

## INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

OF

THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE

HELD IN

DES MOINES, IOWA

COMMENCING MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

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*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 9:00 o'clock a.m.*

The Sovereign Grand Lodge assembled pursuant to adjournment.

PSGM Glover was in the chair when the officers of The Sovereign Grand Lodge were presented and introduced.

SGM Heckart called the session to order.

Present: The Sovereign Grand Lodge Officers, Past Sovereign Grand Masters and a quorum of Grand Representatives.

The Sovereign Grand Warden assisted by the Sovereign Grand Marshal and the Sovereign Grand Conductor, by order, examined the Grand Representatives and declared them duly qualified.

The Officers, Members and Visitors joined in the singing of the Opening Ode of the Encampment.

SGM Heckart asked Sovereign Grand Chaplain Gilchrist to conduct the DEVOTION.

**FORGIVENESS & PEACE**

**Ephesians 4:32** — Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Matthew 7:12** The Golden Rule — So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them....

**Matthew 18:21&22** — Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.”

Forgive anyone who caused you pain or harm, keeping in mind that forgiving is not for others, it is for you. Forgiving is not forgetting, it is remembering without anger. It frees up your power, heals your body, your mind and spirit. Forgiveness opens up a pathway to a new place of peace where you can persist despite what has happened to you.

This glass of water for example, how much does it weigh? It's starting weight is actually irrelevant...because the problem is that as long as I hold onto it, it's weight only increases. It gets heavier and harder for me to hold it up the longer I hold onto it. Just like the weight of anger, hurt, resentment. Put it down, let it go, release it, and Forgive so you can free up the weight and strain it has on you.

In certain regions of South Africa, when someone does something wrong, he is taken to the center of the village and surrounded by his tribe for 2 days while they speak of all the good he has done. They believe each person is good, yet sometimes we make mistakes, which is really a cry for help. They unite in this ritual to encourage the person to reconnect with his true nature. The belief is that unity and affirmation have more power to change behavior than shame and punishment. This is called UBUNTU and it basically translates to: Humanity towards others.

An example of this lies beneath a story about a little boy who had a bad temper and nothing his parents did to discipline him seemed to change his actions. One day his father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the new fence they had recently built together. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father then took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said "You have done well my son, but look at the holes in the fence. This beautiful fence that we built will never be the same. When you say things in anger, your words like those nails leave scars just like these holes. You can physically cut a person and it won't matter how many times you say, "I'm sorry", the wound is still there, they still bleed and suffer pain. The little boy then understood how powerful his words were, and the damage they had created. He looked up at his father and said, "I hope you can forgive me father for the wounds I caused in you." "Of course, I can son" said his father, and there was peace once more in their home. The little boy never forgot the lesson because the fence forever bore the scars of his bad temper and became a constant reminder of the gift he had been granted as well, forgiveness.

It is not always anger, or words, it can be our actions in general. There are no "fresh starts" in life without leaving the burdensome baggage behind us. There are no mulligans or do overs, no rewinds. Forgiveness can come easy for many people but the scars of the past, they never really go away. Watch what you do or say every day, because sometimes the price isn't worth the cost in the end. We have all experienced a little brokenness from time to time in our lives and the tragedy is not so much that we have been broken, the tragedy is that we are not being mended. If you do not allow yourself to move past what happened, what was said, what was felt, you will continue to see your present and future through the same "dirty lens". Realize this now, focus and breathe, then take that step to Peace... "Put it down". Paraphrasing Matthew 11:30 – God says "Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." He desires only to colorize our black & white world and refill it with light and beauty. Exercise forgiveness whenever possible and open yourself up for the peace which follows. Always keep in mind The Golden Rule which we should all follow: Do unto others as we would want others to do unto us.

Let us Pray,

Your love for us is so beautiful and precious. Lord, we give to you all that we are today. Please brush away any weariness we have, so that we may be inspired in our daily activities. Help us to discover new ways to reveal your love to all whom we meet. Keep our minds clear and focused on all we need to achieve, and give us the wisdom to overcome difficulties and find solutions. We look to you and trust you are with us this day and forevermore. Forgive us the errors of yesterday and help us to forgive each other when mistakes are made and thus finding peace ourselves. Help us to Put Down any baggage we have been carrying around unnecessarily and in so doing finding Peace. This I pray in your name.

AMEN.

The Sovereign Grand Musician played Amazing Grace.

The Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, by direction of the Sovereign Grand Master, declared The Sovereign Grand Lodge open for business at 8:23 a.m.

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At this time the Sovereign Grand Master called for the presentation of **BILLS**.

**Bill No. 16**

Rep. Laswell of the GMC from the Committee on Patriarchs Militant presented the following Bill, which was referred to the Committees on Legislation and Patriarchs Militant.

**TITLE:** A Bill to Amend Chapter XIII, Constitution of the General Military Council Patriarchs Militant, I.O.O.F., Article IV, Members.

