosenberg, Grand Matriarch Valerie Hartlage, Department Commander Richard Alaskin and President Department Association Valerie Hartlage.

Enjoying this year's sessions: Major Rita Cooper, Captain Debbie Shuler, Colonel Dave Rosenberg, Captain Henry Rosenthal, Lieutenant Sharon Leong.

Science At its Best



SAN FRANCISCO - Odin Lodge #393 had another successful event. This time the lodge decided to explore science at its best and the ventured off to the San Francisco Academy of Sciences. A delicious lunch followed the event.

It was a beautiful day with 11 members attending. The day was extra because one of Odin's members Ted Olsson, is a docent for the Academy and was our "special" docent for the day - Thanks for sharing all your knowledge with the group Ted!

LES WEIR NAMED GRAND MARSHALL

Coulterville - This past September, the Independent Order of Odd Fellow Lodge #104 selected Les Weir as the Grand Marshall of this year's Coyote Fest Parade. It was a very Howlin' special day as the town came out to honor Brother Les and his family's rich history!



Les and his wife of 31 years, Ivy, live on the Schilling Ranch, a site homesteaded by Les' great grandfather, Isac "Ike" Shilling in 1850. His other great grandfather, on his mother's side, Edward Pope, was a highly skilled driller at the Mary Harrison Mine, winning not only the local speed drilling contests held in Coulterville, but walking away with 1st place at the CA State Fair a number of times. A biography of Les's grandmother, Clara Pope Shilling, published a few years ago, brings to life the struggles to bring "civilization...plumbing, electricity, the telephone and women's empowerment (she broke the rules that ladies only rode "side saddle" and was voted Most Outstanding and Active Rancher in Mariposa County) to this rural area.

Les worked in the agricultural business, eventually establishing and running Reliable Delivery based in Merced until he retired in 2003. Les remains an active member of the IOOF Lodge, where he has served in various leadership roles over the years. He is a natural leader, and always willing to help...offering his services for various community events. Seen frequently around Coulterville for many years, he now spends most of his time on the ranch, enjoying his 3 children and 9 grandchildren

British Invasion

DAVIS - On a recent night this past October, Davis Lodge #169 hosted a British Invasion show. There was lots of music from the 60's and over 200 guests enjoying the fun!



Whistling Billy's Rides Again!

Coulterville Lodge #104 has been very busy helping our community. Below is an article about an auto accident involving Coulterville's Whistling Billy.

In early September of this year, a logging truck was entering our little town of Coulterville north bound on State Highway 49. In attempting to swerve out of the way of an auto, the logging truck went off the road in front of the Northern Mariposa County History Center and struck Whistling Billy. The impact pushed the little engine and oar car off its foundation and into the Hangman's tree both historic landmarks.

The History Center was preparing for its annual Coyote Fest Celebration and members of the community felt one of the most photographed icons of our area should be available during this annual celebration.

The Members of Coulterville Lodge #104 and Cal Fire Engine Crew and Equipment Operator from Coulterville CDF station came together and put the 8 ton Porter Locomotive and oar car back on its cement foundation in time for the towns annual Coyote Fest Celebration.



Photos show logging truck after impact and Whistling Billy after being put back on foundation.

Cruising the Bay

San Francisco – Enjoying a beautiful day on the San Francisco Bay members of Morse Lodge #257 enjoyed a wonderful diner/dance cruise on the Hornblower Yacht Cruise. It was a great night, and the group was able to take in the beautiful sunset across the skyline and backdrop of this wonderful city by the bay! A great time was had by all!



Visiting Ivy Lodge



SAN JOSE – This past October, Ernestine Olson the President of the Rebekah Assembly of California, made an Official Visit to the Ivy Rebekah Lodge #23 at the Meadows.

Sister Ernie was accompanied by two of her appointed officers, and members of five other lodges were also in attendance. Ivy Lodge was proud to present Sister Ernie, with a photo of a Harp Seal (her mascot) and Noble Grand Norm Prigge read the "adoption certificate."

