

IOOF

IOOF

ODD FELLOWS/REBEKAHS OF MAINE

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Note from the Assembly Treasurer:

Our Assembly books close June 30th. If any lodges or members would like to send in any monies for the Charities or any money due the Assembly, Please send in by June 15th so we may get money to all before the end of the month.

Thank you, Diddie Stay Safe

LODGE OF SORROW

Jurisdiction Lodge #1 Harold R. Beal passed away
4/10/2020.

Jurisdiction Lodge #1 Clifford L. Wiley passed away
4/16/2020.

Unity Lodge #3 Norman R. Jordan Jr. passed away
4/19/2020.

Saccarappa Lodge #11 PDC James Gochie passed away
4/23/2020.

Mariners Lodge #53 Richard H. Poland Sr. passed away
3/30/2020.

Triumph Lodge #119 John H. Smart passed away 5/7/2020.

Warren Lodge #127 Louise Lufkin passed away 5/10/2020.

Joshua Davis Lodge #145 Harland Billings passed away
5/4/2020.

Albion Lodge #149 PGP Allen Knights passed away
5/15/2020

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

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

**IF YOU WANT
YOUR LODGES
EVENTS AND
PHOTOS PUB-
LISHED PLEASE
SEND THEM TO
THE GL EMAIL
PREFERABLE AS
A WORD DOCU-
MENT OR AT-
TACHMENTS**

**JUNE
2020**



GRAND MASTER'S LETTER

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine is pleased to announce that the executive board has developed several solutions for this time during the pandemic crisis.

The board discussed many scenarios to develop several options to conduct Lodge business during this session.

The Grand Lodge will abide by all C.D.C. recommendations and guidelines and Government regulations to keep our members safe.

Lodges who wish to meet and can meet the guidelines may do so. A change to the opening ceremony, the Warden does not need to pick up the password from each member he/she can ascertain who is qualified to sit in the lodge meeting from his/her station. Flags may be posted prior to the meeting.

District meetings are optional and may be done in the fall if the lodges so desire, elections and installations are necessary but how they are accomplished may be liberally construed.

The Grand Lodge Executive Board has discussed contingency plans for the Annual Session in October.

Plan "A" the Covid-19 Pandemic will be under control and we can proceed with our session at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston as planned.

Plan "B" we will reduce our session to Saturday only, no out of jurisdiction guests will be invited, no Friday night banquet (a lunch on Saturday will be provided) we will use the Representative system where each lodge will select someone to attend the session, one representative per lodge. Only the Representatives, elected Grand Lodge Officers and PGMs would be able to attend the session and vote.

Plan "C" we will reduce our session to an electronic meeting on Saturday only, no out of jurisdiction guests will be invited, no Friday night banquet, we will use the Representative system where each lodge will select someone to log into the session, only one representative per lodge. Only the Representatives, elected Grand Lodge Officers and PGMs would be able to log in to the session and vote.

The location for the session in plan "B" will have to be determined depending on conditions in October.

Any PG or PNG wishing to take the Grand Lodge Degree should contact the Grand Secretary ASAP so a time and place can be arranged.

David Gulya

Grand Master

From the Office of the Sovereign Grand Master Independent Order of Odd Fellows

25 April 2020

To all units of Odd Fellowship:

Greetings,

The safety, health and welfare of our members, workers, and visitors is of the utmost importance to Odd Fellowship. We want you to know that we are monitoring all recommendations and updates from government officials surrounding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). The first priority for everyone is to take appropriate steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure our communities remain healthy.

Lodges that need to be open should take the necessary extra steps to ensure their spaces are clean and safe for the membership and visitors. We want to encourage everyone to follow guidance from public health officials regarding social distancing and proper health etiquette if and when visiting and public spaces. (Many of you are under the direction from state, provincial and city governments to not gather in groups greater than 5 or in some cases 10; as well as shelter in place, mask and social distancing.) Be sure to wear your mask.

As stated before: many of our membership are of a mature age and are concerned about both their health and the continuity of their lodge work. I hereby give dispensation for those lodges who feel they need to go dark to do so without penalty for the duration of this pandemic. Be sure to inform your Grand Body office. We have had notice from many of the Grand Bodies that they have either canceled a session for 2020 or have moved to a date in the future of their regular meeting time.

In the meantime, be diligent to call your shut-ins and keep in touch with the active members, be it phone, Facebook, etc.

First and foremost, prioritize and take all health and welfare precautions for yourself and others in your community. Health as a whole depends on working together, and our lodges and communities are the lifeblood of the Order. We want to make sure they continue to stay successful while maintaining appropriate public health safety measures.

Fraternally,

s/E. Wesley Nelson Sovereign Grand Master

Attest: s/ Terry L. Barrett Sovereign Grand Secretary

President's Letter

May 27, 2020

Hello again to all Rebekahs; here is my Newsletter for May. I hope everyone is well and staying hidden from Covid-19. I know it can't find two people for sure! Can you guess who?

