



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

March 27, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

I have often stated in this newsletter that the the DMC has three, and only three, goals. Those goals are: Membership, membership, and membership. We do our best to keep the issue of our declining membership in the forefront. We focus our attention on ways and methods to help members and Lodges achieve the goal of increasing membership. We are, essentially, a "think tank" and a vehicle to exchange good ideas and best practices about membership development.

Along those lines, the 10-member Membership Committee of the Grand Lodge, under the active and able leadership of Peter Sellars, has developed a membership grant program which has energized and recharged this Order in California. This membership grant program gives California Lodges an opportunity to submit specific proposals regarding events and activities targeted to increase membership and to obtain seed money to fund those plans. No one is telling the Lodges what to do or how to do it. The proposals are as creative, different and diverse as the individual Lodges that submit them. And the proposals can be submitted as simply as an e-mail or a one-page letter identifying the plan to increase membership.

The Membership grant program, surprisingly, started a bit slow, with only about 10 Lodges taking advantage of it, but since we mentioned the program in this DMC Newsletter a couple of months ago, the program has doubled in the number of applicants and recipients. Currently, 21 of our Lodges in California have taken advantage of the program and have received membership grants of up to \$1,000. That's 10 per cent of our California Lodges. And every one of the proposals received funding.

This is a success story, and we will see those 21 Lodges growing over the next year. Kudos to the 21, identified below.

But a concern remains:

Why didn't the other 100 California Lodge apply for a membership grant? As I pondered this question, I could come up with only four possibilities: (1) They didn't read their e-mails or letters from Grand Lodge and, to this day, are unaware of the grant program; or (2) Through inertia they just never got around to applying; or (3) The Lodge could not come up with a membership development proposal, or no one in the Lodge remains who is competent to submit a proposal; or (4) The Lodge is not interested in bringing in new members.



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Assuming your Lodge may NOW be interested in submitted a proposal to the Membership Committee at this time, please feel free to so by e-mailing to Peter Sellars at ioofsf@earthlink.net. The request should include the among of funds sought (up to \$1,000) and a specific proposal for an activity or event that your Lodge wishes to do with the target of increasing your membership. It's that simple.

The following Lodges, so far, were awarded membership grants during the fiscal year. All 10 members of the membership committee evaluated each grant proposal and awarded the grants accordingly. Below, is a listing of the Lodges that were awarded the grants:

Sycamore Lodge #129	\$950.00
Bay City Lodge #71	\$890.00
Petaluma Lodge #30	\$900.00
Morse Lodge #257	\$980.00
Euclid Lodge No.	\$950.00
Grafton Lodge #293	\$750.00
Santa Paula Lodge #	\$970.00
Stanislaus Lodge #170	\$1000.00
Saratoga Lodge #428	\$1000.00
Davis Lodge #169	\$980.00
Yerba Buena Lodge #15	\$970.00
Mountain View Lodge #244	\$950.00
California Lodge #1	\$970.00
Mission Peak Lodge #114	\$970.00
San Pablo Lodge #43	\$960.00
Berkeley Lodge #270	\$900.00
El Dorado Lodge #8	\$1000.00
Sacramento Lodge #2	\$1000.00



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True Fellowship Lodge 52 \$1000.00

Coulterville Lodge #104 \$800.00

Suisun Lodge #78 \$900.00

If you don't see YOUR Lodge listed, find out why not! And note, it's not too late to have your Lodge apply.

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Dave Rosenberg
Grand Warden