Nevada City Gives Back



Nevada City – Members of the Odd Fellows Good Works committee of Oustomah Lodge #16 recently delivered gift of \$500 to two community non profits. Interpreting the Odd Fellows traditions of caring for widows and orphans into modern day actions serving those in need, the Lodge chose the local meals on Wheels program operated by Gold Country Community Services and Kare Crisis nursery in Grass Valley as beneficiaries.

Awards were presented to Nicole Grimes the Social Services manager with Gold Country and to Lynn Woerner of Kare Crisis Nursery. In Lynn’s words, “Thank you for believing in us! By continuing to work together, we can make this community a safer place for all.” This is what the lodge is all about – doing good works and making things better for our community!

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Holiday Food Drive

Van Nuys-Van Nuys IOOF #442 held their third annual food drive on September 29, 2018 at Fields Market, a family owned grocery, in Chatsworth, CA.

The food drive was used to restock the Manna Food Bank in Thousand Oaks, CA for the holidays. We enjoyed interacting with the community and providing over \$500.00 worth of groceries to the food bank.

Several shoppers stopped to chat and share stories of friends and relatives who had been Odd Fellows.



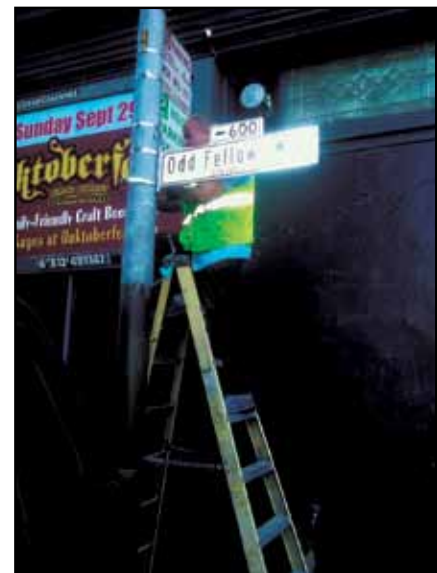
A New Name

SAN FRANCISCO – After much hard work and lots of efforts, a new street name was added in San Francisco!

The new street is Odd Fellows Way and the sign was added to downtown San Francisco to celebrate 169 years of Odd Fellows in San Francisco.

This was only an idea for many years and we offer special thanks to Richard L. Perri and his committee, in the San Francisco Hall Association for all of their hard work to make this happen!

This will be a wonderful way to commemorate and celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Odd Fellowship in the United States this coming April 26th, 2019 and what better place than in San Francisco, where California Odd Fellowship got its start!



Van Nuys Picks to Help Out

COSTA MESA - On Sunday September 9, 2018, Mesa Rebekah Lodge #402 and Van Nuys Rebekah Lodge #289 held a joint event in Costa Mesa to pick lima beans from Segerstrom Family Farm to give to a homeless shelter.

There were over ten members in attendance picking lima beans from a freshly farmed piece of land. It was a lot of hard work and besides giving feeling great about giving back to the community, everyone got in their workout for the day!



Trick or Treat



GRASS VALLEY - Grass Valley #12, participated in the downtown Grass Valley's Safe Trick or Treating for preschoolers this year.

Odd Fellow Anita Wald-Tuttle can be seen handing out candy to the Trick or Treaters in Downtown Grass Valley.

Growth



DAVIS - This past October, Davis Lodge #169 held an Initiatory Degree and were proud to welcome nine new members to their fold!

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, Anyone can start from Now and make a brand New ending.” - Carl Bard

May 2019 be your best Year yet!

Showers of Happiness

FRESNO - The annual "Baby Shower Dinner " held at the Fresno Lodge # 186 brought in a lot of children's clothing that will now go to the Pregnancy Center to be distributed to new mothers in need. This year's event had many members and friends there to support this worthwhile cause including a full table of members from Chowchilla Lodge! Special thanks to Marcia Weaver and Barbara Kjer for cooking the dinner and to all who helped that night and to Julie Skiba for supervising the games and "gift opening." It was a great evening, and so fun to see what gifts were being donated to these new moms!