The Governor of Maine, Janet Mills, has relaxed requirements a little bit but she has not specifically addressed public gatherings and/or meetings. Since we are nearing the end of the year when the Assembly books are closed (June 30, 2020) I will issue a blanket disposition that all Lodges can hold a meeting to get caught up on any bills or important mail that has come up, to date, or any other business that needs to be tended to. You will need to follow the guidelines that are already in place!

1. Maintain Social Distancing of 6 feet between chairs and disinfect them BEFORE and AFTER use.
2. Wear a mask, during the meeting, that covers your NOSE and FACE to protect yourself from coughs and sneezes from another person.
3. Wash your hands often; Sing the Happy Birthday song twice is what they tell me to do.
4. Attendance is limited to 10 people, or less, so you can't go over this amount for now.

I realize the following 4 Counties (Cumberland, York, Androscoggin, Penobscot) have not been opened up, to anything, but Lodges in these Counties may hold a meeting, of 10 people or less, to get business taken care of before June 30, 2020. Follow the guidelines mentioned above please. As the CDC says Covid-19 is still around and it doesn't care who or when it strikes!

My Sincere condolences are being sent to Mura Knights, Marilee Perkins-VP, Glenda Knights on the loss of their Husband and Father. If there is anything that I can do for you please let me know. Alan will surely be missed in our wonderful Fraternity. Stay strong all of you.

Diddie Barry, our Assembly Treasurer, would like me to remind all Lodgers that she needs to receive any money that needs to be sent to her, BY JUNE 15, 2020, so she can get everything deposited and in the bank before June 30, 2020. Thank you for your help with this. You might even get a Happy Face instead of a Sad Face on your return envelope! Diddie, how about dinner for everyone if we all comply?? It surely sounds good to me!

Also, to my wonderful District Deputies, I will need any pin money that you have, sent to me BY JUNE 10, 2020 so I can get this recorded and sent along to Diddie by June 15, 2020. I will be calling each of you to check in with you. You can keep any pins you have left and continue to sell them; I just need the count on these as well.

This is all the news that I have for this month so please, everyone, stay safe and don't let Covid-19 find you! Remember we are all in this together.

In FL &T,

Joyce Young, President

*Remember "Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a Gift. This is why it is called the Present.

To all members of the order please read the SGM's letter on page #7.

I have been in contact with the Ramada Inn in Lewiston and they are still able to accommodate us for our October session. I told them that with the Covid-19 crises we may have to change a few things in the contract, they seemed willing to work with us. They agreed to keep in contact with us and wait to see what the Governor issues for rules.

In FL&T

Michael Anderson

Grand Secretary

CALLING ALL PAST PRESIDENTS:

Do you have your framed photo from when you were President? If so and you are willing to part with it. I am making a wall in the Grand Lodge office for our photos. I would love to place your photo on the wall of Past Presidents to go next to our plaques. I would be happy to pick it up from you. I can be reached at (207) 653-5285 or dhary19@gmail.com.

Thank you
Deb Harney, PP

If you have any items for the newsletter and would like to put them in, but have no way to get them in the proper format so they can be added. I will be happy to help you with this. You can mail the information to me and I will type it up and send it to Michael. Items for the newsletter need to be in either a Word Document attached to your email or typed into the body of the email. We have space so lets use it. If you have photos you would like to put in please attach them to the email so Michael can add them newsletter. Items should be to Michael Anderson, GL Secretary no later than the 10th of each month. If you have any questions please let me know or contact Michael.

Thank you
Deb Harney, Asst. Secretary

If anyone has the Assembly Secretaries regalia please contact Kera Ashline, Assembly Secretary. It has an emblem of a quill pen on it. Kera's number is 207-384-2626

Thank you
Deb.

NOTE!!

Photos are put in as space allows, usually I can put in one or two. If they are in a format that will not fit properly to the page then I won't be able to use them.

Mike GS

**THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF
ODD FELLOWS** **3 June 2020**

To the Grand Representatives and Grand Representatives-elect, Officers and Past Officers of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Officers and Members of the I.A.R.A., GMC & I.A.L.A.P.M. and, All Grand Bodies of the Order .

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the restrictions in place from the current Covid 19 Pandemic with regard to social distancing in place and the fact that the Hotels and Convention Center are not open at this time with no definite date to do so, the Executive Committee has communicated via Zoom and agreed that it is not practical or safe for our membership to travel and/or meet this year.

A majority of the Grand Representatives of record are in agreement to not meet.

Future Sessions: the Twin City Quarter has agreed and is pleased and willing to have our convention in 2022 – originally we were scheduled to be in Des Moines, IA in 2022, but the jurisdiction has asked to switch to 2023 and the Executive Committee is in agreement. 2021 Cincinnati, Ohio: 2022 Winston-Salem, North Carolina: 2023 Des Moines, Iowa.

The Hotels ask that you cancel your rooms, if you cannot find your confirmation number or are having difficulty in making contact e-mail: ioofthesgl@ioof.org and we will assist as best possible.

Stay Safe and Healthy.

Fraternally,

The Executive Committee:

E. Wesley Nelson, Charles L. ‘Chuck’ Lusk, Michelle L. Heckart, Terry L. Barrett, Harless A. Turner, & Douglas E. ‘Doug’ Pittman.

ODD FELLOWS OF MAINE

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