



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

April 22, 2014

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

In these DMC Newsletters, I have often espoused a three-dimensional approach to Odd Fellowship, which focuses on: (1) the rich history, ritual and traditions of our ancient Order; (2) community outreach and involvement by our members and Lodges; and (3) an active social agenda within our Lodges for the benefit of our members. It is my opinion that each of these three dimensions is a necessary component for a truly vibrant and successful Lodge, will fulfill the needs of our members, and will help us bring in new members. Each of these three dimensions is important and should not be ignored or diminished.

Today, we focus on the first dimension: the rich history, ritual and traditions of our Order which make us uniquely Odd Fellows. Our brother, Louie Sarmiento, the spark plug in the development of Odd Fellowship in the Philippines, has submitted some thoughts on this subject, and has developed a great little video. Please make sure to watch it, and share it with your Lodge mates!

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Dave Rosenberg
Grand Warden

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

One of the problems within I.O.O.F and outside I.O.O.F is the lack of communication and lack of education among members and the public (non-members) about our Order. We sometimes meet members who know nothing about the Odd Fellows, its history and its principles. As a result, they do not practice true Odd Fellowship because they really have no idea what we are about. We sometimes witness members who are fighting or gossiping against each other. Members who are in for the money or the medals they receive. Members who are in for the title and what will benefit them and not what is for the good of the order. This is because these members failed to understand what Odd Fellowship probably because the members before them failed to teach and mentor them. We have members who cannot even answer questions of non-



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members about our Order. How can we convince non-members to join when a lot of us do not even know what our Order is?

Because it is important to honor our history, heritage and principles, it is important for our members to know about Odd Fellowship and our roots. Because of the popularity of conspiracy theories and the accepted fact that very few people know about the Odd Fellows, it is really a need to educate the public. There is nothing secret about us other than our ancient mode of communication. So who are the Odd Fellows? When and why were they founded? What do they believe in and stand for? Learn by watching short video

below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyCBDopOLi8&feature=youtu.be>

Please feel free to share this video link to your lodge members, your friends, your family or prospective members. Because of lack of proper equipment and lack of opportunity to take videos to be used for this clip, I just used some videos posted on youtube.com by our members throughout the world to come up with this short video. If I used some of your video clips or photos, thank you.

May we become more dedicated members in this Order. Stop the hate and just spread FLT.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Brother Louie