Gifts of Love

SAN JOSE - On Saturday October 27th, Ivy Rebekah Lodge #23 hosted a Reception for their very own Patricia Player, Conductor of the Rebekah Assembly of California, who is a resident of The Meadows.



Several prominent members of all branches of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs from all over the State attended, along with residents of the Meadows, Patricia's family, and others. She was escorted to the "seat of honor" by her granddaughter Ari.

This was a "working reception." After the brief program and before refreshments, everyone present worked to fill "care packages" for service people overseas. A local organization, "Operation: With Love From Home" is handling the shipping of our fifty-four completed "care packages", adding to their 16,000 (72 tons) sent to date. Attendees were invited to bring items from a list of suggestions, and a box was placed in the Mail Room to collect additional donations. Thanks to the generosity of all, we had far more than was needed to fill the "care packages". The leftovers were donated to the "With Love From Home" organization, to be used in an assembly event at Napa Valley College on December 8th. At the end of the packaging, a group photo was taken to commercialize the event!

Welcome to Simi Valley

VAN NUYS -The city of Simi Valley has installed a permanent IOOF sign at their "Welcome To Simi Valley" location in recognition of their recent move to the city. The location is used to provide information on all of the non-profit and charitable organizations in the community. The sign is beautiful and will give us additional exposure in the community to help us continue to grow!



Remember, if you are in the area, come visit us on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6 pm at 1541 Patricia Avenue, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Classis Film Night

DAVIS - The Odd Fellows Classic Film Festival is now in its 5th year, showing a series of classic films twice each year – once in the Spring and once in the Fall. The Fall 2018 series is the 10th series of classics. Once again, we will be using the Davis Odd Fellows' new big screen projection system in the Upper Hall.

There is a special feature unique to the Odd Fellows Classic Film Festival. Before each film is shown, noted Enterprise film reviewer Derrick Bang will give the audience the back-story of the film, the actors, the production, and the director. After the showing, Derrick Bang will be available to answer audience questions.

This film festival attracts hundreds of community members to the Lodge hall – all enjoying a night of reminiscent Classic films. Hope to see you this spring!



Degree Work

VACAVILLE - Following through with its plan to confer the Initiatory through Third degrees to both its own members and candidates from other lodges, the lodge held a First Degree ceremony this past October.

Seven candidates received the degree: Greg Gomez, Lance Jensen, Jesse Rios and Jeremy Witkop of Vacaville Lodge #83, and Sandra Ross, Jeremy Snyder, and Porter Venn of San Pablo Lodge #43. Vacaville #83 is moving forward with its plan for a joint Second and Third Degree ceremony.

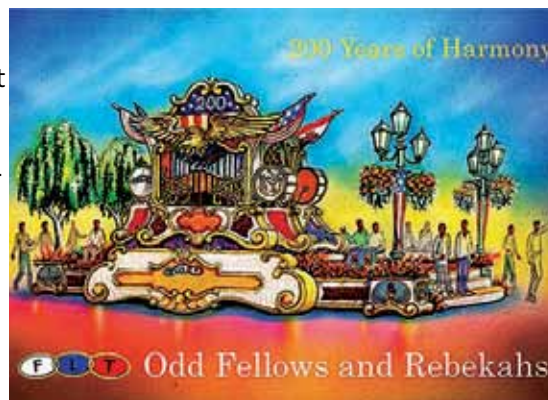


Parade Time!

PASADENA - Each year, thousands of spectators line the Rose Parade route to enjoy a two-hour parade of magnificent floral floats, talented marching bands, and high-stepping equestrians. The 5 1/2-mile Rose Parade route begins at the corner of Green Street and Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena.

Don't miss this year's Odd Fellow and Rebekah Rose Float Celebrating our 200 year

anniversary. The theme for this year's Tournament of Roses parade is "The Melody of Life", and our float is named "200 Years of Harmony". The Grand Marshal for the parade will be Chaka Khan.



The Rose Parade's elaborate floats have come a long way since the Tournament's early days, and the Rose Parade has stayed true to its floral beginnings. Every inch of every float must be covered with flowers or other natural materials, such as leaves, seeds or bark. The most delicate flowers, including roses, are placed in individual vials of water, which are set into the float one by one.

