

IOOF

IOOF

ODD FELLOWS/REBEKAHS OF MAINE

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

**Traditional Duties of
an Odd Fellow Are:**

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE 2/15/2022

2023 PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB

- To visit the sick
- To relieve the distressed
- To bury the dead
- To Educate the Orphan
Helping others to build a better World

THE WREATH LAYING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 7TH 2023. IN ORDER FOR US TO PLAN A BUS TRIP FOR THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB, WE WILL NEED A HEAD COUNT OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON GOING THIS YEAR PLEASE CONTACT THE GRAND LODGE . DATES FOR THE TRIP ARE LEAVE FRIDAY 5/5/2023 RETURN MONDAY 5/8/2023. PRICE IS \$150 PER PERSON ALSO PICKING UP IN MASS AND CONNECTICUTT.

IF YOU WANT YOUR LODGES EVENTS AND PHOTOS PUBLISHED PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE GL EMAIL PREFERABLE AS A WORD DOCUMENT OR ATTACHMENTS

THE BUS WILL TAKE US TO THE CEMETERY ON SUNDAY. YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR SHUTTLE RIDE UP TO THE TOMB. PROBABLY GO OUT TO SUPPER ON SUNDAY. BREAKFAST STOP ON MONDAY AT CRACKER BARREL.

To reserve a seat on the bus, money should be in to Grand Lodge by April 15th. Bus schedule will be in the next

Newsletter



**FEBRUARY
2023**

President of the Rebekah Assembly February Letter

Greeting Sisters and Brothers,

Hope everyone is enjoying down time from traveling and taking a great needed rest. I sure have been! Spring will be here before we know it, I can't wait to see the spring flowers and feel the warm sun. Which Spring also means things start to get busy, lodges open and we get to travel and visit one another again. I will be making the first visitations to start off the busy season.

President's Visitation – March 7, 2023 – Ivy # 5

President's Visitation – March 13, 2023 – Narragansett # 145 and Olive # 21

First Regional Meeting – March 18, 2023, Narragansett #145

Snow Date – March 25, 2023

More to come in the March Newsletter

While we are still semi hibernating, I would like all lodges to start thinking of what type of fundraiser that could be done to support the Presidents Project, Cancer of Maine, Lafayette Center. Get your name out in the community at the same time. Please let me know if you start one or plan something. I will try to attend.

On that note, Rod and I have started setting tickets for a Queen Size Quilt. This raffle will be going until session in October, Drawn at the Banquet. Tickets are \$5.00 apiece. I have plenty to sell, please let me know if you would like to purchase some.

Deputies can you please send in your pin money to Ernestine MacMillan at 28. Dr. Mann Rd, Skowhegan Maine. If you haven't sold them all, just send in what you have sold so far. If you need more, please let me know I have some extra left but not many of them.

If you are an officer for me, I will be ordering Assembly Gowns in April. If you know that you won't be able to attend in October, please let me know by April, before I put in the order. I will be in contact in April about the specifics. If you are not an officer but would like to order a gown, let me know.

In F.L.T,

Gretchen Clark, President Rebekah Assembly Maine



Eighty-ninth I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns

May 5-7, 2023, Arlington, Virginia

January 2023 Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Eighty-ninth Annual Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Members of all units of the Order are encouraged to participate. The Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to provide the following information about this annual event. The 2023 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 7 at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services will begin at noon followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 1:00 p.m. changing of the guard. Please note the dates and times the program will be held this year.

The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable Michelle L. Heckart, Sovereign Grand Master. The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, at 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia, 22311, will be our headquarters. Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel, at toll-free 1-800-Hiltons (1-800-445-8667) or 1-703-845-1010. You MUST mention "Odd Fellows Pilgrimage" when reserving your room to receive the special rate of \$127 single/double, \$142 triple, and \$152 quad. All room rates are subject to applicable hotel tax. (See attached information about hotel accommodations). The annual Pilgrimage banquet will be held in the hotel on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM. (Advance ticket purchase required - see attached pre-registration form.) A social hour will be held from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. After the banquet, all present will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Honorable Michelle L. Heckart, Sovereign Grand Master, Independent Order of Odd Fellows from the Jurisdiction of Iowa, Sister Ruth A. Earle, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Michigan, and General Earl F. Wys, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of Illinois. We recommend that you schedule flights to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), the nearest airport to the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Taxi service is available. The Washington metro area is also served by Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles southwest of the Capital in Northern Virginia. Metro now serves Dulles. Please note the event could be cancelled at the last minute by the military; therefore, travel arrangements should be made accordingly. We encourage you to publicize this special annual event in your I.O.O.F. community. The contact information for the various events is listed on the reverse of this page or on the attached forms. We look forward to seeing you May 5-7, 2023, in Alexandria, Virginia. In Friendship, Love, and Truth, s/ Chuck Renninger, Chairman

HOTEL INFORMATION

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Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311

1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667)

Reservations are now being accepted and should be made as soon as possible. The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center is the headquarters hotel for the 2023 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. To receive the special rates of \$127, single/double, \$142, triple, and \$152, quad, plus hotel tax, available for the nights of May 4-8, reservations must be made no later than April 6, 2023. You must mention the "ODD FELLOWS PILGRIMAGE" when making your reservation in order to receive these rates and to obtain the specially reduced parking rate. The hotel will accept reservations on a space available basis after April 6, 2023, but not at this reduced price.