Be it enacted by The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F.:

That Chapter XIII, Article IV of the Code of General laws be amended as follows:

- SEC. 1 The working members of the General Military Council with voting powers are: ~~the Elected Officers,~~ Department Commanders or their accredited representative, ~~The General Commanding (Retired),~~ Past Department Commanders and Past Presidents of the Department Association.
- A. It is to be understood that a Department Council may be represented by the Department Commander or a Representative (either or / not both. See GMC By-laws for additional allowance for Representatives, Article VI, Section 4).
- B. All eligible voting members must be in good standing and attired in proper uniform.
  - 1. The General Commanding may issue a uniform of the day declaration.
  - 2. Class A Uniform.
  - 3. Class B Uniform from a Tropical Climate which has been granted dispensation to use Class B Uniform in their Department and Cantons by GMC.
  - 4. Special Medical Dispensation may be granted by the General Commanding.
  - 5. Past Presidents of the former Department Association LAPM in regulation LAPM uniform may participate in the proceedings with voice and vote until such time the uniform is unserviceable.

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At this time the Sovereign Grand Master called for the presentation of **RESOLUTIONS.**

**Resolution No. 16**

Representative Braucci of Connecticut, Carr of Oregon, and Sellars of California presented the following Resolution, to destigmatize the therapeutic use of CBD products, which was referred to the Committees on State of the Order, Miscellaneous Business, Arthritis.

- Whereas*, several members of all branches of the Order suffer from a myriad of ailments, and
- Whereas*, many well respected certified research facilities, as well as the FDA have conducted studies and research, and
- Whereas*, according to Harvard Health Publishing of the Harvard Medical School, CBD is derived from the hemp plant and DOES NOT cause a high by itself, and
- Whereas*, according to the aforementioned article some benefits observed from various studies are, but not limited to, reduction of anxiety, control chronic unmanageable pain, reduce PTSD symptoms, alleviate ALS symptoms which has no cure, and, ease diabetic complications, and
- Whereas*, in 2018 the FDA approved use of CBD to treat two (2) rare forms of epilepsy in patients older than two years of age, and
- Whereas*, there are several types of Arthritis, and symptoms include pain, stiffness and loss of motion. Treatment usually targets pain relief and improved joint function, and
- Whereas*, in an article in Forbes Health a 2018 study of more localized treatment a synthetic CBD gel was administered to arthritis sufferers and those patients who received the CBD and not a placebo reported a noticeable reduction in pain along with improved range of motion, and
- Whereas*, there are more studies and continuing research that are finding more positive benefits and uses of CBD

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That due to the increasing number of positive results and uses for CBD for those whom may benefit from, but for various reasons, might be reluctant to take advantage of this new option as a

possible addition to their treatment regimen, The Sovereign Grand Lodge will help to destigmatize it's therapeutic use, especially for arthritis sufferers and therefore encourage Grand Lodges to act in kind providing that it is legal in that jurisdiction.

**Resolution No. 17**

Rep. Glover of South Dakota submits the following Resolution.

**Whereas**, the Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of South Dakota has fully endorsed this endeavor, and  
**Whereas**, the Rapid City, South Dakota Convention and Visitors Bureau has formally submitted their invitation, and  
**Whereas**, the Convention Center is fully capable of handling these unified sessions and the beautiful Black Hills have a wide range of sights and experiences to offer the Brothers and Sisters to our Order.  
**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Jurisdiction of South Dakota invites The Sovereign Grand Lodge to Rapid City, South Dakota for the 2027 Session to be hosted by the Mount Rushmore State and the Jurisdiction of South Dakota once again in Rapid City if selected.

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SGM Heckart presided over the **CALENDAR**.

PSGM Renninger withdrew Report No. 31  
Rep. Glover of South Dakota withdrew Resolution No. 7

**Report No. 24**

Rep. Adams of Minnesota from the Committee on Communications

Actions of the Communication Committee for the year, social media for Odd Fellows and what committee does.  
Report Adopted.

**Report No. 25**

This is the report of the SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee 2023

Activities held at this year's session for the youth  
Report Adopted.

**Report No. 26**

Reps. Thomas of Kentucky and Otterstrom of Washington from the Committees on Legislation and State of the Order.

Your Committees on Legislation and State of the Order to whom were referred Bill No. 2 regarding number of units to constitute a Grand Lodge found on Page 195-196 of Monday's Daily Journal, beg leave to report that the Committees have carefully considered said Bill and recommend that it be **NOT** placed on its passage.

**TITLE:** A Bill to amend Chapter II, Section 2 F (2) of the Code of General Laws, setting the number of units to constitute a Grand Lodge.

Yes: 20 No: 80

Bill Not Adoptped

**Report No. 27**

Reps. Hayden of North Carolina and Nichols of Ontario from the Committees on Legislation and State of the Order.

Your Committees on Legislation and State of the Order to whom were referred Bill No. 3 regarding deleting reference to liberally construed found on Page 196 of Monday's Daily Journal, beg leave to report that the Committees have carefully considered said Bill and recommend that it be **NOT** placed on its passage.

**TITLE:** A Bill to amend Chapter II, by deleting Section 14 [page II-25] in its entirety of the Code of General Laws – deleting reference to Liberally Construed.

