



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

October 14, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

The essence of our Odd Fellows Order are the three words, symbolized by the three links: Friendship, Love, and Truth. If all of us Odd Fellows continuously practiced those three words in our daily lives, I suspect most - perhaps all - of our Lodge disagreements would evaporate.

The quest for new members should not be a cause for dissension in our Lodges. Rather, it should be recognized as the necessary component of fraternal life. New members not only enrich our lives, but new members are absolutely essential to the survival of our Order. Please read Grand Master Rick Boyle's attached article. It contains important messages for all of us.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg, Grand Warden

### He Said She Said and the Fragility of Human Relationships

In our order and in the world at large, issues are normally raised where a person takes offense at what another person has said. Many of us are often insensitive, and all of us can say things damaging to others, sometimes without even realizing that we have done such a thing. Whether we realize it or not, feelings can be hurt, and mending feelings can often be a difficult task. So then, it becomes incumbent upon all of us to realize that saying we are sorry is just a natural progression in a social exchange. I personally have often said things I wish I could retract, so I often take the opportunity to apologize to those whom I feel that I have offended. This does not emasculate a man as some seem to think but rather it frees up our minds to move on to other more pressing concerns and to arrive at more crucial decisions. If all we do is stonewall with one another we get what we pay for which is abject silence and bruised feelings without a cure. It should go without saying that our order is quickly shrinking and to do combat with each other does nothing but amplify the shrinkage.

We must have a meeting of the minds. Most, if not all of us want new members. If we don't want new members, we must ask ourselves what we do want. Our order will fail completely if we don't come to realize that we need one another. Doing battle with all of our brothers and sisters does our order no good whatsoever. We are all volunteers many of us put in long hours, and drive many miles with little or no recompense. We need to keep that in mind. Some of us



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are barely able to afford to drive another mile and yet much is expected of us to keep us in the traditions of the order. However, I feel that our order has lost its way due to these types of expectations. I speak to many members on my journeys and many will say that they would never undertake an officer position because of the costs involved. Yet others whom may have done it in a previous year seem to imply that the next officer must fulfill the same expectations without question even to the point of personal ruination. To be perfectly frank, my position is not an easy one, nor are the other officer positions, and yet there are those who will always question an officer's sincerity or their ability to fulfill their positions. Anyone who has served in a state position can relate the difficulty of the position, the almost constant bombardment of both lodge and statewide issues, and the fact that we expect our officers to travel hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles without complaint or without a slip of the tongue, is almost expecting superhuman behavior. We are all human, and all of us who are human should not only expect good behavior but also give it.

Let's remember that all of us mean well, no matter how we feel about a certain individual. Clearly, there are controlling individuals, but if their primary objective is control, you get what you pay for there as well. What in the Odd Fellows is there really to control? Our order is quickly shrinking. Our lodges are getting to the point where many close really due to their inability to sustain a quorum. If we don't start to treat each other with compassion and understanding, we may fail altogether. Let's try and return our atmosphere to the basic tenets of friendship, love and truth, and then perhaps we can see that all of us are fallible, all of us seek acceptance, and all of us are human, all too human.

In F., L., & T., Rick Boyles, Grand Master.