Telephone reservations are accepted at 1-703-845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667); or <https://book.passkey.com/go/ODDFELLOW2023> It is imperative that reservations are made as early as possible. Although the deadline to place a reservation is April 6, 2023, occasionally in past years the hotel has sold all the rooms set aside for the IOOF Pilgrimage at the reduced rate BEFORE the deadline. So, although a person may call to place a reservation before April 6, 2023, if there are no more rooms available AT THAT RATE, the person will be faced with a choice of reserving a room at a higher rate, if any are available, or seeking a room at another hotel. If you have any problems with hotel reservations, please call Chuck Renninger at 1-301-350-4495.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 5, 2023 3:00-6:00 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Saturday, May 6, 2023 8:00 AM-4:00 PM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 5:45-6:45 PM

CASH-BAR SOCIAL HOUR, hotel lower level 7:00 PM PILGRIMAGE BANQUET, hotel lower level. Prepaid reservations required. (See attached pre-registration form) Open seating. Dress code for men - tux, business suit, or military uniform; Dress code for women: - formal dress, street-length dress, dress suit, or military uniform. Please note times for all events.

Sunday, May 7, 2023 8:00-10:00 AM PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK open in the upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 10:30 AM BUSES LOAD-DEPART 10:45 AM promptly from the hotel lobby entrance. No cars or buses will be allowed in the cemetery. Commercial parking lot available. No exceptions.

Noon Memorial Service followed by wreath laying after 1:00 PM changing of the guard

NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR WOMEN IS PERMITTED FOR WREATH LAYING. Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform. Dress code for women: street-length dress, dress suit or Lady's military uniform. No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, open-toe shoes, etc

Eighty-ninth I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 5-7, 2023, Arlington, Virginia PRE-REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE OF TICKETS FORM ONE FORM PER PERSON PRE-REGISTRATION: 6.00 per person, pre-registration deadline: March 31, 2023. Registrations post-marked after March 31, 2023, or in-person registrations: \$10.00 per person. Any questions about registration? Contact Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee, Treasurer Wanda Smith – Phone: 1-703-590-1267 or E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK (upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center) Open Friday, May 5, 3:00-7:00 PM; Saturday, May 6, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sunday, May 7, 8:00-10:00 AM. Pre-registered participants must pick up their registration envelopes which include the Pilgrimage badge and certificate of attendance and any pre-paid tickets as requested on this form. In-person registrations are accepted. Any transportation tickets still available may be purchased.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE – ONE FORM PER PERSON - (Please copy this form as needed) PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 31, 2023

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ Address _____

_____ Lodge Membership

Jurisdiction _____ Highest Title you want printed

on the certificate _____ All

funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. NO REFUNDS. () \$ 6.00 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE available until March 31, 2023, after March 31, 2023, fee is \$10.00 () \$ 65.00 SATURDAY PILGRIMAGE BANQUET – MUST be reserved and prepaid by March 31. Unless there are canceled reservations, no additional banquet tickets will be available. () \$ 60.00 ARLINGTON CEMETERY TRANSPORTATION TICKETS – round-trip bus from the Hilton to the Visitor Center; round-trip shuttle from the visitor center to the tomb for Sunday, May 7, 2023 only. Space is limited. Unless there are cancellations, last minute transportation tickets may not be available. NO PRIVATE VEHICLES or BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE CEMETERY AND PARK. PRIVATE VEHICLE AND BUS PARKING IS AVAILABLE FOR A FEE AT THE COMMERCIAL PARKING GARAGE AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Check # _____ Amount of check _____ All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Make checks payable to: **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee and send with this form to: Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee P. O. Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195** Phone: 1-703-590-1267 E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com

Eighty-ninth I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns May 5-7, 2023, Arlington, Virginia Jurisdictional Wreath Order Form Your jurisdictional wreath must be ordered directly from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee. The cost of the wreath is US \$65.00. No other wreath option is available. Payment for the full amount (payable to Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee) must accompany this order. Only one (1) wreath per jurisdiction may be ordered. It may be placed by no more than four (4) representatives from your jurisdiction. A jurisdiction with no representative in attendance may order one wreath to be placed by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee's designee. Questions: Wanda Smith 1-703-590-1267 or Chuck Renninger 1-301-350-4495. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES MUST ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING DRESS CODES, or they will NOT be permitted to participate in laying a wreath. NO FORMAL ATTIRE FOR MEN OR FOR WOMEN IS PERMITTED. Dress code for men: business suit or military uniform. Dress code for women: street-length dress, suit or Ladies' military uniform No sandals, flip-flops, sneakers, open-toe shoes, etc. Reservation Deadline: March 31, 2023 Order forms will NOT be processed without the following information: Jurisdiction:

_____ Person ordering wreath: _____

Address:

_____ Phone # _____ Print the person's name(s) (maximum of 4) participating in wreath laying of your jurisdictional wreath: Name
 _____ Title
 _____ Name
 _____ Title
 _____ Name
 _____ Title
 _____ Name
 _____ Title

_____ OR _____ No jurisdictional representative will be in attendance. Please have our jurisdictional wreath placed by the I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage Committee's designee. Please advise members attending masks may be required for all events. All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Check # _____ Make check payable to: Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee & mail to: Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee P. O. Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195 Phone: 1-703-590-1267 or E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com

ODD FELLOWS OF MAINE

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Printed by Will's Copy Ctr. (207-985-1847) 33 Main St. Kennebunk, ME 04043



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