That Chapter II, Section 14 be deleted:

**~~SEC. 14. — Laws To Be Liberally Construed.~~**

~~The rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and Code of General Laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.~~

**In Addition, to amend:** Chapter IV Section 2 A (1) (d) [Grand Lodge (page IV-2)];  
Chapter V Section 2 D [Odd Fellows Lodge (page V-1)];  
Chapter VII Sec 2 A (1) (d) [Rebekah Assembly (page VII-2)]; and  
Chapter VIII, Sec 2 D [Rebekah Lodge (page VIII-1)] to delete reference to Liberally Construed.

Chapter IV Section 2 A (1) (d) [**Grand Lodge** (page IV-2)]

~~(d) Laws To Be Liberally Construed.~~

~~The rules and regulations as set forth in the Constitution and By laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.~~

Chapter V Section 2 D [**Odd Fellows Lodge** (page V-1)]

~~D. Laws To Be Liberally Construed.~~

~~The rules and regulations as set forth in the Constitution and By laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.~~

Chapter VII Sec 2 A (1) (d) [**Rebekah Assembly** (page VII-2)]

~~(a) Laws To Be Liberally Construed.~~

~~The rules and regulations as set forth in the Constitution and By laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.~~

Chapter VIII, Sec 2 D [**Rebekah Lodge** (page VIII-1)]

~~D. Laws To Be Liberally Construed.~~

~~The rules and regulations as set forth in the Constitution and By laws shall be liberally construed. The chief concern shall be following the spirit of the law and the good of Rebekah Odd Fellowship rather than harshly enforcing rules to the letter of the law.~~

Rep. Adams of Minnesota asked for a Roll Call vote, which was agreed to.

Bill Defeated      Yes:    61      No:    40

**Report No. 28**

Reps. Reitzer-Smith of Texas and Rafter of Iowa from the Committees on Legislation and Patriarchs Militant.

Your Committees on Legislation and Patriarchs Militant to whom were referred Bill No. 14 found on Page 250 of Wednesday's Daily Journal regarding a Canton Constitution, beg leave to report that the Committees have carefully considered said Bill and recommend that it be placed on its passage.

Title: A Bill to Amend Chapter XIV, Department Councils.

Bill Adopted    Yes:    100    No:    0

**Report No. 29**

Reps. Rayborn of Mississippi and Rafter of Iowa from the Committees on Legislation and Patriarchs Militant.

Your Committees on Legislation and Patriarchs Militant to whom were referred Bill No. 15 regarding the Constitution for Department Councils found on Page 259 of Wednesday's Daily Journal, beg leave to report that the Committees have carefully considered said Bill and recommend that it be placed on its passage.

Title: A Bill to Amend Chapter XIV, Department Councils.

Amendments:                      Yes:    100    No:    0  
 Bill Approved as Adopted      Yes:    100    No:    0

**Report No. 30**

Rep. Sellars of California from the Committee on State of the Order.

Your Committee on State of the Order to whom was referred Resolution No. 12 regarding Unified Branding Strategy for I.O.O.F. found on Page 235 of Tuesday's Daily Journal beg leave to report that the Committee has carefully considered said Resolution and would recommend that it be adopted.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 31 - withdrawn**

**Report No. 32**

Reps. MacDonald of North Dakota; Campbell of North Carolina and Black of Utah, from the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem.

Your Committee on Mileage and Per Diem to whom was referred the Sovereign Grand Secretary's report on Mileage and Per Diem found on pages 174-176, Book 2, respectfully submit the report as necessitated by absences or changes from the Session. The total mileage and per diem cost is \$116,696.80. The Committee has carefully considered said Report and would recommend that it be adopted.

Report Adopted.

**Report No. 33**

Rep. Hodges of Kansas from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Michigan for review:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved with the exceptions listed.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 34**

Rep. Gibson of Virginia from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Missouri for review:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and not approved with exceptions listed.  
Report Adopted.

**Report No. 35**

Rep. Arrasmith of Oklahoma from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Texas for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved with exception listed.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 36**

Rep. Cunningham of Wisconsin from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of California for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 37**

Rep. Bonsall of Michigan from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Indiana for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exceptions.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 38**

Rep. Gibson of Virginia from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Rebekah Assembly of Kansas for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and have been approved without exceptions.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 39**

Rep. Cunningham of Wisconsin from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Maine for review of additions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 40**

Rep. Arrasmith of Oklahoma from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-laws from the Rebekah Assembly of Michigan for review of revisions:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exceptions.  
Report Adopted

**Report No. 41**

Rep. Heighton of Nova Scotia from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 42**

Rep. Heighton of Nova Scotia from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire for review of amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 43**

Rep. Heighton of Nova Scotia from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Encampment of Ohio for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 44**

Rep. Scheurich of Washington from the Committee on Constitutions.

Your Committee on Constitutions to whom was referred the Constitution and By-Laws from the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island for review of deletions and amendments:

Have been reviewed by the Committee on Constitutions and approved without exception.

Report Adopted

**Report No. 45**

Rep. Huchel of Pennsylvania from the Committee on Investigation of Grievances.

Your Committee on Investigation of Grievances to whom was referred no assignments during the term, beg leave to report that the Committee has carefully considered said Report and would recommend that it be adopted.

