



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

October 27, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

About a week ago, I sent out a DMC Newsletter highlighting a significant number of changes that have taken place in Odd Fellowship over the centuries, decades and years. And there have certainly been a lot of them! Well, that one newsletter has generated a plethora of memories and reminiscences from some of our long-time members. Here is a sampling of the recollections and reflections:

Past Grand Master Gene Breeland writes: "There was a time when an applicant had to be under 55 years of age. It was part of the questioning on the application. The reason was the payment of death benefits."

Long time Odd Fellows Homes of California Board Member Jerry Worth muses: "Yes, I know most of these. I attended an Odd Fellow/Rebekah meeting (they had merged) in London in 1957 that was held over a bar, and served liquor. I was black-balled by the Napa Lodge for membership (transfer from San Mateo) around 1980. The Grand Master closed our monthly dances in San Mateo because we served liquor. And a good friend of mine could not sign the application to join the Junior Lodge because he was not of 'full white blood' (I convinced him no one cared and he joined anyway). He is still a member 60 years later. Many things may have been 'normal' for the times, but certainly are out of place several years later."

Grand Instructor Peter Sellars adds: "If I had time to sit down long enough, I could give you several more changes we have had over the years. Heck, just in the last 15 years, we removed the alter from the center of the floor, stopped giving the signs to the VG, and allowed alcohol to be served in a hall, changed degrees to DVD's, universally (however, not codified) accepted DDGM's and NG's not knowing the Unwritten Work, women are now allowed to join Lodges, we have made numerous changes to our Roberts Code of California Laws which have given self-control to the Rebekahs (it wasn't this way before 1999)."

The history of Odd Fellowship is, in fact, a history of evolution and change to fit the times. Unquestionably, more evolution and change is needed to keep this Order vibrant and alive in the 21st Century.

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Dave Rosenberg, Grand Warden

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Our mover-and-shaker in the Philippines, Louie Sarmiento, has forwarded a link which you should check out. Here are Louie's thoughts, and the link:



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Louie Sarmiento: "Has there been a lack of interest to attend meetings and participate in the activities of the Lodge? Has there been a lack of applications for membership? Is your Lodge suffering from an aging membership? Has your lodge failed to carry out some of the obligations and principles of Odd Fellowship? Here are some tips and steps that your Lodge can try. Click or copy link below to view power-point".

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/162938226/Tips-and-Steps-on-How-to-Add-New-Life-to-Your-Lodge>