



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

August 12, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

In this DMC Newsletter I have included, as an attachment, an article by Ron Carrey, a dedicated member from California Lodge #! in San Francisco. It's an important article because it shows how ONE MEMBER can be the spark to make a difference in a Lodge. If you are that "one member" don't lose heart and don't give up.

Change can happen - even in this ancient and storied fraternal order - if you have the will, the drive, and the perseverance to help your Lodge evolve.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg, GW

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I thought I would tell you a few things about our lodge, California Lodge No. 1 San Francisco. I joined the Lodge on May 18, 1988. The Lodge only had about 70 members. In 1989, we elected a new Vice Grand, John Fraher. Max Link Jr. became our Noble Grand, because our old Vice Grand couldn't go on to Noble Grand. John had only been a member a little over one year and served as Right Supporter to the Vice Grand in 1988. . Now John was the Vice Grand. Forget all the rules, there just wasn't anyone else. The lodge was fortunate because John was well organized and not afraid to speak his mind. It was business as usual at Concordia Lodge No. 122. San Francisco, for a while. We were originally Concordia Lodge No. 122, then took the California Lodge No. 1 name in 1990.

In 1988, when John was Right Supporter to the Vice Grand, John stood up at one of our meeting and said "If this lodge doesn't change, I am just going to quit!!" I am married with 2 children; there is just no reason for me to be here. I wouldn't invite any of my relatives or friends to ever join this lodge". Lucky for the lodge and membership and the order we had a father and son team. The father was a great salesman and motivator. The son was a strong leader and was willing to change. The father and son were, of course, Max Link Jr. and his son Ray Link. Max asked John what he needed to stay on as a member of Concordia Lodge No. 122. John said he needed a budget and money, allocated to membership and growing the lodge. John said he couldn't do this without a budget and money for Membership Events, it would take an investment. The lodge had waited too long to try and rebuild membership and now was on a



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downward spiral. John felt with some money and a budget, he could recruit members. It would take a Membership Program with Socials and Charity events.

John presented a program with a budget. He wanted monthly newsletters, monthly socials and events. He wanted the lodge to be the place to be. John knew he couldn't do this alone. He got his two brothers to join and he got me to join. He knew the way to my heart was good food and reasonable prices. John got his budget and his money to set up a membership program. He came out with his monthly newsletter the "Barbary Coast Express" this would keep the whole lodge membership informed of coming events. In 1988, when John was Right Supporter to the Vice Grand, In his October 1988 issue of the "Barbary Coast Express" he made a prediction "He would be able to increase membership from 70 members in January 1987 to 120 by October of 1988". He was able to exceed this goal by October 1988. He was followed by his brother Phil Fraher, who became Vice Grand. After Phil I became Vice Grand. John ideas were followed and improved on.

Some of the Philosophies of California Lodge No. 1. That were applied in Johns Programs:

1. All Elected Officers are Volunteers and receive no salary during their term.
2. There will be a treats budget to provide dinner after meetings to provide those members who work and show up for meetings some appreciation. These dinners will be made by 24 different members, assigned by the Vice Grand. They will be free and better, than a meal you can buy.
3. There will be a Newsletter, e-mail and a phone calls about upcoming events.
4. There will be a Membership Committee and Chairman, with a budget.
5. There will be a Charity Committee and Chairman, with a budget. This will insure that all donations will be given equal consideration. The Charity Committee must approve all motions for donations over \$100.00. The Charity Committee has a Mission Statement: " California Lodge No. 1 will only give donations to **Odd Fellow and Rebekah Charities** or public charities that are members and lodge **are willing to work on**".
6. A California Lodge No. 1 Board of Directors was formed and meets quarterly. The Board was formed to handle lodge problems and streamline the Business Meetings.
7. All Brothers and Sisters are equal. A member just initiated, will be treated as well as a 50 year member. An example: An initiated member will receive the same benefit as a 50 year member. There is no age discrimination.

John's Recruiting, Unbelievable!!

John's wife is a member. All of John's brothers are members. John's sisters are members. One of his sisters was the First Catholic nun to join the order. John's two daughters are members. Almost all of John's brother and sister in laws are members. Johns father in law and mother in



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law are members. John felt that if your lodge is good enough, your own family would want to join.

**Remarkable similarities between California Lodge No. 1 and Davis Lodge No.169.
Successful Membership Programs.**

Brother David Rosenberg joined Davis Lodge No. 169 in 2004, they had about 35 members and could barely muster 12 for a meeting. He became Vice Grand in 2005, shortly after he joined. Then he became Noble Grand when the Noble Grand resigned. He began to implement his ideas on how to grow the Lodge. Now his Davis Lodge (8 years later) has over 200 members. Davis Lodge has 22 applicants for membership in waiting. He knows that his approach to membership works.

Doesn't make you wonder that two different brothers from two different lodges could both improve their lodges membership programs, but did it with their own approach. They were not completely familiar with the Odd Fellows Programs, that have failed to gain members since 1928.

In. F.L. & T.

Ron Carrey
California Lodge No. 1
Grand Lodge Membership Committee.