Report Adopted

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Rep. Hillberry of West Virginia stated the importance of scheduling locations for future sessions of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Rep. Hillberry of West Virginia moved Resolution No. 13 on page 263 be adopted, which was agreed to; the 2025 session will be held in Charleston, West Virginia.

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Rep. Hillberry of West Virginia represented the members of the Committee on Finance and asked if anyone had questions regarding the proposed 2023-2024 Budget. The Committee on Finance recommends the Budget be adopted.



**Resolution No. 18 – 2023-2024 Budget – Adopted**

Reps. Hillberry of West Virginia, Renninger of District of Columbia, and Buchanan of New York from the Sub-Committee on Finance with the concurrence of the Session Committee on Finance presented the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**RESOLVED**, that all vouchers covering expenditures of funds be supported by an itemized statement attached thereto.

**RESOLVED**, that \$0.00 shall be paid to the IOOF International Press Association, members or publications, if any of them carry advertising from uniform manufactures, regalia houses, jewelry firms or suppliers not under contract with The Sovereign Grand Lodge and that a certified list of member publications be filed with the Sovereign Grand Secretary annually and immediate notification given of each added or dropped member.

**RESOLVED**, that no officer, representative or member shall be paid mileage and per diem or extra per diem for attendance in advance of Session of The Sovereign Grand Lodge or the regular Session thereof unless authorized by law or regulation of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

**RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$1,043,860.00 or fraction thereof as may be necessary and is hereby appropriated for annual and other authorized expenses of The Sovereign Grand Lodge for the ensuing fiscal year in the manner and to the extent for the purposes herein expressed, and that the Sovereign Grand Secretary is hereby authorized to draw warrants on the Sovereign Grand Treasurer, at such times and in such amounts as may be required, provided however, that the Sovereign Grand Secretary shall only pay the respective sums as specified and appropriated.

**RESOLVED**, all sub-committee chairmen must submit prior to each annual session, all bills for expenses for that session.

**RESOLVED**, all funding requests must be accompanied by an expenditure report for the current fiscal year to include all existing programs and a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**RESOLVED**, effective at the end of this Session of The Sovereign Grand Lodge, each jurisdiction or individual ordering supplies, jewels, etc. will be charged for all postage or freight incurred.

**RESOLVED**, all committee members may receive per diem in the amount of Ninety-Five Dollars (\$95.00 USD) per day and mileage in the amount of Fifty Cents (\$0.50 USD) per mile one way, or actual expenses, whichever is less, for any meeting which may be authorized. All committees shall be prudent with appropriations meeting only as necessary. Committee chairs shall submit an accounting for all expenses. Members are encouraged to use the most economical method of travel. Expenses are defined as to include lodging, meals, and costs in direct relation to transportation for that day.

**RESOLVED**, that the mileage & per diem rates for the 2024 session shall be in the amount of Ninety-Five Dollars (\$95.00 USD) per day and Fifty Cents (\$0.50 USD) per mile one-way effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at midnight.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sovereign Grand Secretary and the Sovereign Grand Treasurer be hereby authorized to expend, during the period from the close of the Annual Communication to the end of the transition quarter of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 such sums of funds that are necessary and reasonable for the day to day operation of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Submitted by the Committee

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SGM Heckert recognized Utah, who donated \$5,000.00 to Hawaii.

Rep. Caires of Hawaii thanked everyone for the donations.

SGM Heckert called a recess until 10:00.

SGM Heckert went to visit the IARA and GMC.

DSGM Cupp was in the Chair.

Rep. Hillberry asked all Daily Journals from this session be sent via email to those who usually get them, which was agreed to.

SGM Heckert returned to the chair and called a controlled recess for a visitor.

President-I.A.R.A. Ruth A. Earle was introduced, presented SGM Heckert with her PSGM Social Pin, and gave remarks.

SGM Heckert called the controlled recess over.

SGM Heckert recognized our European Delegation.

## REPORTS

### Report No. 46

#### Courtesies Extended Committee Report

Your Committee on Courtesies Extended, Reps. Prymek of Louisiana, Braucci of Connecticut, Coen of Missouri, Cupp of Florida, and Kerns of West Virginia submit the following report for the 196<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of The Sovereign Grand Lodge held in Des Moines, Iowa, August 20-24, 2023.

The Des Moines Marriott Downtown was the headquarters hotel for this communication.

Young people began arriving Thursday afternoon, August 17<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Youth Days, which had 29 youth from 4 states registered. Along with these youths, there were 25 adult advisors, friends and special guests for a total of 54 for Friday's Youth Days meeting.

Highlights for the Youth's Days were a pizza party, fun night at a waterpark with a stop at Ronald McDonald House to deliver the 50 toy animals that they had stuffed, and a dinner theater in which the kids were the stars. The youth were visited by leaders of our Order, as well as a representative from Visual Research.

Registration for this Sovereign Grand Lodge communication commenced on Saturday for those arriving early. There were several groups that held meetings that afternoon. That evening, there was a welcome dinner where members had the opportunity to visit with friends while enjoying a delicious meal.

