



Davis Odd Fellows

www.DavisLodge.org

Member's Handbook

Davis Lodge Number 169
Independent Order of
Odd Fellows

(Updated August 2014)

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Welcome to Davis Lodge Number 169 Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Welcome to the Lodge of the Davis Odd Fellows, known officially as Davis Lodge Number 169, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Did you know that the Davis Odd Fellows is **the oldest organization in the City of Davis?** Yes, it's true. Odd Fellows was established in Davis in 1870—just five years after the end of the Civil War—and has been here longer than the City of Davis or the University of California at Davis. The original Odd Fellows Lodge Hall was located on G Street in Downtown Davis and was established in 1875. This first Lodge was sold to the Masons many years ago and is presently occupied by offices and retail. The current Lodge Hall was occupied in 1955 and is located in Downtown Davis at 415 Second Street. In 2006-2012 the Lodge underwent a major renovation and refurbishing. The Hall is available for community events, and we are very proud of its new look.

Davis Odd Fellows are part of a national and worldwide organization. Our focus is community support and charitable giving. We have provided significant financial support over the years to local organizations as diverse as Pine Tree Gardens (to assist the program supporting persons with mental illness), the Concilio of Yolo County (for scholarships for Hispanic youth), Martin Luther King Day Committee (to assist in their annual event celebrating this great American), the Yolo County Multi-disciplinary Interview Center (helping abused children), Community Employment Services (helping developmentally disabled adults find and keep jobs), Yolo County Hospice (helping ease the transition from this life).

Many great men and women have served as Odd Fellows. Did you know that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was an Odd Fellow, and that the New Deal was created based on Odd Fellow principals? Other notable Odd Fellows include Earl Warren and Leland Stanford, several Presidents of the United States and Governors of California.

Over 230 members make Davis Odd Fellows the vibrant, exciting organization that it is. With our newly remodeled Lodge Hall right in the heart of Davis, we intend to continue to enjoy each other's company, and to be active and involved in our community.

Dave Rosenberg, Past Grand
Chair, Membership and Initiation Committee
Davis Lodge # 169
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

History and Facts About the Odd Fellows

History

The Odd Fellows is one of the oldest world-wide fraternal orders. Some books actually claim to trace Odd Fellowship back to Roman times when members of the Roman Legions in England were called “Fellow Citizens”, but that sort of claim is speculation, at best. What is said to be the earliest printed record of an Odd Fellows Lodge appears in a reference to a Lodge meeting at a Globe Tavern in England in 1748. The Lodge number was nine, so apparently there were at least nine associated Odd Fellows Lodges at that time.

How did “Odd Fellows” get its name? The generally accepted belief is that it stemmed from 18th Century England where lodges and fraternal orders were founded to foster and advance a particular profession, and it was “odd” to find people of various professions organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and pursuing projects for the benefit of mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called “Odd Fellows.” Odd Fellows are also known as “The Three Link Fraternity” which stands for Friendship, Love and Truth.

Odd Fellowship started in England and it is still active there. Odd Fellows came to the United States through the work of an Englishman who came to this country. Thomas Wildey, founder of Odd Fellowship in North America, was a man of immense vitality, humor, and warmth. He was born in London, England, in 1772. He was left an orphan five years later—and the Odd Fellow pledge to “Educate the Orphan” sprang from his personal childhood experiences. At the age of 14, Wildey went to live with an uncle. After he had 9 years of schooling, he became an apprentice to a maker of coach springs. He joined the Odd Fellows in England in 1804. Restlessness brought Thomas Wildey to America in 1817. The British, however, were still unpopular in the States because of the War of 1812. In 1817, Baltimore, where Wildey settled, was suffering both a yellow fever epidemic and mass unemployment. Wildey missed companionship so he advertised in the newspaper to determine if there were any other Odd Fellows in Baltimore. He requested that they meet him at the Seven Stars Inn. On April 26, 1819, Wildey and the four men who responded to the advertisement met and began a process that would lead to the formation of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America, dedicating the Order to achieve philanthropic goals. Other Englishmen who were Odd Fellows had grouped in the States along the Eastern Seaboard, and Wildey gathered them all into the newly formed fraternity. He traveled widely to set up Lodges in the most recently settled parts of the country. At the time of his death in 1861, there were more than 200,000 members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows all across North America.

The Odd Fellows were the first organization that organized Lodges for women through the Rebekah Order way back in 1851. Schuyler Colfax, Vice

President of the United States under Ulysses S. Grant, was the force behind the movement. Odd Fellows were also the first group to form Homes for their aged members and the first such home was in Pennsylvania. Odd Fellows also have Lodges for boys and girls, Junior Odd Fellows and Theta Rho, as well as youth camps—including summer camps in California.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has been active in California since September 9, 1849, one year before California Statehood and eleven years before the start of the Civil War. At that time, California Lodge Number 1 was established in San Francisco. There are over 300 Lodges in California today, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California, and (nationally) the Sovereign Grand Lodge located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Yolo Lodge Number 169 (now called the “Davis Lodge”) was chartered in 1870, well before there was a City of Davis and a University of California at Davis. The Davis Lodge is the oldest, continuously operated organization in Davis. The first IOOF Lodge Hall in Davis was constructed in 1875 and was located on G Street. The second IOOF Lodge Hall is the current Hall at 415 Second Street, and was constructed in 1955. The Lodge Hall and surrounding buildings is jointly owned by the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge and the Davis Rebekah Lodge.

Activities

Any person over 16 years of age is eligible to be an Odd Fellow. That person must be sponsored by a Lodge member and be of good character, be loyal to their country, and believe in a Supreme Being. There are two levels of membership: regular and associate. A regular member may possess all three degrees and then may vote and hold office. A regular member may become an associate member in another Lodge. In addition to the Initiatory Degree, there is the First Degree (the Degree of Friendship), the Second Degree (the Degree of Love), and the Third Degree (the Degree of Truth). An Odd Fellow who possesses all three degrees may also join the Rebekah Order. There are affiliated degrees such as the Order known as the Encampment. This is open to any Third Degree member and confers three additional degrees: The Patriarchal, Golden Rule, and Royal Purple Degree. An Encampment member who has attained the Royal Purple Degree may join a semi-military organization known as the Patriarchs Militant Degree. This degree is based upon the principle of Universal Justice and is intended to be purely military and for the purposes of display.

Internationally, Odd Fellows is a worldwide fraternal order with over 10,000 Lodges in 25 countries, actively involved in civic and philanthropic efforts. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs spend over \$775 million in relief projects annually. The Educational Foundation provides substantial loans and grants to students. SOS Village provides a caring home for orphaned children in Cambodia. Living Legacy focuses on planting trees and enhancing our environment. The Odd

Fellows and Rebekahs also support the Arthritis Foundation, the Visual Research Foundation, and the United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth.

In California, the Order operates the Saratoga Retirement Community and the Meadows of Napa Valley which include large independent and assisted living centers, as well as skilled nursing facilities and memory care, Fellowship Plaza which provides senior housing facilities for those with limited income, and the California Odd Fellows and Rebekah Children's Home serving as a home for abused and/or severely disturbed children. The Grand Lodge of California also operates a youth summer camp available to children and grandchildren of members.

Locally, over 230 current members of the Davis Lodge, provide substantial donations to civic and charitable groups (such as Pine Tree Gardens, Hospice, the Yolo County Mexican-American Concilio, the Martin Luther King Jr. dinner, YCCC, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center, foster children and families, and others), and sponsors community events (like Breakfast with Santa, Breakfast with the Bunny, and the Annual Picnic Day Parade Breakfast) that benefit the citizens of Davis and Yolo County.

**Historical Information on “Yolo Lodge #169”
(now known as “Davis Lodge #169”)
Independent Order of Odd Fellows**

From California Odd Fellowship—Early History 1849-1988

YOLO LODGE #169, instituted April 12, 1870, at Davisville (Davis), Yolo County, by Grand Master, John Brown Harmon, of Apollo Lodge #123, San Francisco. He was accompanied by Elias Driggs Farnsworth, Most Worthy Grand Sire, who was visiting California at the time; (This was the first time a California Lodge had the distinction of having a Grand Sire in attendance, when instituted.); P.G.P., Lewis Soher, Mokelumne Lodge #44, P.G.M., John A. McClelland, San Francisco #3; Grand Secretary, T. Rodgers Johnson, also of San Francisco Lodge; Daniel Webster Welty, Sacramento Lodge #2, Sacramento. (He would be elected Grand Master in 1875.) John P. Davis, P.G., from Victoria B.C., and Henry K. Snow, D.D.G.M. from Capitol Lodge #87, Sacramento. A large delegation from Eureka Lodge #4 and El Dorado Lodge #8, were also in attendance.

CHARTER MEMBERS: NOBLE GRAND, Jacob Horning, the first representative to Grand Lodge in 1871, in the City of Sacramento. VICE GRAND, Frantz Multner; RECORDING SECRETARY, Charles Hartman; TREASURER, Markus Weinberger. Others were, James D. Ford, H. Bunkattar, A.B. Bonhan, James H. Clark, John L. Morgan, F.E. Fliggles, and George Pierce.

On August 21, 1876, the brothers dedicated their new building. Grand Master, Harmon J. Tilden, a member of Parker Lodge #124, San Francisco, granted a dispensation to the lodge, permitting them to wear their regalia in public, during the downtown parade, and dedication program. The ceremony was under the supervision of D.D.G.M., Julius Amos Kinsman, a member of the Yolo Lodge. At the time their membership was 53, and six of them Past Grands. The brethren remained at this location until their new Temple at 415 Second Street was dedicated in 1956. On Saturday, April 11, 1970, Yolo Lodge celebrated their 100th anniversary. Guests during the centennial observance were two granddaughters of the lodge's first Noble Grand, Jacob Horning, Mrs. John Rogers, age 84, and Mrs. George Washington Swenson, age 81, both residents of Davis. Others taking part in this once in a lifetime event were: Noble Grand, Karl Wuest, who acted as Master of Ceremonies. (He passed away, September 15, 1983.) Vice Grand, Alvin Stone; Recording Secretary, John Dunlap, died January 24, 1979; Treasurer, Robert Ring, died May 20, 1976; Inside Guardian, James Blades, died April 12, 1985; Outside Guardian, Norton Honeyfield, died March 1986; and Financial Secretary, Samuel Weis, whom I'm indebted to for his assistance in gathering information on his lodge.

