



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

June 10, 2013

Dave

Thank you so much for your warm welcome and for this very wonderful background material. I have even started reading the big book you wrote about rejuvenating IOOF. I really enjoyed the meeting. There was a wonderful sense of caring and respect that permeated the entire experience. So, yes, I am very much interested in membership. I filled out a brief application form at the meeting Saturday.

Thank you again for your many kindnesses.

Joel

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Above is a brief e-mail note that I received yesterday from the most recent applicant for membership to the Davis Lodge. Because Odd Fellows is, ultimately, a fraternal order, we call these applicants "Pledges" when they submit their official application form. We have had so many applicants over the past few years that we have placed them into a Fall Pledge Class and a Spring Pledge Class, and the Pledge period takes at least six months. In other words, from the time they apply, till the time they are interviewed by committee, voted on by the Lodge members, and formally initiated, a good half year goes by. And the Pledges stay quite busy during this time.

We have a fair number of "social meetings" at my Lodge. Social meetings are permitted, and frankly, encouraged in our order. Of course, no ritual or secrets of the order are revealed at these meetings. But we find that they are very conducive to exposing our Lodge to our community, potential applicants, applicants, and Pledges. Joel, above, was invited to one of our Saturday morning breakfast social meetings. He got to meet members, see the Lodge, and be exposed to our planning for social events and community works. For example, at the meeting Joel attended, he heard us talk about planning an event to assist two of our members (a young husband and wife) with their plans to travel to Korea to adopt a baby. He saw us introduce a young lady who grew up in the foster system and was now accepted to attend law school (and to whom we had just given a \$10,000 scholarship). He heard one of our older members introduce two young boys



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whom she had just taken in as a foster parent. And he heard us discuss the use of proceeds from our Breakfast with Santa event, which benefits foster children and young adults recently emancipated from the foster system. And much more.

I sent Joel a substantial amount of background material on our Lodge and on our Order. Impressed with who we were and what we are doing, Joel filled out the application form, and he is now a Pledge. Our current Fall 2013 Pledge Class is full up (with 18 men and women) so Joel will be included in our Spring 2014 Pledge Class. We expect our Pledges to attend our social meetings and events, to join our committees, and to participate in the work of the Lodge - learning who we are and what we do. We don't make it easy. Our Pledges have to attend a minimum number of events, and have to "interview" a certain number of members so that we get to know them and they get to know us. Our current Pledge class originally had 35 members - we are now down to 18. But these 18 are knowledgeable and committed. They won't join and leave, or join and disappear. They will participate in our Lodge and in our works.

Parenthetically, I have also invited Joel's wife to apply. We have many husbands and wives in our Lodge. It's good for them and it's great for our Lodge.

And what is significant - as Joel points out in his e-mail - he saw the "sense of caring and respect" that permeates our Lodge. That's really important to us and to me. "Friendship, Love and Truth" can't just be hollow words we mouthed. They must be words to live by and respect.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg