



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

May 26, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

As a result of our recent Grand Lodge sessions earlier this month, we have added quite a few new "dedicated members" to this e-mail matrix. Welcome aboard! By way of a little history, Dedicated Members for Change (or DMC as we often call it) was the brainchild of Don Smith (PGM of California and PSGM), Rick Boyles (the current Grand Master of California), and me (the current Grand Warden of California). It was launched on December 13, 2010, and was aimed at one and only one goal: Focusing this Order on the need to add new members and suggesting ways and methods to do so. No more, and no less.

Three generations of steady declines in our membership are unacceptable, and must be reversed. And I predict that within the next 2 or 3 years, our Order in California will actually show a net gain, not a loss, in members. We have already had some small impact because in 2012, our loss of members number was smaller than in prior years. And we actually showed a gain in the number of women in Odd Fellows in California (this was more than offset, however, in our loss of men). Our numbers in California have now fallen to under 4,500 dues-paying members. We can't stand these steady, yearly losses of our members (and Lodges) much longer.

I am delighted to see our DMC ranks grow, and I am delighted to welcome the new additions to our e-mail list. If you know of any brothers and sisters who share our goal and who would like to be added to our e-mail list, please send me their names and e-mail addresses and we will be pleased to add them.

At the Grand Lodge sessions, that ended earlier this month, voting representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution submitted by Brother Randy Krassow (that he was kind enough to run by me prior to submission) that will be an important step forward in achieving our goal. This resolution sets aside \$50,000 per year (for three consecutive years) which will be made available to Lodges for membership development. Application forms will soon be available and Lodges can submit applications (and plans) to receive up to \$1,000 per Lodge. The applications will be reviewed by our Grand Lodge membership committees (both the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Board of Directors have membership committees). So, stay tuned to this important development. This new program is in addition to the "Membership Challenge Grant Program" which I submitted a couple of years ago, and which was approved at a prior Grand Lodge session. The Membership Challenge Grant Program will provide a Lodge up to \$50 for each new member it brings in, and an additional \$50 for each such new member who attains his/her three degrees.



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Ultimately, bringing in new members is a job for each of us, individually, assisted by our Lodge mates. We can't rely on "the other guy or gal" to do it. WE have to do it.

But here's the rub. NO ONE wants to join a Lodge where the members only sit around in formal meetings once or twice a month, maybe put on an occasional potluck and really don't do much else. Men and women of the 21st Century will join Lodges where the focus is not just on ritual, but also on having a good social network within the Lodge (fun activities for the members) and active community involvement (good works within the town). If you visit www.davislodge.org, you will find two articles I have written on the subject. They are under the heading "About the Odd Fellows" - one article offers 10 helpful hints to bring in new members, and the other suggests a 3-year plan to grow a Lodge.

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Dave Rosenberg