Visiting dignitaries included Joseph Mayes, D.D.G.M.; William Hooper, D.D.G.M.; Margaret Hooper, D.D.P.; Charles Alvin Beach, P.G.M., a member of El Dorado Lodge #8, Sacramento; Ralph Aronson, Mayor of Davis; William Duncan, Chm. Yolo County Board of Supervisors from Winters, and Raymond Smith Gilpatrick, Grand Warden of

the Grand Lodge of California, and a member of Morning Light Lodge #42 at Campbell. Davisville (Davis) Rebekah Lodge #253, instituted April 15, 1901, served refreshments following the program.

The ABC's of Odd Fellowship
By Dave Rosenberg, PG, and Don Smith, PSGM
(April 2010)

A

Anniversary

Organized Odd Fellowship emerged from Eighteenth Century England, and traveled to the United States in the early Nineteenth Century. On April 2, 1819, Thomas Wildey, John R.B. Welch, Richard Rushworthy, John Duncan and John Cheatham met at the Seven Stars Inn in Baltimore, Maryland, and Odd Fellowship in America was born. On April 2, 2019, Odd Fellowship in the United States will celebrate its 200th birthday.

Admonishments

Founded in the Eighteenth Century as a “friendly society” (a group formed for the mutual self-help of its members), Odd Fellowship developed ancient admonishments including: “visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.”

B

Bylaws

Every Odd Fellows Lodge has a set of Bylaws, approved by the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction. The Bylaws govern the conduct and proceedings of the Lodge, but must conform to the rules and regulations of the Odd Fellows Ritual, Code of General Laws and the Roberts Code of California Odd Fellows Laws.

C

Creed

Odd Fellows believe in the universal brotherhood of Man and the fatherhood of God. Odd Fellowship is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and welcoming of all people without regard to religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, and national origin.

Committees

Many Lodges conduct much of their work through Lodge Committees such as the Finance Committee, By-laws Committee, Good Fellowship Committee, Community Support Committee, and others.

Character

A goal of Odd Fellowship is to “elevate the character of Man.” In the daily exercise of friendship, love and truth, Odd Fellows strive to make a better world.

Conductor

The conductor is an officer of the Lodge, appointed by the noble grand. The main charge of the conductor is to receive candidates for initiation when they enter the Lodge room, and to perform all duties assigned in conferring degrees.

California

Along with the Gold Rush, Odd Fellowship came to California. On September 9, 1849, one year to the day before California became the 31st State of the United States, California Lodge #1 was chartered in San Francisco.

D

Degrees

Once a member is initiated into the Lodge, he/she is said to hold the Initiatory Degree. As an initiated member, he/she has all rights and privileges of the Lodge, including the right to vote. The initiated member cannot hold office in the Lodge until he/she holds the other three degrees of the Lodge. The three degrees are the Degrees of Friendship, Love and Truth.

Dues

Dues are collected annually from each regular member of the Lodge. A portion may be retained by the Lodge, and portions of the dues are shared with the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction as well as the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

E

Encampment

Odd Fellow Lodge members who have earned all three degrees in their Lodge may seek to join an Encampment. Members of the Encampment are known as Patriarchs. Each Encampment also confers three degrees – the degrees of Faith, Hope and Charity—and has a full slate of officers, just like the Odd Fellows Lodge.

F

Financial Secretary

The financial secretary is an elected officer of the Lodge charged with correctly keeping the accounts between the Lodge and members, receiving all monies due to the Lodge and working with the secretary and treasurer to properly maintain the books.

Flag

The United States flag is honored in every Lodge and is an important part of the Lodge ceremony and ritual.

Friendship

The first degree of Odd Fellowship is known as the Degree of Friendship. It is represented by one of the three links—the link on the left.

G

Grand Lodge

The Lodges in a jurisdiction are part of a “Grand Lodge”. In California, the Grand Lodge convenes once each year for four or five days and governs Odd Fellowship in the jurisdiction, with a Board of Directors conducting the affairs of the Grand Lodge in the interim. Delegates at Grand Lodge elect that Board, as well as the Officers of the Grand Lodge: the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Warden, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer.

Guardians

The Lodge has an inside guardian and an outside guardian, appointed by the noble grand, to guard the doors leading into the Lodge meetings, to ensure that only qualified Lodge members enter.

Good Fellowship

Part of the joy and reward of belonging to a fraternal order is the good fellowship that comes with membership in the Lodge. Different Lodges engage in a wide variety of social and fellowship activities for the members including dinners, trips, wine tasting, beer making, and the like. Odd Fellows Lodge can provide a social network for members.

H

Homes

The California Grand Lodge opened a home for aging members in Thermalito, Butte County, in 1895. Today, the Odd Fellows Home of California Board of Directors operates two outstanding retirement communities: The Saratoga Retirement Community and The Meadows of Napa Valley, serving Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, and members of the general public. Odd Fellowship was the first organization to establish homes for senior members and for children in 1771 in Pennsylvania.

Hall

Many Odd Fellows Lodges own and operate their own Lodge Halls (sometimes also called Temples). Often, these Halls are owned in conjunction with a local Rebekah Lodge. Typically, the Lodge Hall is managed and maintained by a Hall Board, composed of Lodge members. Small towns throughout Northern California contain historic Odd Fellows Lodge Halls.

I

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is a fraternal order with a long history. At a time when other fraternal orders were forming in England to help themselves, the Odd Fellows formed in part to help others who were less fortunate. They were called “odd fellows” because they helped members of society who needed their help. Community service is part of the history of this Order.

Initiation

An applicant for membership to a Lodge must be voted on by the existing members in a secret ballot. If the applicant receives an affirmative vote, and pays dues and the initiation fee, the Lodge will initiate the applicant in a secret ceremony and the applicant will be a member of the Lodge holding the Initiatory Degree.

Initials

The Order uses initials to designate offices and past offices. For example, the Noble Grand is identified as NG, the Vice Grand as VG, the Right Supporter of the Noble Grand is RSNB. A Past Grand of a Lodge is identified as PG, the Past Grand Master is PGM, and the Past Sovereign Grand Master is PSGM.

Installation

Once each year, the Lodge will install its newly elected officers. Typically, officers are nominated in October, elected in November, and installed in January. Elected Lodge officers are the Noble Grand, Vice Grand, Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

J

Jewels

Odd Fellowship provides a plethora of “jewels” which are badges reflecting service and achievement in the Order.

K

Knowledge

Every member of the Order is expected to gain knowledge from participation in the Initiation. Further, by attaining the First, Second and Third Degrees, members increase their knowledge about their fraternity and about themselves.

L

Love

The second degree of Odd Fellowship is the Degree of Love. This degree is represented by the link in the center of the three links symbol of the Order.

Links

Odd Fellowship is often called “the three-links fraternity” based on the symbol of the order – the three intertwined links standing for “friendship, love and truth”.

M

Membership

Membership in a Lodge can be either regular or associate. Every member must be a regular member of one Lodge, but may be an associate member of more than one Lodge. To survive and flourish in the 21st Century, every member of Odd Fellows must seek out and bring new members to the Order.

N

Noble Grand

The “president” of each Odd Fellows Lodge is called “Noble Grand”. Other elected officers are Vice Grand, Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Each Lodge also has a number of appointed officers, including Warden, Conductor, Chaplain, Inside Guardian, Outside Guardian, Supporters of the Noble Grand and Vice Grand, Scene Supporters, Musician and Color Bearer.

O

Odd Fellowship

A member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is referred to as an Odd Fellow. Because this is a fraternal order, members may refer to each other as Brothers and Sisters.

Odd Fellows

No one knows, for sure, how the name “Odd Fellows” came into being. Some have speculated that it was due to the fact that the original members spent a fair amount of time helping others, which was an odd thing to do in early fraternities, hence they were called “those odd fellows”.

P

Past Grand

After a Noble Grand has served his/her term, that officer is known as “Past Grand”. Past Grands can be appointed to the position of District Deputy Grand Master, and can be delegates to the Grand Lodge.

Patriarchs Militant

Those Odd Fellows who have earned all three degrees in their lodges, and who joined an Encampment and earned all three degrees in that encampment, are eligible to join the Patriarchs Militant. This is the uniformed branch of Odd Fellowship.

Q

Quorum

The traditional number of Odd Fellows required to conduct business at a meeting is five.

Quality

More than the quantity of our members, it's the quality of our members and the good works that are done by Odd Fellows Lodges that distinguish this Order.

R

Rebekah

Odd Fellows were the first fraternal order to admit women. Schuyler Colfax, Vice President of the United States and an Odd Fellow, is credited with the proposal to create the Rebekahs. In the middle of the 1800's, Rebekah Lodges were formed to be "sister" lodges to Odd Fellows Lodges. The distinctions have lessened since Odd Fellows Lodge membership has long been open to women, and Rebekah Lodge membership has long been open to men. The Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of California and the Rebekah Assembly of California jointly operate a Children's Home in Gilroy, California, and a Youth Camp in Tuolumne County, California.

Ritual and Regalia

Harkening back almost 200 years, Odd Fellowship has developed a ritual including rites of initiation, a secret grip and secret passwords. The officers and members of the Lodge wear regalia during closed, ritual meetings. It's part of what makes Odd Fellows a fraternal order.

S

Sovereign Grand Lodge

The Sovereign Grand Lodge is made up of Grand Lodges throughout the world, including Independent Grand Lodges in Europe and Australasia. The officers are the Sovereign Grand Master, the Sovereign Deputy Grand Master, the Sovereign Grand Warden, the Sovereign Grand Secretary and the Sovereign Grand Treasurer.

Secretary

The secretary is an elected officer of the Lodge, charged with keeping accurate records of the transactions of the Lodge.

Service

Service to the community is an important part of the work done by Odd Fellows Lodges. Different Lodges have undertaken support functions of varying kinds—helping senior citizens, hosting fundraising dinners for charitable groups, bingo for the community, mentoring children, and the like.

T

Treasurer

The treasurer is an elected officer of the Lodge, in charge of all the funds of the Lodge. The treasurer pays on all orders drawn by the noble grand, attested by the secretary, and keeps accurate accounts of the Lodge finances.

Truth

The Degree of Truth is the third degree of Odd Fellowship. It is represented in the three links symbol of the Order as the link on the right.

U

Universal Justice

Odd Fellows believe in universal precepts such as friendship, love and truth, and working to elevate the character of Man. The motto of the Patriarchs Militant, a uniformed unit of Odd Fellowship, is Universal Justice. At the height of its popularity before World War I, it was common to see hundreds of Chevaliers in uniform participating in community parades. During the 1915 session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge meeting in California that year, over 10,000 Chevaliers marched in a parade observing the session in California.

United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth

Under the auspices of Odd Fellowship, the Order arranges for interested young people to travel to the UN each year.

United Kingdom

This is the place where Odd Fellowship began. Odd Fellows Lodges started as “friendly societies” in the 1700’s.

V

Veterans

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of California, desiring to honor veterans, donated a quarter million dollars to the State of California to construct an Occupational Therapy Building at the Veteran's Home in Yountville.

Vice Grand

The number two elected officer in the Lodge is the Vice Grand. The main job of the Vice Grand is to support the Noble Grand, and fill in when the Noble Grand is absent. Often the Vice Grand is next in line to serve as Noble Grand of a Lodge, so service as Vice Grand is an important training period.

W

Willey

Thomas Willey is recognized as the person who brought Odd Fellowship from England to the United States. The very first Lodge was established in Baltimore in 1819, and then Odd Fellows Lodges spread like wildfire across the United States, particularly in the 1800's.

Warden

One of the key appointed offices in the Lodge is the Warden. This officer is charged to ensure that all persons attending closed, ritual meetings of the Lodge are members of the Lodge holding the appropriate degree. The Warden is also charged with the care and safekeeping of the regalia.

Websites

Many Lodges have individual websites such as www.davisoddfellows.com. The Grand Lodge of California website can be found at www.caioof.org. The Sovereign Grand Lodge website is www.ioof.org.

X

Excellence

Odd Fellowship provides a number of checks and balances within the rules of the Order to ensure excellence in record-keeping of minutes and bookkeeping of funds. Each Lodge has a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Financial Secretary and a Finance Committee to ensure that the rules are followed.

Y

Youth Camp

The California Odd Fellows and Rebekahs own and operate a Youth Camp near Yosemite. Children and grandchildren of members and the general public can participate in a week-long summer camp, and greatly reduced rates.

You

An organization is only as good as its members. Every member—and that means YOU—has got to find his or her niche in the Order. Every member has got to find his or her way to contribute to the improvement of the Lodge and the fraternity.

Z

Zest

With sufficient “zeal” and “zest” there is nothing that Odd Fellows can’t achieve.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Davis Odd Fellows

What, exactly, is the Odd Fellows Lodge?

The Odd Fellows Lodge is a fraternal order, so the members have secret passwords, signs and handshakes. It's also a social organization and the members have fun together with movie nights, trips, game nights, breakfasts and dinners. But primarily, the Lodge focuses on good community works, providing support to many charitable organizations. Over the past few years, the Davis Odd Fellows have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars and other support to community groups.

How did you get the name "Odd Fellows"?

When it was first formed in England in the 1700's, the membership was focused on supporting people who were in need. Other fraternal orders at the time were formed to boost the professions and trades of their members. Accordingly, the members of our order were considered "odd fellows". And the name stuck.

Where is the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge located?

The Davis Odd Fellows Lodge is the oldest organization in the area, having been chartered in 1870, well before there was a city of Davis and before there was a UCD. Its first Lodge Hall was located on G Street and was constructed in 1875. The Davis Odd Fellows moved into its present Lodge Hall on 415 Second Street in Downtown Davis in 1955.

Who can join Odd Fellows?

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is non-religious, non-political, and non-discriminatory. Men and women over 16 can join. If you are interested in learning more about the Davis Odd Fellows please visit our web site at www.davislodge.org. If you want information about possible membership in the Lodge please contact our Membership Chair at daverose@jps.net.

Who are the members of the Davis Odd Fellows?

Currently, over 230 men and women are members of the Davis Odd Fellows. The members include county supervisors, city council members, newspaper editors, judges, police chiefs, the district attorney and the public defender, homemakers, retired persons, students, physicians, lawyers, computer specialists, government workers, teachers, fire-fighters, and many more. Members range in age from 19 to 90.

What do the three links signify?

The symbol of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is the three intertwined links, one of white, one of blue and one of red. They symbolize the three degrees of Odd Fellowship: Friendship, Love and Truth. The three links are displayed on the outside of the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge Hall at 415 Second Street in downtown Davis.

How are the Odd Fellows involved in the “Bicycle Parade”?

The concept of organizing the World’s Greatest Bicycle Parade, setting the Guinness World’s Record for Largest Bicycle Parade, and raising money for our cash-strapped Davis Schools was born and developed by the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge. The Davis Odd Fellows are the primary organizers of this event.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Davis Rebekah Lodge

What, exactly, is the Davis Rebekah Lodge?

The Davis Rebekah lodge is part of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows - a fraternal order. So, the members have secret passwords, signs and handshakes. It's also a social organization and the members have fun together and try to do good works in the community. The Davis Rebekah Lodge, along with the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge, owns the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall building and the surrounding property currently rented to Hunan Restaurant and Coldwell-Banker Doug Arnold Real Estate.

What is the history of the Rebekah Lodge?

The first Rebekah Lodge was founded in the 1850's by Schuyler Colfax, an Odd Fellow and Vice President of the United States to U.S. Grant. The Rebekah Lodge was meant to be the "women's Lodge" in conjunction with the Odd Fellows Lodge which was meant to be the "men's lodge". These distinctions have diminished when membership was opened to both sexes in both Lodges.

Where is the Davis Rebekah Lodge located?

The Davis Odd Fellows Lodge is the oldest organization in the area, having been chartered in 1870, well before there was a city of Davis and before there was a UCD. The Davis Rebekah Lodge was chartered in 1901. Both Lodges use the Odd Fellows Hall. The first Lodge Hall was located on G Street and was constructed in 1875. Both Lodges moved into their present Lodge Hall on 415 Second Street in Downtown Davis in 1955.

Who can join the Davis Rebekah Lodge?

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is non-religious, non-political, and non-discriminatory. Men and women over 18 can join. Currently the Davis Rebekah Lodge has 30 members. For more information, contact Lea Rosenberg, Vice Grand of the Rebekah Lodge, at learose@jps.net.

Davis Lodge Number 169 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Trustees and Officers of the Lodge

Trustees. The By-laws of the Lodge establish the positions for Three Trustees of the Lodge, all of whom are elected. The Trustees shall have general supervision and management of all properties and funds of the Lodge, acting as a Board. The Trustees serve as the Lodge representatives on the Hall Board, which along with three Rebekah representatives, manages the Lodge's real property, coordinates use of the Lodge Hall, and accounts for and distributes rental revenue from the Lodge's real property and from the Lodge Hall. This revenue is distributed equally to the Odd Fellows Lodge and to the Rebekah Lodge.

Elected Officers. The By-laws of the Lodge establish the positions and duties of five elected officers: Noble Grand, Vice Grand, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, who serve as Officers of the Lodge. The duties of each office are spelled out in the By-laws.

The **Noble Grand** presides at all meetings of the Lodge. By virtue of his/her office, the Noble Grand is also a Trustee and a Hall Board member, and serves as Chair of the Trustees. The Noble Grand appoints all officers and committees not otherwise designated. The Noble Grand ensures that all Officers, Committees and members of the Lodge perform their duties.

The **Vice Grand** assumes the duties of the Noble Grand in his/her absence. The Vice Grand examines and reports the results of all ballots. The Vice Grand, in conjunction with the Noble Grand, develops a program of an educational and social nature for the members of the Lodge.

The **Recording Secretary** keeps a record of the transactions of the Lodge, endorses and files all papers and documents pertaining to Lodge transactions, and has numerous other duties spelled out in the By-laws.

The **Financial Secretary** keeps accounts in a regular set of books, including the ledger, journal, receipt and cash books, promptly credits the accounts of each member, issues receipts for all monies due the Lodge, and performs numerous other duties spelled out in the By-laws.

The **Treasurer** receives from the Financial Secretary each Lodge night all Lodge monies in his/her hands, reports on the receipts and expenditures of the preceding months and the balance on hand, and performs numerous other duties spelled out in the By-laws.

Appointed Officers. The Noble Grand appoints a number of officers to perform functions during the IOOF rituals. These officers are: Warden, Conductor, Right and Left Supporters for the Noble Grand, Chaplain, Inside and Outside Guardians, and Right and Left Scene Supporters. The Vice Grand appoints a Right and a Left Supporter for the Vice Grand. The duties of these appointed officers are delineated in the rituals of the Order.

The **Warden** shall, while in the Lodge, make the members comfortable. The Warden is to examine every person present, in the passwords, when the Lodge is about to be opened, and perform all duties required of the Warden in conferring the degrees. The Warden takes charge of the regalia of the Lodge, and conveys all summonses that may be issued.

The **Conductor** shall receive the candidates for initiation when they enter the Lodge room, and perform all duties assigned to him/her in conferring the degrees. The Conductor shall also assist the Warden while in the Lodge.

The **Right Supporter of the Noble Grand** shall assist the Noble Grand, when requested, to take the Noble Grand's seat during a temporary absence, and perform all duties that may be assigned.

The **Left Supporter of the Noble Grand** shall officiate for the Right Supporter during his/her absence and perform all duties that may be assigned.

The **Chaplain** shall conduct the devotional exercises of the Lodge and shall perform all ritualistic work as pertains to the Office of Chaplain. The Chaplain shall also perform all duties the Order may enjoin.

The **Inside Guardian** shall prove all members, before he/she admits them; see that they are in proper regalia; report their names to the Vice Grand, or to the Noble Grand, when so directed. During a temporary absence of the Outside Guardian, the Inside Guardian shall officiate in that office, and at all times obey the commands of the Noble Grand.

The **Outside Guardian** shall have charge of the anteroom. The Outside Guardian shall see that all persons who enter prove themselves according to the regulations of the Order. The Outside Guardian will secure the outer door against improper intrusion, and submit all cases of doubt to the Noble Grand for decision.

The **Right and Left Supporters of the Vice Grand** shall assist the Vice Grand in the duties of his/her office. The Right Supporter will take the seat of the Vice Grand during a temporary absence.

Right and Left Scene Supporters shall assist at initiations and otherwise, according to their offices.

The **Color Bearer** shall present and retire the flag of our country, escorted by the Warden and Conductor, and shall see that it is properly cared for.

The **Musician** shall provide all required music or accompaniment during the meetings and ceremonies, to the end that the Lodge may be enriched and inspired by the Musician's artistry.

Odd Fellows: Membership Degrees

In 1880 the Sovereign Grand Lodge established the degrees in their current form, which conform to the motto of Odd Fellows: “**Friendship, Love and Truth.**”

The Initiatory Degree

The Initiatory Degree is intended to make a lasting impression on the individuals receiving it. Its mission is to remind the initiates of the vanity of earthly things; the frailty and inevitable decay of human life; and the fact that wealth has no power to stop the sureness of eventual death. The new member is urged to dedicate his life to works of charity and good will, and to govern his relations by the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth. The new member is pledged to make the obligations and duties of Odd Fellowship a part of him or herself every day. Symbols for the Initiatory Degree: **The All-Seeing Eye** represents the eternal presence of the eye of God upon all of us, night and day. **The Three Links** represent the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth, binding our members in an enduring union. **The Skull and Crossbones** remind us of mortality and warn us to so conduct ourselves on earth that Heaven may be our reward hereafter. **The Scythe** reminds us that as the grass falls before the mower’s scythe, so we all fall before the touch of time. The symbolic color of the Initiatory Degree is *White*.

The First Degree

The First Degree or The Degree of Friendship recognizes that mankind is a part of the universal brotherhood. An Odd Fellow is entitled, as a right, to receive the aid and council and protection of his or her fellow members, when in distress or in difficult situations. He or she is also obliged to give aid, counsel and protection when the situation is reversed. The first principle of Odd Fellowship is thus termed Fraternity, the universal fraternity of all mankind. The teachings of this degree are founded upon the Friendship of Jonathan and David, as related in the Old Testament Book of First Samuel, and reminds us of the use of the bow and arrow by Jonathan to warn David of great danger. Symbols for the First Degree: **The Bow, Arrows and Quiver** remind us of Jonathan and David and the covenant made between them. They also remind members to make all laudable efforts to aid a brother or sister when he or she is in distress. **The Bundle of Sticks** symbolizes the strength of union. While one stick is easily broken, a bundle of sticks cannot be easily broken – thus the members of the Order unite to form an unbreakable force to genuine brotherhood. The symbolic color for this degree is *Pink*.

The Second Degree

The Second Degree is the degree of Brotherly Love and the second link in the chain of Odd Fellowship is **Love**, without which neither the first link—**Friendship**—nor the last link—**Truth**—is of real value. This degree exemplifies the story of the Good Samaritan and teaches that brotherly love extends its helping hand to those who suffer, regardless of race, creed or nationality. The symbols for the Second degree: **The Ax** is the emblem of progress, reminding members that, in the hands of the woodsman, it is used to fell the trees of the forest and make way for progress. **The Heart and Hand** refer to the help which an Odd Fellow should give to a brother or sister who is in need, and the spirit in which help is to be given. The hand of a true Odd Fellow should always be open to the needs of other members of the Order. The heart should always go with the hand. The Globe reminds us that we are citizens of the world and

suggests that Odd Fellows reach out their helping hands throughout the world whenever and wherever possible. **The Ark** replicates the Ark of the Covenant, made under direction of Moses, following instructions from God. The Ark was the receptacle of the stone tablets on which were inscribed the Ten Commandments. **The Serpent** teaches us that without wisdom to control our actions we would be like a rudderless ship. The symbolic color for this degree is *Blue*.

The Third Degree

The Third Degree is the Scarlet Degree or the Degree of Truth and the Priestly Order. It represents Truth as the basic principle of sentiment and action, and signifies Truth as the basic foundation of our principles. The voice of truth speaks through forms and symbols as well as words. In fact, truth is sometimes more effectively taught by emblems than by words. Symbols for the Third degree: **The Scales and Sword** are an emblem representing Justice executed, and emphasize the importance we place on justice, which must prevail for all without distinctions between rich and poor, high and low, or learned and unlearned. **The Holy Bible** is the source of the doctrine of faith, and provides rules for the proper conduct of life. **The Hour Glass** reminds us of the passing of time, and shortness of human life on earth. We are admonished to do good for our fellow man. **The Coffin** is the final symbol, another reminder of the mortality of man's body and the certainty of death. We are admonished to live life in righteous ways. The symbolic color of this degree is *Scarlet*.

The Rebekah Degree

The Rebekah Degree was established in 1851 as the basic unit for women in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Schuyler Colfax (who later became a US Senator and Vice President of the United States) was instrumental in its establishment. It was only created after much debate and it was groundbreaking at the time. Odd Fellows were the only fraternal order to develop a degree and a unit for women. While the majority of Rebekah degree holders today are still women, any Odd Fellow may join a Rebekah Lodge after they have received the Third Degree. The general duties of the members of this unit are: "To live peaceably, do good unto all, as we have opportunity and especially to obey the Golden Rule, Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." The emblems employed in the work this the Rebekah degree are: **The Beehive**, a representation of cooperative industry teaching the advantages of united efforts in all the noble ministries of the Order; **The Moon and Seven Stars** represents the never failing order which pervades the universe of God and all of nature, and suggest to the members the value of system, regularity and precision in all worthy undertakings; **The Dove**, a universally recognized emblem of peace, has this same significance in the Rebekah degree. Through the mission of love and charity, of tolerance and forbearance, Rebekahs are to strive to bring happiness to others and to promote: "Peace on earth and good will to men." **The Lily**, regarded for untold ages as the emblem of purity, is a fitting symbol of the purity of character, of thought, of work, and of action, which should always be found and manifested in the heart and life of the Rebekah Lodge.

Davis Lodge Number 169
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Motto—Objective—Valediction

Motto “Friendship, Love and
Truth.” **Objective**

“To Improve and Elevate the Character of Man.”

The Three Links

The emblem of Odd Fellowship is the Three Links with the letters “F, L & T.” The three links symbolize the chain that binds our members together and illustrates that a fraternity is strongest when joined together. The “F” in the first link represents “friendship,” the strongest bond of fraternity that teaches goodwill and harmony. The “L” represents “love,” the basis for all life’s ambitions, service to others and family. The “T” represents “truth,” the standard by which we value people and the foundation of our society. The Three Links Fraternity: Striving to make the world a better place in which to live.

Odd Fellows Valediction

I AM AN ODD FELLOW

I believe in the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man;

I believe in Friendship, Love and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind;

I believe my home, my church or temple, my lodge, and my community deserve my best work, my modest pride, my earnest faith, and my deepest loyalty, as I perform my duty “to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan” and as I work with others to build a better world because, in spirit and in truth, I am, and must always be, grateful to my Creator, faithful to my Country and fraternal to my fellow man;

I AM AN ODD FELLOW!

Davis Lodge Number 169 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Committees

Visiting Committee. This is a standing committee required by our By-laws and has a set membership of the Noble Grand, Vice Grand and Treasurer. This committee shall visit all sick or disabled members within 24 hours after being reported to the Lodge to see that they are properly cared for, and report at the next regular meeting.

Finance Committee. This is a standing committee required by our By-laws. The Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Finance Committee shall examine and report on the bills presented, inspect and audit the books and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer and other officers and committees charged with the receipts and expenditures of money, and are authorized to examine the books or accounts of any officer or committee at any time.

By-laws Committee. This is a standing committee required by our By-laws. The Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The committee consists of three members in good standing and must be appointed by the Noble Grand at the first regular meeting after his/her installation. The By-laws Committee shall review the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of California, and the Sovereign Grand Lodge, and propose any resolutions that might be required in order to keep the By-laws of the Lodge current.

Community Support Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Community Support Committee is the active charitable and social arm of the Lodge. The Committee reviews applications for scholarship funds and approves expenditures from the scholarship account subject to protocols established by the Lodge. The Committee reviews and approves requests for charitable giving and purchases of tickets to charitable and community events subject to protocols established by the Lodge. The Committee coordinates joint fundraisers with community groups, social events for the Lodge, and special events for the Lodge. The Committee reports its actions to the Lodge.

Membership and Initiation Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Membership Committee is charged with coordinating the recruitment and interviewing of potential new members of the Lodge. The Committee will prepare a handbook, pamphlets and papers explaining IOOF to potential new members and initiates. The Committee recommends potential members for initiation. The Committee coordinates the initiatory degree and other degree days.

Good Fellowship Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee will plan and implement programs and activities to promote friendship and good fellowship among members of the Lodge. The Committee will also reach out to members, particularly the newer members, to engage them in the Order and to fully explain the tenets, the ritual, the degrees and other aspects of Odd Fellowship.

Communication and Web Site Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee shall be responsible for communicating IOOF activities to the community at large and increasing the visibility of IOOF and its good works in the community. The committee shall also have oversight of the Lodge web site and ensure that the site is a useful communication tool for members.

Bingo Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee is charged with the task of exploring the feasibility of establishing a Bingo Night at the IOOF Lodge as a potential fundraiser for the Lodge. The committee shall coordinate once-a-month Bingo nights at the Lodge.

Music and Concert Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee is charged with bringing musical entertainment to the Lodge Hall for the public.

Living Legacy/Tree Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. This Committee is charged with planting trees in the name of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

Wine Tour Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. This Committee is charged with organizing the second annual Odd Fellows Wine Tour.

Senior Project Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee is charged with organizing the second annual Odd Fellows helping seniors project.

Picnic Day Pancake Breakfast Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee is charged with organizing the annual picnic day pancake breakfast at the Lodge Hall.

Installation Dinner Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee is charged with organizing the annual Installation of elected and appointed officers of this Lodge. The Installation Dinner and Ceremony occur in January of each year.

Social Services Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. This is a new committee of the Lodge, hoping to help those in need – such as persons with mental illness.

Odd Poetry Committee. Once each month committee members meet under the “Odd Poet-Tree” in front of the Lodge to enjoy poetry readings or music. Committee members read their favorite poems and sometimes read their own works.

Take a Hike Committee. This is a special committee and the Noble Grand appoints the Chair and members of this committee. The Committee organizes hikes for members and friends several times each year. Some hikes are easy, and others are more strenuous.

BY-LAWS OF DAVIS LODGE #169
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
Updated September 19, 2009, by Recording Secretary,

ARTICLE I
MEETINGS

- SECTION 1. The regular meetings of this Lodge shall be held on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 A.M. and the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the I.O.O.F. Hall, 415 Second Street, Davis, CA. The Noble Grand may change the date, time, or place of regular meetings if circumstances require it. Scheduled meetings need not be held if circumstances beyond the control of the members prevent it. The Noble Grand shall ensure that all members are notified prior to the meeting change.
- SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called by the Noble Grand, at his/her discretion, by a vote of the Lodge, or at the written request of any five (5) Third Degree members in good standing. If a special meeting is called, the members must be notified by the Recording Secretary by mail, stating the date and the purpose for which the meeting is called. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting other than that specified in the notice.
- SECTION 3. At all meetings, five (5) members in good standing, one of (1) whom is qualified to preside, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- SECTION 4. If a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time set for opening a meeting, the Lodge members present shall select a Chairperson for the purpose of adjournment. The Recording Secretary, or in his/her absence, a Recording Secretary appointed by the Chairperson, shall prepare a memorandum of the facts and list the names of the members present, and cause such memorandum to be read and recorded in the minutes for the next regular meeting of the Lodge.
- SECTION 5. All members, in good standing, present shall vote on each question or candidate unless they have a conflict, are excused, or are prohibited by law or by a vote of the Lodge. A member who wishes to abstain must get permission from the Presiding Officer.

SECTION 6. In all methods of voting, abstentions are not counted. Only the number of votes cast is counted in determining what constitutes a majority or two-thirds vote, unless a different rule is stated in Robert's Code of California Odd Fellows Laws.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All applications for membership must comply with the provisions of the Constitution for Subordinate Lodges and be accompanied by the required fee.

SECTION 2. No candidate shall be initiated on the night of his/her election to membership, except when such initiation is approved by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

SECTION 3. Should the applicant be rejected, the fee that accompanied the application shall be returned. If elected to membership and the applicant should fail to present him/herself for initiation within six (6) months after receiving notice of said election, the election shall be null and void, and the fee returned unless further time is granted by the Lodge.

SECTION 4. Every person admitted to membership shall sign the Members Register and inform the Recording Secretary of the member's place of business and home address. Upon changing a place of residence or mailing address, the member shall give prompt notice of such change to the Recording Secretary.

SECTION 5. Mailing lists maintained by the Odd Fellows, including e-mail and posted mail are not to be used for political, sectarian, or business purposes. These mailing lists may only be used for "Lodge purposes." Examples of "Lodge purposes" include: notices of meetings; information on the I.O.O.F. website; announcements of dates of Lodge-sponsored events; information regarding initiatory degrees; Lodge members' birthdays; announcements or information pertaining to good-fellowship of the Lodge; Lodge calendars; and announcements of events of the Lodge Hall.

All requests to disseminate information through Odd Fellows' mailing lists must be made to the Noble Grand or his/her designee.

SECTION 6. To remain in good standing there are "minimum participation requirements." Lodge members must attend a minimum of any combination of six (6) Lodge meetings or Lodge events (including attendance of at least two (2) meetings) in any given calendar year.

Members who fail to meet these minimum participation standards without good cause may be subject to a loss or reduction in Lodge privileges (including expulsion from the Lodge).

The Recording Secretary, or his/her designee, shall take attendance at Lodge meetings and record this information in the minutes. The Recording Secretary, or his/her designee, shall also track attendance of members at Lodge events. The Recording Secretary, or his/her designee, shall report results of attendance to meetings and Lodge events to the Noble Grand for each calendar year (the report shall be made no later than February 15 of the following calendar year). Members may take a leave of absence.

ARTICLE III FEES AND DUES

- SECTION 1. Persons admitted to membership by initiation, expired withdrawal card, resignation certificate, or by dismissal certificate, shall pay the sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).
- SECTION 2. Ten Dollars (\$10.00) each shall be charged for the First, Second, and Third Degrees. Fees for degrees must be paid in advance, and no degree shall be granted to anyone who is indebted to the Lodge, or against whom there are charges pending.
- SECTION 3. A fee of One Dollar (\$1.00) shall be charged for a visiting card, withdrawal card, transfer certificate, and dismissal certificate.
- SECTION 4. Members shall pay the amount the Grand Lodge sets as the per capita annual dues plus Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year as dues. Dues will be payable on or before January 1 of each year.
- SECTION 5. Associate members shall pay annual dues equal to fifty percent (50%) of regular members' annual dues plus Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year. Dues will be payable on or before January 1 of each year. Associate members shall be eligible for all benefits afforded to regular members.
- SECTION 6. A member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated thereafter by paying the amount of one (1) year's dues, plus one (1) year's dues in advance.

ARTICLE IV
FUNERALS

SECTION 1. On the death of a member of this Lodge, if occurring in Davis, or if the body is to be brought here for interment, it shall be the duty of the Noble Grand or Recording Secretary to notify all members by mail or otherwise.

SECTION 2. On the death of a current beneficial member, in good standing, who was a member on December 31, 1999, and continues as a member in good standing until his/her death, a death benefit of \$1,000 shall be paid upon the request of the beneficiary as follows:

The benefit shall be paid to the widow/widower or to his/her children under twenty-one (21) years of age or to his/her relations who were dependents of the deceased at the time of his/her death. The death benefit shall not be paid to an estate.

ARTICLE V
BENEFITS

SECTION 1. Benefits paid by the Lodge in case of sickness or disability shall be paid only to Third Degree Members in good standing. A physician's certificate may be requested, certifying that such member is incapable of earning a livelihood.

SECTION 2. When a member is reported sick or in distress, the Noble Grand will make a personal investigation and if in his judgment an emergency exists, he/she shall be authorized to give immediate relief, not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). At the next regular or special meeting the Noble Grand must report his/her actions to the Lodge.

SECTION 3. If at the next regular or special meeting, the emergency still exists, the Noble Grand must put the question to the Lodge for their decision. Any use of the treasury funds for this purpose must be approved by two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

SECTION 4. Benefits are not paid for sickness or disability caused by immoral conduct, or from any constitutional disease or bodily ailment that existed at the time of the member's admission to the Lodge.

ARTICLE VI
PENALTIES

- SECTION 1. A member who is thirteen (13) weeks in arrears for dues, fines, or assessments, shall not be entitled to the password, or a vote in the Lodge, nor shall he/she be entitled to sick benefits or death benefits. If the member was so indebted at the time of being taken sick, he/she shall not be entitled to receive benefits during such sickness.
- SECTION 2. Any member guilty of immoral conduct, in or out of the Lodge, making known publicly the transactions of the Lodge, exposing the name for a member who may vote or speak against a candidate for membership, shall be subject to fine, suspension, or expulsion, as the Lodge may decide after due trial and conviction.
- SECTION 3. Any member guilty of an infamous crime or defrauding the Lodge or becoming the proprietor or inmate of a house of ill-fame, shall be expelled after due trial and conviction.
- SECTION 4. Any officer or member having keys, books, regalia, or papers necessary for the use of the Lodge, who absents him/herself on Lodge night without sending the same, shall be subject to removal from office.
- SECTION 5. Members who violate the “mailing list” policy described in Article II, Section 5 shall be referred to the Board of Trustees who will review the matter, speak to the member, and make a recommendation to the Noble Grand. Possible consequences include: a written warning from the Noble Grand; a formal letter of counseling from the Noble Grand that shall be distributed to members at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Order of the Odd Fellows no later than two (2) months after the date of the violation; or referral to the full Lodge membership for consideration of suspension and/or expulsion from the Lodge in accordance with By-laws of the Davis Odd Fellows and Robert’s Code of California Odd Fellows Laws.
- SECTION 6. Members who violate the “minimum participation requirements” described in Article II, Section 6, shall be referred by the Noble Grand to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the first Trustee meeting after February 15 of that year. The Trustees shall consider each member who is not in good standing based on attendance of events and meetings in the prior calendar year. In considering the subject members and to assist in the recommendation, Trustees may take into account: the member’s longtime commitment to the Lodge; illness; other factors making it difficult for the member to meet participation requirements; other involvement and participation by the member during the subject calendar year. The Trustees may recommend the following actions: an informal letter to the member from the Noble

Grand, or his/her designee, explaining the issue and asking the member if he or she wants to continue membership in the Lodge; a formal letter of counseling with a warning and discussing loss of Lodge privileges from the Noble Grand that shall be distributed to members at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Order of the Odd Fellows no later than two (2) months after the subject trustee meeting; or referral to the full Lodge membership for consideration of suspension and/or expulsion from the Lodge in accordance with By-laws of the Davis Odd Fellows and Robert's Code of California Odd Fellows Laws.

SECTION 7. Trustees and Hall Board members who violate "additional participation requirements" described in Article VII, Section 3 shall be referred by the Noble Grand to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the first Trustee meeting after February 15 of that year. Trustees and/or Hall Board members who are the subject of this discussion shall be excused from the meeting and shall not participate in any voting. The Trustees shall consider each Trustee and/or Hall Board member who is not in good standing based on attendance of meetings in the prior calendar year. The Trustees may recommend the following actions: an informal letter to the Hall Board member or Trustee from the Noble Grand, or his/her designee, explaining the issue and asking the Trustee or Hall Board member if he or she wants to continue in that position at the Lodge; a formal letter of counseling with a warning from the Noble Grand that shall be distributed to members at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Order of the Odd Fellows no later than two (2) months after the subject trustee meeting; or referral to the full Lodge membership for consideration of removal from the Board of Trustees and/or Hall Board in accordance with By-laws of the Davis Odd Fellows and Robert's Code of California Odd Fellows Laws.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS AND DUTIES

SECTION 1. The duties of the various Officers and Trustees (if the By-Laws so provide) shall be as prescribed in the Ritual(s), Code of General Laws, Code of California, this Constitution and the By-Laws of this Lodge.

SECTION 2. The term of office for Noble Grand, Vice Noble Grand, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall be for one (1) year.

SECTION 3. The Trustees of this Lodge shall consist of three (3) members in good standing who are elected. The term of office shall be for three (3) years. They shall be elected so that the term of one (1) will expire each January. The three (3) elected Trustees shall be the three (3) representatives to the Building Hall Board Association. The Noble

Grand shall be an ex officio member without voting privileges. The Noble Grand shall be an alternate with voting privileges when the business of the Association is conducted and there are less than three (3) Trustees present. The Trustees shall have general supervision and management of all properties and invested funds of the Lodge, acting as a Board. They shall perform all duties enjoyed by the Constitution, these By-Laws, and the Grand Lodge of California. They shall require compliance with State and Federal Laws in relation to Lodge properties and affairs, where applicable. They shall have no power to hypothecate, sell, or convey Lodge real property without prior authority, obtained by Resolution, which after being read at two (2) successive meetings of the Lodge and adopted, must also be approved by the Grand Lodge. They shall make written monthly reports to the Lodge concerning receipts and disbursements under their management. They shall keep the Lodge fully informed of all issues that affect the members. They shall abide by all reporting requirements of the Grand Lodge. They shall conduct meetings in a manner and at times that best serve the best interests of the Lodge. They shall act by majority vote of the Trustees. The Noble Grand shall be the chairperson.

In addition to the minimum participation requirements of all members, all Trustees and Hall Board members shall attend a majority of all meetings to which they are assigned in any given calendar year. Trustees and Hall Board members who fail to meet these minimum participation standards may be subject to removal from his or her position. The minutes of all Trustee and Hall Board meetings shall reflect attendance of Trustees and Hall Board members. The Recording Secretary, or his/her designee, shall report attendance of Hall Board members and Trustees at assigned meetings to the Noble Grand for each calendar year (the report shall be made no later than February 15 of the following calendar year).

- SECTION 4. Noble Grand. It shall be the duty of the Noble Grand in conjunction with those set forth in the Ritual to:
- (a) Appoint all Officers and Committees not otherwise provided for by law;
 - (b) See that all Officers, Committees, and members of the Lodge perform their respective duties as enjoined by the several charges and laws of the Order;
 - (c) See that all members are instructed to enable them to advance in the degrees;
 - (d) State and then put all motions;
 - (e) Inspect and announce the results of all ballots and votes of the Lodge;
 - (f) Order and attest all warrants drawn by the Recording Secretary on the Treasurer for moneys legally voted;

- (g) Prior to closing, require the Recording Secretary or Financial Secretary, if there be one, to read the receipts of the evening;
- (h) Vote on any question he/she desires or on any question on which the Lodge requires him/her to vote;
- (i) Surrender his/her chair to make, second, or debate a motion;
- (j) On the date of installation, if closed, or the first meeting thereafter if public, appoint a Finance Committee as provided by law and such other committees as may be required by the By-Laws of the Lodge; and
- (k) Perform all other duties required by the By-Laws of the Lodge.

SECTION 5. Vice Grand. It shall be the duty of the Vice Grand in conjunction with those set forth in the Ritual to:

- (a) Examine and report the results of all ballots;
- (b) Be responsible, in conjunction with the Noble Grand, for a program of an educational or social nature and provide the same on each meeting night that degrees are not conferred; and
- (c) Perform all other duties required by the laws of the Lodge.

SECTION 6. Recording Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary, or his/her designee, in conjunction with those set forth in the Ritual to:

- (a) Keep a record of the transactions of the Lodge in the manner prescribed in Chapter XXXIII, Section 7, of Robert's Code;
- (b) Endorse and forward to Treasurer for filing the section of the Lodge minutes acknowledging receipts and disbursements as reported by the Treasurer and approved by the Lodge members;
- (c) File all communications from the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, or special officer acting on their behalf;
- (d) Notify members named to committees of their appointment;
- (e) Notify all candidates for membership of the results of the ballot;
- (f) Notify every member immediately, at his/her last known address, of the levying of any assessment against the membership by the Lodge;
- (g) Keep, in conjunction with the Financial Secretary, an up-to-date roll of the members including current address, telephone number, and record of degrees and rank each has attained;
- (h) Notify the fraternal press of changes of address and fraternal status of members;
- (i) Notify the Grand Secretary and the Lodges in the county and district of the rejection of applications for admission by initiation, card, or by Dismissal Certificate;
- (j) Send notice to any member suspended for nonpayment of dues and place a copy in the minutes along with proof of mailing;

(k) Issue in a lawful manner all notices, summons, and subpoenas ordered by the Lodge, Noble Grand, or duly authorized committee; and

(l) Perform all other duties required by law.

SECTION 7. Financial Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary, or Recording Secretary, if no Financial Secretary be authorized, in conjunction with those set forth in the Ritual to:

(a) Keep accounts in a regular set of books, including ledger, journal, receipt, and cash books and such others as may be required by the Lodge and the laws of the Order;

(b) Promptly credit the account of each member paying him/her money; the member's credit and standing, shall date from such payment;

(c) Receive and issue receipts for all monies due the Lodge. Provide to the Treasurer for endorsement a list of all acknowledged receipts for deposit by the Treasurer;

(d) Give written notice of account, in person or at last known address, at least semi-annually, to each member who is in any way indebted or about to become indebted to the Lodge;

(e) Notify by certified mail, to last known address, any member who is in arrears to the Lodge for an amount equal to one (1) year's dues, whether the arrearage accumulated as unpaid dues, fines, or assessment;

(f) Prepare and furnish to the Noble Grand a list of members entitled to vote at any election;

(g) In conjunction with the Recording Secretary, maintain a current roll of all members; and

(h) Perform all other duties required by law.

SECTION 8. Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer, in conjunction with those set forth in the Ritual to:

(a) Receive from the Recording Secretary each Lodge Night all endorsed minutes as referred to in Article VI, Section 6 (b). Receive from the Financial Secretary all acknowledged receipts and deposits as referred to in Article VI, Section 7 (c) above;

(b) Report at the meeting the balance on-hand at the beginning of the period for which the report is made, receipts during the period of the report and any disbursements during the period of the report;

(c) At the first meeting of the new year, report the annual receipts and expenditures for the previous year; and at the last meeting of the term have his/her books written up for presentation, along with exhibit vouchers, to the Finance Committee for examination within twenty-four (24) hours thereafter;

(d) Give, when requested by the Noble Grand, a statement in writing of money on hand; and

(e) Handle all disbursements and deposits, and perform all other duties required by law.

(f) Signatures Required. Two (2) signatures shall be required for any withdrawal of Lodge funds from any checking or saving accounts; each account shall require not less than three (3) signatures on file.

SECTION 9. The Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall receive a stipend equal to one years dues to be paid by check for each year in office.

SECTION 10. Appointment of Committees on Candidates or Charges. The Noble Grand or qualified member legally acting as such shall appoint a majority and the Vice Grand or member legally acting as such shall appoint a minority of all committees on candidates, investigation, and charges.

SECTION 11. A Grand Lodge representative from the Lodge shall be a Past Grand. He/she will not be subsidized from the Lodge unless he/she has attended at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Lodge meetings during the past year. If a representative or his/her spouse receives funds from another Lodge or Chapter, they will not be allowed more than the total amount allowed as the subsidized amount for the Lodge for that year.

Expenses should be limited to no more than the number of days the session meets (plus one (1) day) for hotel lodging and a per diem of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per day with documentation. The hotel rate shall not exceed the basic rate at the hotel in which the Grand Lodge maintains its headquarters. A comprehensive report may be requested before expenses are paid.

ARTICLE VIII FUNDS

SECTION 1. The dues and receipts of this Lodge shall be held in one (1) fund known as the General Fund, which shall be used for the payment of its proper and legitimate Lodge expenses. The funds of this Lodge shall not be loaned to a member.

SECTION 2. Any funds on hand, over and above Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) shall be placed in an interest bearing account in a Savings Bank approved by the Trustees.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

- SECTION 1. The Visiting Committee shall consist of the Noble Grand, Vice Grand, and Treasurer. They shall visit all sick or disabled members within twenty-four (24) hours after being reported to the Lodge, see that they are properly cared for, and report at the next regular meeting.
- SECTION 2. The Finance Committee shall examine and report on the bills presented. Inspects and audits the books and accounts of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer and other officers and committees charged with the receipts and expenditures of money, and they are authorized to examine the Books or accounts of any officer or committee at any time.
- SECTION 3. A By-Laws Committee, consisting of three (3) members in good standing shall be appointed by the Noble Grand at the first regular meeting after his/her installation. It shall be the duty of the By-Laws Committee to review the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of California, and the Sovereign Grand Lodge, and to propose any resolutions that might be required in order to keep these By-Laws current.
- SECTION 4. Reports of all committees shall be in writing, except the Visiting Committee, and signed by a majority thereof.
- SECTION 5. The Noble Grand shall establish and appoint the chair and members to these standing committees as well as to special committees designated by the Noble Grand as are necessary and desirable to better carry out the fraternal purposes of Odd Fellowship.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

- SECTION 1. By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by the Lodge after having been read at three (3) consecutive regular meetings, with action taking place at the third meeting. Such changes shall be distributed to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote. A vote of two-thirds of the members present is required for passage. Upon passage, the changes shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge for approval. Upon approval by the Grand Lodge, the amendments shall become effective.
- SECTION 2. These By-Laws must be read in open Lodge at least once each year.
- SECTION 3. All former rules and By-Laws are hereby repealed as of the approval date of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI RULES
OF ORDER

SECTION 1. Where they do not conflict with Robert's Code of California Odd Fellows Laws or the Code of General Laws, Robert's Rules of Order will govern our proceedings.

ARTICLE XII
MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. Alcoholic beverages may be dispensed and consumed in our Lodges, Hall, and at any of our Lodge's sponsored functions subject to the following restrictions and any other restrictions of the Grand Lodge;

- (a) The use of alcoholic beverages is authorized as hereinafter provided.
- (b) No alcoholic beverage may be consumed in any set-up Lodge meeting room.
- (c) Alcoholic beverages may be served only prior to opening or following the close of slated or special Lodge meetings only if food is served at the same time.
- (d) A Lodge shall be subject to the same rights and restrictions placed on other renters when sponsoring a social event where alcohol is served.
- (e) Civil Liability insurance protection in the amount sufficient to indemnify any potential protected loss or losses, shall be purchased and in force prior to the serving of any alcoholic beverage under the provisions of this paragraph.
- (f) At all times and functions, state and local laws and ordinances relating to the purchase, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be strictly adhered to; and
- (g) A Lodge may further restrict the use of alcoholic beverages by By-Law, Standing Rule, or Resolution
- (h) The Lodge Hall may be rented or leased to individuals or organizations that serve alcoholic beverages, providing that at no time may a bar be set up or such beverages consumed in a set-up meeting Lodge room.