Don't forget to check your local listing for parade time on New Year's Day

MEMBERSHIP..... IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS ORDER!

Membership is the most important factor without a doubt. It has been the most discussed subject since day one, two-hundred years ago. Even Thomas Wildey placed an advertisement in the local paper searching for members in 1819. While this Order grew and expanded from state to state, members were sought. In every journal or record of all Grand Bodies, MEMBERSHIP is the one reoccurring theme.

To some members, the need to bring in new applicants is a no-brainer and a necessity. Every member should be looking for new members! Every member should be looking to add a new member to his or her lodge! We need every member sharing the activities and the principles and the advantages of belonging to the Odd Fellows with non-members. It's not about recruiting, but sharing the positive aspects of the Order, which there are many. If you are unaware of the benefits of belonging to this Order, then you need to acquaint yourselves with these advantages.

Past Sovereign Grand Master, Jon R. Peterson, in the capacity of the Membership Chairman put it in the strongest terms possible in his written report to the members, the impending doom of failing to bring in new members, by writing, "WE ARE DEAD and should start making arrangements for an orderly demise within the next very few years." The membership should be heeding these words and this should be the impetus to go out and find new applicants to become members!

We are celebrating our two-hundredth year of existence in America. Odd Fellowship has everything to offer; its history is rich and fascinating; its membership over the years has included people of notoriety; its great works of relieving people in times of trouble are equal to any organization; its fraternal lessons improve the lifestyle and character of all of its members. So, why isn't MEMBERSHIP at the top of every member's list of priorities? It only takes a little self-respect and pride in an organization of which you belong to step up and actively seek a new member.

It was as important in our 150 years recognition as it is during our 200-year plateau. The late Past Sovereign Grand Master, Chester J. Hunnicutt, wrote, in 1969, "Let's remember that a term of office that shows a decrease in fraternal service and of membership is a failure." Brothers and sisters, as an officer in your lodge, you have the greater responsibility of ensuring your lodge grows and remains active. The success or failure of a lodge falls directly on the leadership within the lodge. The Noble Grand is the only person in the lodge who is appointing committees and following-up on the actions of such a committee. HOW IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE DOING IN YOUR LODGE? WELL?

It is a tragedy in an organization, that is not showing significant growth, to have subordinate lodges without a Membership Committee! The recent proposed dues increase which affected every member in North America, the five-dollar increase this year, and, then another five dollars next year, for not showing an overall growth in North America was implemented because far too many jurisdictions FAILED to show even a growth BY A SINGLE MEMBER! This is a failure. If your jurisdiction did not grow, it is a reflection on your lodge, your members, and your leaders. Who else do you blame?!

For those jurisdictions who grew, thank you. For those members who brought in at least one member, thank you. For those who just tried, thank you. For the rest of you, you need to re-read the Membership report by Past Sovereign Grand Master, Jon R. Peterson (2018). He had a stern message for YOU. Brothers and sisters, the time to wake up from the "DEAD" is now! Read this message and ask your questions about the tools at your disposal to bring in new members. Think! Be courageous. Impress us. But, more than anything else, stop your complaining and agonizing and go out and get a member.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,

Peter V. Sellars
PGM/PGP

Grand Lodge of California MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



**New members
Good times
Great food**

ALL LODGES:

GL will establish a perpetual annual membership trophy. The lodge with the greatest percentage of newly initiated members will have their lodge's name and year(s) added to the trophy. This contest runs the calendar year, Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st. The winning lodge for the prior calendar year will be announced at the annual GL Sessions in May. This trophy will be held, and should be prominently displayed, in the winner's lodge hall until a new winner is determined. The winning lodge will also receive \$2,000 to spend as they see fit. Per capita reports will be used as the basis to determine year over year membership growth. Only new, regular dues-paying lodge members will be counted, NO associate members or transfers.