Sunday morning began with an Orientation Session for Grand Representatives which included introductory speeches given by individuals running for the office of Sovereign Grand Warden. In the afternoon there was a joint Memorial Worship service remembering those who had passed away since our last session. The evening formal opening featured the jurisdictional flag procession and recognition was given to various officers. The evening continued with presentations being made by several committees. Awards were presented to individuals, lodges, and jurisdictions for their support to the various projects of the Order. The evening concluded with comments from the three current heads of our Order.

Monday morning, bright and early at 9 a.m., the 196<sup>th</sup> Communication of The Sovereign Grand Lodge began. Reports were given, Bills and Resolutions were assigned to committees for review and Committee appointments were made. There was also a very moving memorial given for the Past Sovereign Grand Masters whom we lost over the past year. That evening, the Officers Banquet was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Tuesday morning, there were more Bills and Resolutions presented and the election was held. John S. Cupp, Jr. of Pennsylvania was elected Sovereign Grand Master, Gerald V. (Jerry) Workman from West Virginia Deputy Sovereign Grand Master; and Thomas J. Calabrese of New Jersey Sovereign Grand Warden. Terry L. Barrett of Illinois was elected to a three-year term as Sovereign Grand Secretary.

The Grand Sire of Europe, Morton Baun, addressed the Body concerning the war in the Ukraine. They have generously donated vehicles, perishables, medical supplies, and other items that are desperately needed. Tuesday's events were concluded with the Change of Command ceremony for the General Military Council. General Howard G. "Doc" Malin advanced to the office of General Commanding.

Wednesday, there were more Bills and Resolutions submitted to the Body for consideration. There were also a few that we were given for reconsideration. The Officers for the coming year were ratified. Awards were presented by the Educational Foundation. In an effort to keep members informed, The Sovereign Grand Lodge is requesting an email address be submitted. The evening concluded with a banquet followed by the installation of the newly elected officers of the Sovereign Grand Lodge and IARA.

Thursday brings this communication to a conclusion. Final action will be taken on legislation and reports still in process, a budget will be adopted, and jewels will be exchanged as newly installed officers assume their positions. Leaving Des Moines, we plan to assemble beginning August 15, 2024, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for our 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication.

Rep. Kerns moved to accept this report, which was agreed to.

**Report No. 47**

From the Session Host Committee:

Attendance:

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Sovereign Grand Lodge | 206        |
| I.A.R.A.              | 220        |
| GMC                   | 59         |
| Youth                 | 42         |
| Guests                | <u>34</u>  |
| Total Registered      | <b>561</b> |

Dinners/Banquets:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Youth Banquet       | 123 |
| Welcome Dinner      | 184 |
| Officer's Banquet   | 238 |
| Installation Dinner | 348 |
| City Lights         | 160 |

SGS Barrett moved the adoption of this report, which was agreed to.

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SGM Cupp announced **Appointments for the 2023-2024 term** and approval of the same, which was agreed to.

**Deputy Sovereign Grand Master – Australasia**

Gordon A. Bitter – Australia    gordon.bitter@keyinvest.com.au

**Deputy Sovereign Grand Master – Cuba/Latin America**

Leonardo Cardona Neirg                                    IOOFCuba@enet.cu

**Deputy Sovereign Grand Master – Europe**

Morten Buan - Norway                                    morten.buan@oddfellow.no

**DDSGM – Africa (Ghana, Kenya & Nigeria):**

Uwem Friday Edem                                    edem.uwem@yahoo.com

**DDSGM – Belize:**    Daniel J. Gorham

**DDSGM – Chile:**

Mario Casassus Gabellini    mariocasassusgabellini@yahoo.com

**DDSGM – Dominican Republic:**

Juan Francisco Irraragorri

**DDSGM – Hawai'i:**

Nathan Ramos Jr.                                    nathanramos167@gmail.com

**DDSGM – Lebanon:**

Hanibal Ayoub                                    jakin-1@hotmail.com

**DDSGM – Mexico:**

Henry L. Dupray                                    hdupray@ec.rr.com

**DDSGM – Puerto Rico:**

Alberto Cue Varela,                                    cuefltioof@aol.com

**DDSGM – Saskatchewan:**

E. Wesley Nelson

DDSGM – AZ Patriarchal Degrees: Michael Guerrero

DDSGM – NM Patriarchal Degrees: Barbara J.

DDSGM – BC Patriarchal Degrees: Trudie Brisson

Corfield

DDSGM – DC Patriarchal Degrees: Charles L.

DDSGM – OK Patriarchal Degrees: Rocky Arrasmith

Renninger

DDSGM – QC Patriarchal Degrees: Roger R. Jones

DDSGM – GA Patriarchal Degrees: Joyce Humphrey

DDSGM – VT Patriarchal Degrees: Everett R. Allen

DDSGM – NV Patriarchal Degrees: Bruce Hiscock

**Special Deputy Sovereign Grand Master for Development in Latin America**

Henry L. Dupray

Liaison – Louisiana:

Michael W. Dutton

Liaison – Canada: E. Wesley Nelson

Liaison – Europe:

Charles L. Renninger

**Legal Counsel**

R. Kenneth Babb

RKBabb1@BellSouth.net

**Arthritis Advisory Board:**

Clarence Plant of Massachusetts, Chm

Rod Witwer, AB (3 years)

Wendy Baker of MA (3 years)

**Communications:**

Dave Adams of MN (3 year), Chm

**Educational Foundation**

SGL - Michelle L. Heckart (3yrs)

IARA - Judith Wert (3yrs)

**Investigation of Grievances:**

Adams, David, MN-GL

Glover, William L., SD-GL

Vine, Duane J., IA-GL

LeFresne, James T., AP-GL

Huchel, Laura L., PA-GE

Wilson, James T., WY-GE

Sherman, Dorian E., MB-GL

Willenbrink, James S., FL-GL

Labuda, Stanley R., MD-GE

**Membership:**

Kowalski, Bob of Michigan

**SOS:**

Hank Dupray, Chm.

SGM Cupp

P-IARA Whited

Wooton of NJ

Proulx of WI

Black of UT

**Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth:**

Lusk of OH (3 years)

Hillberry of WV (1 year)

Cathy Garcia, WA - IARA (3 years)

**Visual Research Foundation (Odd Fellows and Rebekahs):**

Ulrich of ND, Chm, (1 years)

Ward of Tennessee (3 years)

Sharon Magden, OR (3 years)

**Sub-Committees****Drawing of Seats**

Johnson of WY, Chm

Cantrell of TX

Vine of IA

**Legislation**

Hayden of NC, Chm

Ramsey of PA

Rohde of OR

**Finance**

Hillberry of WV

Renninger of DC

Buchanan of NY

**Ritualistic Work**

Gibson, JR of VA

Metoyer of CA

Fries of OR

Bott of IL

Reed of TN

**State of the Order**

Lynch of DE, Chm  
Nichols of ON

Sellars of CA

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**Living Legacy**

SGW Calabrese

W-I.A.R.A. Isenhower

**Memorials**

Heckart, Michelle L. of Iowa - Immediate-PSGM

**Canadian Memorial**

David Anderson of ON, Chm

**Pilgrimage to the Tombs of the Unknown**

Charles L. Renninger, Chm.

Rep. Johnson of Wyoming moved to accept the appointments, which was agreed to.

SGM Cupp announced his gavel was from Allen Jackson of Oregon.

**OTHER**

SGM Heckart asked Installing Officer PSGM Glover to conduct the exchange of Jewels.

Jewels and positions were exchanged by the Appointive Officers of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

The retiring Appointed Officers received their Past Appointed Officers Jewels from SGM Heckert.

Jewels and positions were exchanged by the Elective Officers of The Sovereign Grand Lodge.

PSGM Lusk presented PSGM Heckert with her PSGM Collar and Commander-in-Chief Retired Jewel.

Donations received for the Joint Youth Committee: \$4,665.00.

Donations received for Ukraine: \$1,117.00.

Donations received for Hawaii: \$1,847.00.

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**CLOSING**

No further business appearing, the Sovereign Grand Master proceeded to adjourn in form. The Officers, Members and Visitors joined in the singing of the Closing Ode of the Encampment.

The Sovereign Grand Chaplain offered the Benediction.

The Sovereign Grand Warden led the Encampment Perspective.

The Deputy Sovereign Grand Master declared The Sovereign Grand Lodge adjourned at 11:11 a.m. in due form until Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Fraternally submitted,

s/ Terry L. Barrett  
Sovereign Grand Secretary



| Bill No. | Page No. | Report No.      | Page No.          | FAV / ADV   | Action - Page No.   | Adopted / Not Adopted               | Committee                               | Subject   |
|----------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1-2022   | 192      |                 |                   |             |                     |                                     | Legislation<br>Finance Patr.<br>Degrees | Amend Chapter 1, Article IV, Pages 1-2 regarding representation   |
| 26-2022  | 193      | 7               | 210               | Fav         | 236                 | Adopted                             | Legislation                             | Amend Chapter XLVI by adding Section 9, Page XLVI-3 - Policy on Internet Contant  |
| 27-2022  | 194      |                 |                   |             | 194                 | Withdrawn                           | Ritualist Work<br>Legislation           | Amend Chapter XXV, Sec. 1 A (5) regarding preservation of derees from defunct branches  |
| 1        | 194      | 8               | 210               | Fav         | 236                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>State Order              | Amend Chapter II, Section 1 A (1) and (2) Section 12, B (11) moving appointment of Committee on Ritualistic Work to yearly appointment and Committee on State of the Order to a Session Committee |
| 2        | 195      | 26              | 278               | ADV         | 296                 | Not Adopted                         | Legislation<br>State Order              | Amend Chapter II, Section 2 F (2) setting of number of units to constitute a Grand Lodge  |
| 3        | 196      | 27              | 279               | ADV         | 296                 | Not Adopted                         | Legislation<br>State Order              | Amend Chapter II by deleting Section 14, page II-25, deleting reference to Liberally Construed  |
| 4        | 196      | 12              | 240               | Fav         | 264                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>Patriarchs Mili.         | Amend Chapter III, Section 2 F (1) defining requirements to be a Chevalier  |
| 5        | 197      | 13              | 240               | Fav         | 264                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>Patriarchs               | Amend Chapter VII, Section 7 F (3) listing staff officers   |
| 6        | 197      | 14              | 240               | Fav         | 264                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>Patriarchs Mili.         | Amend Chapter XIII, Article VI, Section 1K (3) listing staff officers   |
| 7        | 198      | 9               | 211               | Fav         | No Action           | Referred back to Committee          | Legislation                             | Amend Chapter XXV Section 1 A (5) (a) regarding printing of new and/or revised Rituals  |
| 8        | 199      | 10<br>15<br>... | 211<br>241<br>... | amnd<br>Fav | 236/7<br>265<br>... | ref back to Comm Adopted as Amended | Legislation                             | Amend Chap XXV, Sec. 2, Sub Sec. C, (1) addition of a Sub Paragraph regarding use of Historic Documents and Rituals -amend - Chap XXXIII Sec 1 A (2) (a)  |
| 9        | 199      | 11              | 211               | Fav         | 237                 | Adopted                             | Legislation                             | Amend Chapter XXX, Words and Phrases  |
| 10       | 235      |                 |                   |             |                     | Layover to 2024                     | Legislation State Order                 | Chapter III, Sec. 2, Eligibility A (1) age of 14 years for membership.  |
| 11       | 235      |                 |                   |             |                     | Layover to 2024                     | Legislation<br>Rebekah Matters          | Chapter VI, Article VI, Section 2. Who may attend IARA session.   |
| 12       | 255      |                 |                   |             |                     | Layover to 2024                     | Legislation                             | Chapter II, Sec 2 B (d) qualification of DDSGM  |
| 13       | 255      |                 |                   |             |                     | Layover to 2024                     | Legislation                             | Chater IV Sec 21 rules of order for Grand Lodges  |
| 14       | 256      | 28              | 279               | Fav         | 297                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>Patriarchs Milit.        | Chapter XIV - Cantons   |
| 15       | 259      | 29              | 279               | Fav         | 298                 | Adopted                             | Legislation<br>Patriarchs Milit.        | Chapter XIV - Constitution for Department Councils  |
| 16       | 295      |                 |                   |             |                     | Layover to 2024                     | Legislation<br>Patriarchs Militant      | Chapt XIII, Article IV - GMC working members  |

| Resolution No. | Page No. | Report No. | Page No.      | FAV / ADV      | Action - Page No. | Adopted / Not Adopted           | Committee                                     | Subject  |
|----------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 4-2022         | 201      | 22         | 242           | ADV            | 266               | Not Adopted                     | Ritual. Work<br>Judiciary                     | Odd Fellows' Primer sanction   |
| 9-2022         | 201      | 19         | 241           | Fav            | 265               | Adopted as amended              | Rit. Work<br>Patr. Militant                   | Changes in Canton Ritual   |
| 10-2022        | 201      | 16         | 241           | Fav            | 265               | Adopted                         | Rit. Work<br>Patr. Militant                   | remove Entire section in Odd Fellow ritual page 35   |
| 12-2022        | 201      | 17<br>30   | 241<br>279    | Adverse<br>Fav | 265<br>298        | ref back to<br>Com /<br>Adopted | Rit. Work<br>Rebekah Matters<br>Patr. Degrees | Merge Odd Fellows, Rebekah Lodges  |
| 1              | 202      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Body of Whole                                 | Annual Communication IM J. Edward Stallings. Journal of Proceeds IM Richard Kim, Daily Journals IM PSGM Louis Fancher, Monday Session IM PSGM Delmar Burns, Tuesday Session IM HM Queen Elizabeth II, Wednesday Session IM Exec. Dir Emeritus Educational Foundation PP Gloria Mundt |
| 2              | 202      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | To Repel Resolution No. 8-2019 regarding revisions to Odd Fellow Ritual  |
| 3              | 203      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | To Repel Resolution No. 9-2019 regarding revisions to Odd Fellow Ritual  |
| 4              | 203      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | Proposal to make optional Opening and Closing Prayers to Rituals of Opening the Lodge and Closing the Lodge Meeting  |
| 5              | 204      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | Request from OF and Reb Visual Research Foundation to authorize printing of large print rituals in 16 font.  |
| 6              | 205      | 18         | 241           | Fav            | 265               | adopted                         | Hunger Disaster<br>Relief, Exec               | Assistance for Hawaii - \$25,000.00  |
| 7              | 205      |            |               |                | 296               | withdrawn                       | Finance<br>State Order                        | 2026 session in Rapid City, South Dakota   |
| 8              | 205      |            | refer<br>back | Comm<br>ittee  |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | British Columbia other religious symbols or texts no longer required in Ritual   |
| 9              | 206      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | create gender neutral inclusive space for all members of the organization  |
| 10             | 206      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Rit. Work<br>State Order                      | create a non-sectarian ritual complete with all degrees  |
| 11             | 235      | 20         | 242           | ADV            | 266               | Not Adopted                     | Finance                                       | IPA Committee requesting \$5,000.00  |
| 12             | 236      | 30<br>31   | 279<br>279    | Fav<br>Adv     |                   | ....<br>withdrawn               | Finance<br>State Order<br>Communications      | SGL to proceed with employing a reputable branding firm  |
| 13             | 263      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | State Order<br>Finance                        | 2025 Session in Charleston, West Virginia  |
| 14             | 264      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | Ritualistic Work                              | Degree Work of IOOF DVD  |
| 15             | 272      |            |               |                | 300               | adopted                         | 2023-2024                                     | Budget   |
| 16             | 295      |            |               |                |                   |                                 | State of the Order,<br>Misc Bus, Arthritis    | CBD products   |