SECTION 2. The Lodge may make donations to organizations or individuals for the public welfare or for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. No donation to any organization may exceed the donation limits established by the Lodge. The donation limits shall be established by the Lodge not later than March 1 of each year. The Noble Grand may appoint a committee to screen, investigate, establish criteria, and recommend the amount and method of payment. The Lodge must approve/disapprove all payments.

SECTION 3. The Lodge may provide educational scholarships to members or their children, foster children, grandchildren, or other children for whom the member provides substantial support. No scholarship for any individual may exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The Noble Grand may appoint a committee to screen, investigate, establish criteria, and recommend the amount and method of payment of the scholarship(s). The Lodge must approve/disapprove all payments.

SECTION 4. All Lodges are required to provide insurance on property they own. Insurance coverage (not limited to fire, liability protection, and protection for the Lodge's Officers and Directors) and all insurance policies that the Lodge acquires shall have Grand Lodge of California I.O.O.F. listed as additional insured.

SECTION 5. If allowed by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, the membership of the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge may vote, by majority vote, to consolidate and unify as one Lodge with Davis Rebekah Lodge Number 253, subject to affirmative vote by Davis Rebekah Lodge Number 253, and the approval of the Grand Lodge of California and the Rebekah Assembly.

Date of first reading: May 9, 2009

Date of second reading: May 27, 2009

Date of third reading/vote: June 13, 2009

Number of members present and voting: 35

Number voting for adoption: 35

Attest: _____
Renée Liston (Recording Secretary)

Davis Odd Fellows Lodge Committee on By-laws:

Jonathan Raven (Chair)

Ashley Hamidi

Robert Schelen

Matt Bishop

Renée Liston

Date Approved by the Grand Lodge of California:

Attest: _____
For the Grand Lodge of California
Committee on By-Laws

IOOF Protocol for Co-Hosted Fundraising Events

(Adopted by IOOF Yolo Lodge No. 169 in 2006)

The following criteria must be met for an organization to be considered for a co-hosted fundraising event using Odd Fellows seed money and the Odd Fellows Hall:

1. The organization must be a tax exempt and non-profit organization.
2. The organization must be local and serve Yolo County residents.
3. The organization must provide a substantial community benefit.
4. The organization should preferably serve underserved or at-risk populations.
5. The funds raised will be used to further the organization's mission.
6. The organization should preferably have a mailing list of at least 500 households.
7. The organization must have volunteers who are willing to work to promote the event, carry out event pre-planning and staff the event, including clean up.

If an organization meets all the above criteria and is selected by IOOF to co-host an event, the Odd Fellows will provide the following:

1. Use of the Odd Fellows Hall banquet/conference room, kitchen, bathrooms, sound system, tables and chairs on the day of the event at no charge.
2. Odd Fellows representatives who will consult with representatives of the organization regarding all aspects of the event.
3. An Odd Fellows chef/chef team who will work with the organization to develop a menu, purchase food and meal-related supplies, and oversee food preparation and kitchen volunteers on the day of the event.
4. Up to \$500 to be spent on food, drinks, and meal-related supplies. These funds will be disbursed to the Odd Fellows chef/chef team by the Treasurer upon receiving receipts for the cost of the food, drinks, and meal-related supplies purchased for the event.
5. Odd Fellows volunteers to supplement the organization's volunteers on the day of the event.

**IOOF Protocol for Requests for
Donations and/or Ticket Purchases**
(Adopted by IOOF Yolo Lodge No. 169 in 2006)

When IOOF receives requests for charitable or community group donations and/or requests to purchase tickets to charitable or community events, the following protocols will apply:

1. At least one IOOF member must recommend the donation and/or ticket purchase.
2. The requesting group must be a local organization which serves local needs.
3. If tickets are purchased to an event to allow IOOF members to attend, IOOF will subsidize ticket purchases up to a maximum of \$500. (For example, if 10 IOOF members wish to attend an event where ticket costs are \$75 per ticket, IOOF could subsidize \$500 of the total cost, requiring attending members to pay \$25 each per ticket.) Any ticket purchases exceeding the \$500 maximum must be voted on and approved at a meeting of the IOOF membership.
4. Maximum direct donation to a group shall not exceed \$500 per year. (This does not apply to ticket purchases, as outlined in Protocol #3, above.) Any donations exceeding the \$500 maximum must be voted on and approved at a meeting of the IOOF membership.
5. IOOF must be given public recognition for IOOF support.

IOOF Protocol for the Award of Scholarship Grants

(Adopted by IOOF Davis Lodge No. 169 in 2006)

Odd Fellows and Odd Fellows children (including grandchildren, foster children, godchildren, and other children for whom the member provides substantial familial support) may be eligible for higher education scholarships up to the amount of \$1,000 lifetime total per person. The following criteria must be met:

1. The Odd Fellow affiliated with the student must be a member in good standing for a minimum of two years in order to qualify for the scholarship.
2. The student must be enrolled in a post-secondary university, college, junior college, trade/tech or vocational school.
3. The student can be a part-time or full-time student.
4. The student must submit a letter of request* to the Lodge and include proof of enrollment.
5. Funds may be disbursed in increments of four payments of \$250, two payments of \$500 or one payment of \$1,000 while the student is enrolled.
6. Should the student fail to enroll, the scholarship money should be returned.

* The student should be asked to submit the following letter request: Please tell the Committee a little about yourself. Please describe your hopes and aspirations, and what you plan to do with your education. Tell us about the school you will be attending and what your interests or major will be. Describe how the scholarship money will help you with your education. Share information about any IOOF activities you have participated in or other local community groups you have helped. The statement should be about one page in length or a maximum of two pages.

Protocol for Member Rental of Lodge Hall

(Effective January 2010)

This protocol shall govern rental of the Lodge Hall by members of the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge and the Davis Rebekah Lodge. Such members may “rent” the Lodge Hall at no charge, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Renter shall be a member of the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge or the Davis Rebekah Lodge in good standing for a period of at least two years.
2. Renter shall use the Lodge only for his/her personal use for the member and the member’s immediate family (e.g. birthday party for the member or member’s child, grandchild or parent; wedding; anniversary; etc.), and not for the use of others.
3. Renter shall not use the Lodge for commercial, retail, religious, or political purposes, nor shall the Lodge be used for any fundraising event for the Lodge member nor any organization or cause that the Lodge member wishes to benefit.
4. Renter may use the Lodge one day per calendar year, not to exceed seven (7) hours. A member’s once-per-calendar-year privilege to use the Lodge under this protocol is personal and is not transferable to any other member.
5. Renter shall have received training in Hall Operations within three months of rental, or shall have a Member of the Lodge in attendance at the event at all times who has received such training in Hall Operations within three months of rental.
6. Renter shall sign a contract with the Hall Board Association governing the member rental of the Lodge Hall.
7. Rental shall be subject to availability of the Lodge.
8. Renter shall pay the non-refundable booking fee (currently \$75), unless renter has personally received training in Hall Operations within three months of rental in which case the booking fee is waived and shall not be paid. Renter shall not pay a security deposit or hourly rental fee.

**Membership and Initiation Committee
Davis Odd Fellows Lodge
Protocol for Processing of Applications for Initiation
(April 2010)**

To assure a reasonable period of time for members of the Lodge and applicants for membership to the Lodge to get to know one another, the Membership and Initiation Committee (“the Committee”) shall follow this Protocol for the processing of applications for a vote by the membership and initiation:

1. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Chair of the Committee only on the form prescribed for that purpose. If properly executed, the application shall be read at the next Lodge meeting after submission. Once read at a meeting, the applicant shall be considered a pledge of this lodge.
2. All applicants must have a sponsor. A member of the Lodge shall not sponsor more than four (4) pledges at one time.
3. At the time an application is submitted, the Committee shall assure that every pledge be assigned to a mentor, who shall be a member of the Lodge in good standing who shall have been a member for at least one year. The mentor shall guide the pledge in an understanding of Odd Fellowship and shall actively introduce the pledge to members of the Lodge.
4. The minimum pledge period between the reading of the application and initiation shall be five (5) months.
5. Each pledge during the pledge period shall attend a minimum of eight (8) meetings and events of the Lodge.
6. Each pledge during the pledge period shall serve as a pro tem member of at least one Lodge committee, appointed by the Noble Grand.
7. Each pledge during the pledge period shall meet and get to know at least twenty-five (25) members of the Lodge. Each pledge shall be given a “pledge book” by the Chair of the Committee at the time the application is submitted. In that pledge book, each pledge shall obtain the signatures and comments of at least twenty-five (25) members of the lodge. The pledge book shall also record all events and meetings attended by the pledge, confirmed by the signature of a Lodge member.
8. The Committee shall interview each pledge and make a recommendation of membership to the Lodge. The Committee shall provide to each Lodge member an information sheet on each recommended pledge.
9. If the Committee makes an affirmative recommendation of a pledge, Lodge members shall vote on the admission of that pledge to membership in the Lodge. Any pledge who receives an affirmative majority vote of the members of the Lodge is entitled to be initiated upon the payment of dues and initiation fee.
10. Initiations shall be scheduled on dates that the Lodge directs based on the number of pledges ready for initiation.

Membership and Initiation Committee- Mentoring Program

1. Project Goal:

- a. To promote a pleasant and mutually beneficial social experience that incorporates applicants into the organization in a manner that fosters friendship, stimulates civic responsibility, and promulgates a place for Odd Fellowship.

