



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

October 31, 2012

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

At the 2011 Grand Lodge Sessions, a number of important resolutions were passed, with hefty majorities, and adopted by the representatives of our Lodges, and became the policy of Odd Fellowship in California. Among the three resolutions were three that are vitally important to the future growth and evolution of our Order.

Has your Lodge implemented these three resolutions?

### **Encouraging Community Works**

This resolution encouraged and emphasized community outreach, community visibility, and good community and charitable works by individual Lodges - in their own communities. Each Lodge in California was encouraged to undertake at least two Odd Fellows community and charitable projects per year in their local venues.

### **Good Fellowship**

This resolution encouraged and emphasized good fellowship activities within each Lodge. Examples given include (but are not limited to) Lodge dinners, Lodge trips, game nights, movie nights, Lodge socials, etc. Individual Lodges were encouraged to undertake at least four such good fellowship activities each year for the fraternal and social benefit of members.

### **Open Meetings**

This resolution encouraged and emphasized Lodge meetings open to family members, prospective Lodge members, and invited members of the public, to enable these guests to gain knowledge about the worthwhile programs and activities being presented and sponsored by the Lodge (without revealing any of the ritualistic, unwritten work and passwords of the Order). Lodges were encouraged to hold at least six such open meetings each year.

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These three resolutions emphasize the new direction that Odd Fellowship must take in order to survive and even flourish in the 21st Century. This emphasis is encouraged by Sovereign Grand



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Lodge and by our own Grand Lodge. No longer should our Lodge members sit in Lodges closed off to the world. We must reach out to our communities in positive ways, and we must increase our visibility and relevance. When we do good works in our own community, when we undertake social events and programs for our members, and when we expose our Lodges to prospective members, we will grow.

Look, let's be frank. Since World War II, our Order's membership has declined - dropped like a stone, actually. In California, today, we have a paid membership in Odd Fellows of about 4,000 (and we all know that that means about 2,000 "active" members) - and we had about 50,000 in the 1940's. Year after year after year after year, our numbers drop. The decline has been a shocking 90% of our membership in the last 60-plus years. Yet in all that time, most of our Lodges have hardly changed the way they do business. Brothers and sisters - we can't keep doing what we've been doing for the past 60-plus years and expect a different result.

As some wags have said, the definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. It's time to stop the insanity. It's time to evolve. It's time to change.

By implementing the three resolutions in our Lodges, we will go a long way forward in that evolution.

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Dave Rosenberg