LODGES WITH FEWER THAN 30 MEMBERS:

To further stimulate recruitment, GL will subsidize \$40.00 towards a recruitment breakfast, lunch or dinner for each newly initiated member. Only lodges with fewer than 30 regular members that have not increased regular membership over the past 2 years (per their per capita reports) or have added 2 or fewer members in the past 5 years are eligible. To claim this recruitment subsidy, the lodge secretary must submit a report to the GL Membership Committee for approval on a quarterly basis under the lodge seal that includes: recruiting member(s) names, newly initiated member(s) names, date of initiation, and cost of the meal including a copy of receipt.

Giving Back

SAN FRANCISCO – Each year, California Lodge #1 takes on the project of helping to feed the homeless at the Safe Harbor Homeless shelter in So. San Francisco. The group goes once a week to help serve dinner to these residents.

Safe Harbor is a part of the Samaritan House Network of services, and each year the Lodge goes one step further, and purchases turkeys and chickens and all the fixings for Samaritan House to pass out to the people most in need.

This is a very rewarding experience and the Lodge is proud to be a part of this greater giving - which is helping those most in need!



Doing Good Things

SAN FRANCISCO - Gina Gianelli Duel, long-time member of San Francisco Yerba Buena Lodge #15 and daughter of Lola Gianelli PDDGM, works in the medical field. Quoting Gina: "My dad (also an Odd Fellow) was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2000.....his journey inspired me to help my patients find the best neurologic treatment option available for them."

In 1999 Gina graduated from California University Long Beach with a B.A. in Kinesiology. In 2000 Gina found a passion for healthcare and neuroscience while working as an EMT at Saddleback, San Clemente Hospital. She began her Physician Assistant studies in 2005. Her interest and growing skill set drew her into the neurosurgical operating room with Central Wyoming Neurosurgery for 12 years. She also provided clinical evaluation and management of disorders of the spine, brain, and peripheral nerves.



In September 2017 the pull of family, California winters and Dr. Martinez brought Gina home to join the Neurology and Pain Specialty Center. She brings her extensive neurological experience to the team and her comprehensive knowledge of MRI, CT, and CT Myelograms of the spine already proved invaluable.

Gina an accomplished figure skater and is a member of the United States Ice Skating Association. She began skating at 5 and has won many gold medals over the years. During the holidays she also skated at the Oakland Arena and at Christmas would skate in Charles Schulz Christmas shows with Snoopy.

Gina is thrilled to be back in Southern California raising her beautiful 10-year-old daughter Bella but hoping to find a brain and spinal neurology job near Marin County so that she and Bella can be closer to family. In her free time she coaches girls' soccer, and is a helicopter pilot extraordinaire!

We wish Gina good luck!!!

EMBRACING I.O.O.F. HISTORY AND HONORING THOSE WHO PERISHED IN THE CIVIL WAR

SAN FRANCISCO - In August of 2018, during the most recent session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, held in Baltimore, Maryland, the celebration of the Order's 200-Years in America kicked off.

Medallions, ribbons, newly designed regalia, were all presented to begin the year of recognizing the two centuries of Odd Fellowship. The aura of the convention was one of history. A group photograph of all the Grand Representatives was taken to commemorate the gathering; after all, Odd Fellowship officially began in Baltimore.

The atmosphere of historical recognition and celebration was in the air. The State of the Order Committee presented a resolution encouraging all jurisdictions to recognize and celebrate the 200-years of Odd Fellowship.

The General Military Council (GMC) of the Odd Fellows, presented two resolutions to honor fallen Confederate soldiers in two separate locations in America. Both resolutions were passed unanimously by the Grand Representatives.

One of the resolutions permitted the Department Council of Illinois to award the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, the highest award bestowed in the Order, posthumously to the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery in Rock Island, Illinois. During the Civil War, many Confederate soldiers were held as prisoners in Rock Island, where over 1,950 perished and are buried.

The other resolution allowed that the General Military Council and the Sovereign Grand Lodge to award the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, "posthumously upon the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier buried at Beauvoir, in Biloxi, Mississippi." The Department Council in Mississippi offered to cover the cost of the jewel. In 1983, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor to the Unknown Confederate Soldier. The monument has the inscription, "Known but to God." The Great Seal of the Confederate States of America is on the top of the monument.