2. Project Aims:

- a. Guide the applicant through the initiation process
- b. Act as an advocate for the applicant
- c. Ease the transition of the applicant from an applicant to an active member in good standing with the Lodge

3. Aim 1: Guide the Applicant Through the Application Process

- a. For some individuals, joining a new organization and meeting new people can be a daunting task. The objective of a mentor is to:
 - i. Encourage the initiate to participate in several committees to find the best fit
 - ii. Encourage/Join the applicant in Odd Fellow sponsored activities
 - iii. Help the applicant with completion of the applicant book
 - iv. Address any concerns raised by the applicant during the application process
 - v. Meet with the applicant at least twice a month to check on the applicant's progress and to answer any questions/concerns the applicant may have

4. Aim 2: Act as an Advocate for the Applicant

- a. Applicants generally have the opportunity to voice their opinion about many of the Lodge's activities. One exception occurs during procedural votes by the active membership regarding the initiation of applicants. The objective of a mentor is to act as an advocate for his/her applicant during these times.
 - i. During procedural votes, besides the sponsor, the mentor should be the best representative for discussing the actions of the applicant during the application process
 - ii. Mentors should address issues/concerns that have developed between members and applicants during the application process.

5. Aim 3: Ease the Transition of the Applicant from an Applicant to an Active Member of the Lodge

- a. The initiation process can be time consuming, leaving an applicant wary of Lodge activities/participation requirements. One objective of a mentor is to help keep the newly initiated member active and contributing to the organization in a positive manner.
 - i. Encourage the newly initiated member to remain active in at least one of the committees they participated in during the application process
 - ii. Encourage the newly initiated member to try new activities within the Lodge and to continue to build relationships with existing members
 - iii. Offer to continue to meet with the newly initiated member

6. **Overseeing the Mentor Program by the Membership and Initiation Committee**
 - a. Address issues concerning mentor-initiate interactions, including by not limited to, personality conflicts, scheduling conflicts, and irreconcilable differences.
 - b. Mentor assignments are at the discretion of the M&I committee
 - i. If possible 2 mentors (1 newer, 1 older) should be assigned to each applicant.
 - ii. Mentor re-assignment may occur if mentor-initiate issues cannot be resolved
 - iii. Active members are expected to serve as a mentor at least once every 3 initiation cycles
 - c. The M&I committee will work with the secretary to track initiate attendance at meetings/activities and present a report at the bi-monthly meetings

Re-opening of the Odd Fellows Hall

A long-time fixture in Downtown Davis has undergone a major remodel and face-lift. The Odd Fellows Hall, located at 415 Second Street, reopened its doors for a Gala Grand Opening on Friday, March 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. The public was cordially invited to see the “new” Hall.

The Hall was closed for over one year during a major remodeling project. The new Hall is completely ADA compliant and features a newly installed elevator. The kitchen has been rebuilt and upgraded with the latest in stainless steel technology. New bathrooms have been installed. But the centerpiece of the project is the basement lodge hall, which is now styled in an art deco look with wood-paneling, acoustic ceiling, 1930–style lighting fixtures, and lush carpeting.

The Hall jointly houses and is jointly owned by Davis Lodge Number 169 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (the Davis Odd Fellows) and Davis Rebekah Lodge Number 253. The Lodge Hall, and all Odd Fellows and Rebekahs property is jointly managed by the Hall Board composed of three Odd Fellows Lodge members and three Rebekahs.

The Grand Opening featured wine tasting by local winery Rominger West, finger food supplied by Nugget Markets, pizza from Woodstocks, and ice cream from Schwann’s Creamery. Members of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs were available to give quick tours of the newly remodeled facility.

The Odd Fellows Hall is available for public rentals at reasonable rates, for meetings, conferences, dinners, weddings, birthdays, and other events subject to availability. Persons interested in the rate schedule and rental of the Hall should call the Marketing Director Dody Black at 758-4940.

The Odd Fellows trace their history back to 1748 in England and 1819 in the United States. The first California Odd Fellows Lodge (Lodge Number 1) opened in San Francisco in 1849. Yolo Lodge Number 169 (now Davis Lodge) was chartered in 1870 (five years after the end of the Civil War) and is the oldest continuously operating organization in Davis, pre-dating the City of Davis and UCD. Odd Fellows are called the “three-link fraternity” based on the logo featuring three interlocking links, which stand for friendship, love and truth. The Davis Odd Fellows are very active in support of charitable and community causes in Yolo County supporting groups such as Pine Tree Gardens, Hospice, the Mexican-American Concilio, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and others. The Davis Odd Fellows put on the Picnic Day Pancake Breakfast in April and the Breakfast with Santa in December.

The Rebekah Order was founded back in 1851. At the time, Odd Fellows was the first organization that founded Lodges for women when it established the Rebekah Order. Schuyler Colfax—Vice President to U.S. Grant and a member of the Odd Fellows—was the driving force behind the founding of the Rebekah Order. Davis Rebekah Lodge Number 253 was instituted on April 5, 1901. The Davis Rebekahs provide scholarships to college students, support the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs float in the annual Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, and are supportive of the Odd Fellows youth camp, among other community activities. The Davis Rebekahs also provide support to two Rebekah and Odd Fellows retirement homes in Napa and Saratoga, and support the heart fund, the arthritis fund, and visual research.

The Odd Fellows Home of California

By Dave Rosenberg, Noble Grand

Did you know that the California Odd Fellows own two remarkable retirement communities? Yes, it's true. IOOF owns The Saratoga Retirement Community ("SRC") in the town of Saratoga as well as The Meadows in Napa. Both are absolutely first-class operations and among the finest retirement communities in the country.

The two communities are operated by The Odd Fellows Home of California ("OFHC") Board of Directors, composed of 13 Directors elected by the Grand Lodge of California and the Rebekah Assembly of California. I am pleased to serve on that Board of Directors. I was appointed to the Board by the Grand Master of California, and confirmed by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors in December 2008. At the May 2009 Grand Lodge in Modesto, I was unanimously elected by the Grand Lodge. At the July 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors, even though I am the newest Board member, my colleagues on the Board elected me to serve as Vice Chairman.

In my opinion, the operation of these two retirement communities is one of the finest things this Order does. I am proud to serve as a member of the OFHC Board of Directors.

The Saratoga Retirement Community is placed on 37 wooded acres and provides 143 independent living apartments and cottages, 105 assisted living apartments, 11 special care units for memory impaired clients, and 94 long and short term skilled nursing beds. Over 200 staff serves the residents of SRA.

The Meadows is set on over 20 acres at the very edge of town with magnificent views of open space. There are 200 independent living apartments, 63 assisted living units, 69 health care beds, and a recently-opened 20 room memory care unit. Over 175 staff serves the residents of The Meadows.

Both SRA and The Meadows are open to adults who are at least 55 years old. The facilities are both open to the general public, and are not limited only to members of the Order.

The Three-Legged Stool

**By Dave Rosenberg, NG
Davis Lodge # 169**

Since the end of World War II in 1945, this great Order of Odd Fellows has lost 90% of its membership. If you aren't shocked by that fact, let me put it another way: For the past 65 years, the Order has without fail, lost members, year after year. The California jurisdiction had 50,000 members in 1946 – it now has (at best) 5,000. And, as we all know, 5,000 members really means 2,500 “active” members. Further, many of our Lodges can barely muster a quorum, and some Lodges have members no younger than their 60's, having effectively skipped a generation or two of new members.

Anyone who doesn't believe that Odd Fellowship is at the very brink today ignores history and is doomed to watch the continuation of that decline. This Order will not long survive, I'm afraid, without some fundamental revitalization and change. The irony of all this is that we don't have to do anything radical to save this Order. Instead, we only have to look at our own history and revisit the things that once made this Order great in the 1800's and 1900's. In those days, people sought out membership in the Odd Fellows. It was the place to be in the community. Why is that?

Odd Fellowship was strong (and can be strong again) by viewing the fraternity as having three great pillars of support, or to put it in more mundane terms, as a three-legged stool. If all legs are strong, the stool will support the body. If one of the legs is weak, the stool will totter and fall. If two legs are weak, the stool will certainly collapse. Odd Fellowship was strong in the past because Lodges were supported by three strong legs of the stool. Odd Fellowship is weak today because most Lodges simply rely on one leg and have de-emphasized, ignored or forgotten the other two legs of the stool. So, what are these three legs which should support and can transform our Order?

Fraternity

We begin with the great fraternal history and substantial assets of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. We have, indeed, a distinguished past on which we can build. We have fine and dedicated members. We have Lodge Halls that stand in the heart of many communities. We have a tradition and rituals which (while needing modernization and revision in some instances) have served us well for over two hundred years.

This leg is quite strong throughout the Order. The other two legs, however, are in need of strengthening in virtually every Lodge.

Community

We have to re-connect with our communities. Once, long ago, the IOOF Lodge was the very center of the town. It can be again. But too many of our Lodges have withdrawn into their four walls and have become virtually invisible in their towns. That has to change. Lodges need to open themselves up to the community. This can be done in many ways. Lodges should have open meetings from time to time – a great way to invite prospective members to see what the Lodge does as well as get to know the Lodge members, and for Lodge members to get to know prospective members. Lodges should sponsor events on behalf of charitable and community groups. Two or three such annual events can go a long way to establish a Lodge's reputation as a leading community organization. Those Lodges that own Lodge Halls should make those Halls available for the community for appropriate events.

Fellowship

We are members of a fraternal order and that involves much more than passwords, signs and grips. A fraternal order is a fellowship. And that means that the Lodge must foster events and functions that bring members together to enjoy each other's company and socially interact: breakfasts, lunches, dinners, hikes, trips, movie nights, game or card nights, wine tasting, beer brewing, dances, whatever the members feel will encourage good fellowship.

Ultimately, we have to ask ourselves: Why does anyone wish to become an Odd Fellow in the 21st Century? If we are brutally honest with ourselves, we would have to conclude that very few people join because of the ritual. Realistically, people join because of two reasons: (1) IOOF does good works in the community, and (2) IOOF provides a social network where members can enjoy each other's company and have a little fun.

In my Davis Lodge we have not just talked the talk, but we have walked the walk. So I know it can be done. When I first joined the Davis Lodge in 2004, our membership was under 40, and we could barely scrape together 12 members for a meeting – a situation in which many Lodges currently find themselves. Today, the Davis Lodge has 132 members, 10 applicants for membership for our Spring Initiation, and 35 others who are actively considering applying for the Spring Initiation. We have tripled our membership in 5 years and are about to quadruple it.

How is this possible? It's possible because we have focused on all three legs of the stool: fraternity, community and fellowship. We can stop the slow diminution of our membership. We can grow this Order. I know, from personal experience, that it can be done.