| Book 1   | Page No. | Report No. | Page No. | FAV / ADV | Action - Page No. | Adopted / Not Adopted | Committee | Subject                                      |
|--|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| Deputy and District Deputy Sovereign Grand Masters |          |            |          |           |                   |                       |           |  |
| Canada   | 18       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | SDSGM Nelson                                 |
| Hawaii   | 19       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | DDSGM Ramos                                  |
| Vermont ENC  | 19       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | DDSGM Allen                                  |
| Europe   | 20       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | DGSire Buan                                  |
| Deputy Sovereign Grand Master                      |          |            |          |           |                   |                       |           |  |
| DSGM   | 21-23    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | DSGM Cupp                                    |
| Sovereign Grand Warden                             |          |            |          |           |                   |                       |           |  |
| SGW  | 24-25    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | SGW Workman                                  |
| Immediate Past Sovereign Grand Master              |          |            |          |           |                   |                       |           |  |
| PSGM   | 26       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Immediate PSGM Lusk                          |
| Programs and Committees                            |          |            |          |           |                   |                       |           |  |
|  | 27-29    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Executive Committee Minutes                  |
|  | 30-31    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Report Educational Foundation                |
|  | 32-36    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Scholarship Winners                          |
|  | 37-42    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Educational Foundation Audit                 |
|  | 43-49    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth  |
|  | 50-52    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Pilgrimage for Youth Audit                   |
|  | 53-56    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Visual Research Foundation                   |
|  | 57-60    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Visual Research Foundation Audit             |
|  | 61       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns       |
|  | 62       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns Audit |
|  | 63       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Canadian War Memorial Committee              |
|  | 63       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Canadian War Memorial Committee Audit        |
|  | 64       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Hunger & Disaster                            |
|  | 65-67    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | SOS Foundation Audit                         |
|  | 68-71    |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Arthritis Foundation                         |
|  | 72       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Community Service Awards                     |
|  | 73       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Drug Awareness Awards                        |
|  | 73       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Make A Difference Participation              |
|  | 74       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Living Legacy Awards                         |
|  | 75       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Pulling Together Awards                      |
|  | 75       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Socks for Vets Awards                        |
|  | 76       |            |          |           |                   |                       |           | Jurisdictional Scholarships Awarded          |



| Report No. | Page No. | FAV / ADV | Action - Page No. | Adopted / Not Adopted | Comm Referral     | Subject                                       |
|------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1          | 184      | Fav       | 186               | A                     | Credentials       | Committee on Credentials                      |
| 2          | 186      | Fav       | 186               | A                     | Drawing Seats     | Committee on Drawing of Seats                 |
| 3          | 187      | Fav       | 187               | A                     | Distribution      | Committee on Distribution of Officers Reports |
| 4          | 189      | Fav       | 189               | A                     | Memorials         | Committee on Memorials                        |
| 5          | 207      |           | 236               | A                     | State Order       | Grand Lodge Australasia Report                |
| 6          | 208      |           | 236               | A                     | State Order       | Rose Parade Report                            |
| 23         | 242      |           | 266               | A                     | State Order       | Report of the State of the Order Committee    |
| 24         | 275      |           | 296               | A                     |                   | Communication Committee Report                |
| 25         | 278      |           | 296               | A                     | State Order       | Joint Youth Committee Report                  |
|            |          |           |                   |                       |                   |   |
| 33         | 280      |           | 298               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL MI with exceptions                         |
| 34         | 280      |           | 298               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL MO with exceptions                         |
| 35         | 280      |           | 299               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL TX with exceptions                         |
| 36         | 281      |           | 299               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL CA without exceptions                      |
| 37         | 281      |           | 29                | A                     | Constitutions     | GL IN without exceptions                      |
| 38         | 281      |           | 299               | A                     | Constitutions     | RA MI without exceptions                      |
| 39         | 281      |           | 299               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL ME without exceptions                      |
| 40         | 282      |           | 299               | A                     | Constitutions     | RA KS without exceptions                      |
| 41         | 282      |           | 300               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL MN without exceptions                      |
| 42         | 282      |           | 300               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL NH without exceptions                      |
| 43         | 282      |           | 300               | A                     | Constitutions     | GE OH without exceptions                      |
| 44         | 283      |           | 300               | A                     | Constitutions     | GL RI without exceptions                      |
| 45         | 283      |           | 300               | A                     | Invest Grievences | Investigation of Grievences Report            |
| 46         | 302      |           | 302               | A                     |                   | Couttesies Extended                           |
| 47         | 303      |           | 303               | A                     |                   | Host Committee                                |