Members and representatives of the Order are encouraged to attend these solemn Odd Fellows events in Illinois and Mississippi. The dates for the Odd Fellows GMC event in Mississippi are February 15 & 16, 2019. The date of the Odd Fellows event in Illinois was not available. Your Grand Representatives in California can provide more information if any members wish to attend.

It should also be noted that brothers Louie Sarmiento (Philippines) and Peter V. Sellars, (Past Grand Master, CA) history buffs of the Order, will be publishing two books on the Order, in a coordinated effort, to celebrate the 200-Years of Odd Fellowship in America.

Beyond Your Lodge

For most of us, Odd Fellowship is our lodge -- our friends in our lodge; our activities within our lodge; our activities of our lodge in our community. In California, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have businesses -- great assets -- that depend on our members to help them run smoothly. These businesses depend on qualified Odd Fellows and Rebekahs serving on their boards of directors. These businesses are (1) the Odd Fellows Home of California (OFHC), (2) the California Odd Fellow and Rebekah Youth Camp aka the Three Links Camp (TLC), (3) the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California dba Rebekah Children's Services (RCS), and (4) California Odd Fellows Foundation aka the Foundation. Here is some information about each of these businesses.

Odd Fellows Home of California

The OFHC provides senior housing and care opportunities for Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and other seniors. The OFHC owns campuses in Saratoga and Napa. Both are continuing care residential communities that offer independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care. Odd Fellow and Rebekah residents are eligible for reduced charges based on the length of their membership in the Order.

Also, the OFHC has a multimillion dollar fund that offers housing assistance to non-resident Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. The annual income from the fund is used to provide the housing assistance. The day-to-day operations of the OFHC are run by a management company. The elected Board of Directors has four (4) Odd Fellows, three (3) Rebekahs and four (4) At-Large Directors. The directors serve three-year terms.

The Board meets every other month. The location of meetings alternates between Saratoga and Napa. The Board typically meets on Friday afternoons for committee meetings and the following day on Saturday for the main board meeting. Board members are reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs directors are expected to have managerial experience in business or experience in the Health Care Field and must be a member of a Lodge in good standing. At-Large

Directors are expected to have experience from the professional sector, e.g. legal, accounting, medical, or financial. At-Large Directors do not have to be members of the Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly. For more information, contact OFHC Board Chair Terry Olson at tolson3876@aol.com.

California Odd Fellow and Rebekah Youth Camp

The Three Links Camp (TLC) is located in the Sierra Nevada east of Modesto on Highway 108, just east of Mi-Wuk Village. It is at an elevation of about 4000 feet. The camp hosts an annual weeklong youth camp in the summer. Also, the camp offers sites for tent and RV camping and dorms available for stays. The camp has a swimming pool and hot showers for campers.

Group camping or events can be arranged. A disc golf course was installed and is available for a nominal fee. Pinecrest Lake is a short distance away the camp with swimming, fishing and other outdoor opportunities. The camp is a wonderful asset of the Order but is largely under-used and has much to offer us.

Every year before the annual youth camp, a work week is held. Members of the Order are asked volunteer and help with some of the annual maintenance of the camp. At the end of the work week, a camp festival is held that is open to members of the Order as well as the public.

The Board is presently a relatively hands-on board that oversees the operations of the camp. They employ a fulltime camp manager and organize the annual youth camp, work week and festival. The Board meets every other month, usually on a Saturday. During warm months, board meetings are held at the camp. During the snow season, board meetings are held in other locations. Board members are reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses.

The Board of Directors has eleven (11) elect-

ed members: four (4) Odd Fellows serving four-year terms; three (3) Rebekahs serving three-year terms; one (1) from the Grand Encampment serving a three-year term; one (1) from the Grand Ladies Encampment Auxiliary serving a three-year term; one (1) from the Department Council serving a three-year term and one (1) from the Department Association LAPM serving a three-year term.

For more information, visit the camp website at <http://www.burwur.net/IOOF/ThreeLinksCamp.html>, or contact Board member Steve Lyda at lydasf@caltel.com.

Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home of California

The Children's Home which now does business as the Rebekahs Children's Services (RCS) began in 1897 as an orphanage in Gilroy. As orphanages began being replaced with foster home services, the Home evolved into a program to provide services for foster children and families covering a variety of needs. The RCS partners with Juvenile and Family Courts and families. The acclaimed Rebekah's Culinary Institute provides training for youths and gives them experience to find employment as young adults.

The day-to-day operations of RCS are run by an outstanding management company. The Board meets every month on a Saturday at the campus in Gilroy. The elected Board members include five (5) Rebekahs serving five-year terms, four (4) Odd Fellows serving four-year terms, and two (2) At-Large Directors serving two-year terms. Board members are reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses.

For more information, visit the RCS website at <http://www.rcskids.org/> or contact Rebekah Secretary Karolinne Livingston at fr158@icloud.com.

California Odd Fellows Foundation

The Foundation owns and operates an apartment complex located in Saratoga near the Odd Fellows Home of California. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide housing opportunities to seniors and people with disabilities.

The day-to-day operations of the Foundation are run by a management company. The Board meets every other month on a Sunday. The meetings are typi-

cally held at the Foundation property in Saratoga or at the Grand Lodge office in San Jose. Board members are reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses.

The elected Board of Directors has three (3) Odd Fellows serving three-year terms, two (2) Rebekahs serving two-year terms, and two (2) At-Large Directors serving three-year terms. The At-Large Directors are expected to have experience in the fields of Construction (Licensed Contractor of any Construction Trade), Law, Accounting or Finance. At-Large Directors do not have to be members of the Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly.

For more information, contact the Foundation Board Chair Tony Pruitt at tonypruitt72@mycci.net.

We need skilled and qualified brothers and sisters to participate in the management of these valuable assets of our Order. If you or someone in your lodge would like be part of these teams, please apply. You will need to submit a Statement of Qualifications to the Grand Lodge no later than April 1st. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at dreedng@gmail.com.

With your help, we can continue to make a difference beyond our lodges.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Dave Reed
PAST GRAND MASTER

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F.
122 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126



Lodge Number or Expiration Date After Name

FIRST “JOHN SANDLIN AWARD” RECIPIENT

SOLANO COUNTY - Reserve Deputy Paul Wright receives first John Sandlin Award! John Sandlin was a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with Solano County for 20 years (1984-2004). As a 66-year-old retired U.S. Navy Officer from Vallejo, Deputy Sandlin gave up most of his Friday nights by volunteering to patrol the streets of Solano County. In addition to being involved with the Solano County Sheriff's Air Squadron, John also enjoyed the technical side of life as he helped install the emergency lights on the first OES Mobile Command vehicle.

On Friday April 23, 2004, while attempting to conduct a vehicle stop on Cordelia Road, Deputy Sandlin lost control of his vehicle and was killed in the resulting accident. Deputy Sandlin gave his life while volunteering his service for something he loved, his community. It was only proper that an annual award be established in John's honor that perpetuates his admirable service to the citizens of Solano County. Each year, an award will be presented to an individual volunteer that performs their duties with professionalism, dedication, and extraordinary excellence.

Please join us in honoring our inaugural award recipient, Reserve Deputy Paul Wright. Paul, who is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Grand Lodge of California, has been volunteering his time with the Sheriff's Office since 1980. This November marks Paul's 36th anniversary as a volunteer. Paul plays a vital role in the SWAT team, where he has dedicated his time since 1988. His commitment to the team is rivaled by none. He goes above and beyond to make sure that the SWAT vehicles and equipment are organized, serviced, equipped and ready for an emergency deployment at any moment. Paul can be counted on to be at every training day and is usually the first one there and one of the last ones to leave.

Paul not only commits his time as the SWAT equipment manager but has become the department photographer. Paul can be seen taking pictures at EVERY event, from training to our PR events and ceremonies. Paul was not asked to do this but takes it upon himself to do so and is proud to share the moments he captures. Like John Sandlin, Paul is always around to help and we are honored he is a part of the Sheriff's Office team.

