

ODD FELLOW NEWS OF TEXAS

Member



"Devoted to the
Interest of
ODD FELLOWSHIP"

SEPTEMBER 2020



Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication

SPECIAL SESSION

October 3, 2020

10:00 A.M.

I.O.O.F. Event Center

601 N. 45th Street

Corsicana, TX

Please note that this special session is being called due to a technicality at the last special session held August 22, 2020 which prevented a vote on the matter at hand.

Everyone attending will need to check in with the Credentials Committee beginning at 9:00 A.M. The Grand Lodge Degree will be conferred at 9:30 A.M. If you would like to receive the Grand Lodge Degree, be sure to bring a Past Grand or Past Noble Grand Certificate from your lodge indicating your eligibility. Only Past Grands and Past Noble Grands, who have attained the Third Degree, have membership in an Odd Fellow Lodge in good standing, and have received the Grand Lodge Degree, will be allowed to vote in the session. Third Degree members of an Odd Fellow Lodge who have not received a Past Grand or Past Noble Grand ranking will be allowed to enter the session, but are not eligible to vote.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing will be strictly enforced and face masks will be required in the session for the safety of everyone in attendance. You are asked to refrain from direct physical contact with others.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



DAN REYNOLDS

Here it is September! Things are still not back to normal. I'm beginning to wonder if they ever will be "normal".

We are still unable to visit lodges like I had been looking forward to doing. So far all the events we all look forward to each year have been canceled. Sounds kind of bleak, but only if we allow it to pull us down.

On the brighter side, more lodges are starting to have real meetings, face to face. Although 6 feet apart and wearing masks, they are meeting. Others are staying in touch by phone or social media. A positive attitude will help get us through this.

The Pilgrimage at the Retirement Center has been officially canceled. Even though restrictions on visiting hospitals and nursing homes are beginning to be loosened up a little, I don't think it is worth the chance. I'm sure the residents will enjoy visits from friends and family. Levonne and her staff have worked so hard to assure the health of the residents and we don't want to jeopardize that with a large gathering for the Pilgrimage.

In the meantime the best thing we can do is prudently plan our future.

I am hoping that the virus situation improves and I will be able to get some lodge visits in soon. Until then, do the best you can to stay safe and keep our Order working!

In FLT,
Dan Reynolds

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



JOHN WOOLSEY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Even though we're still going through some very difficult times in our country, things are starting to improve in the Grand Lodge of Texas. Two Degree Rallies were held in the month of July, one in Athens and one in Houston. A total of twelve members were advanced to the Third Degree with six coming from Greater Houston #6 and another from the Thomas J. Rusk Heights #225, also in the Houston area. Greater

Houston still has a few applicants that need their degrees and hopefully we'll be able to get them initiated in the near future. Good job everyone. Keep up the good work!

In July I was able to attend one Zoom meeting of Greater Houston Lodge #6, two Zoom meetings of Thomas J. Rusk Heights Lodge #225 as well as the Degree Rally held by Greater Houston #6. I also attended the July Executive Committee Meeting in Corsicana on the 10th.

I will be at the Special Session of the Grand Lodge on October 3rd in Corsicana. I'm hoping that we have a good attendance at the session and that we can make some good decisions for the future of our Grand Lodge and the Order. It's unfortunate that we've had to cancel our annual pilgrimage at the I.O.O.F. Retirement Center in Ennis this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I've thoroughly enjoyed that trip the last two years and was looking forward to returning this year. Hopefully we'll be able to put it back on the calendar in 2021.

No one knows what the future will be like, but hopefully things will improve soon and we can get back to our regular business. I hope to start scheduling some more official visits in the Fall, but we'll just have to see how things progress. Thanks again for all of the calls, emails, and text messages from the Brothers and Sisters around the state. They're all greatly appreciated. It's been great keeping up with everyone even if we still can't meet in person. Looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Be well, stay safe, and God bless!

In F. L. and T.,
John "Fletch" Woolsey

Guess Who?



Conclave in Mississippi

Who is that lovely lady on the far left?

Who is that Casanova in the middle?

Answers will be in next month's newsletter!

FROM THE GRAND WARDEN



JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM

Hello Brothers and Sisters,
I hope this finds you all well. It doesn't seem like another month has come and gone, but it has.

It doesn't seem like I have done much even though I have been very busy. I managed to visit a couple of lodges and then attended the Executive Committee meeting, as well as the W & O Homes Board meeting.

We had a degree rally at Athens #961 and put degrees on five candidates. It was a really awesome day with a group of members, doing some really great work. I love to see new people joining our Order. I believe it breathes new life into us all to see new young people going through the degrees.

We had a fish fry before our last Rebekah meeting. Brothers Troy Allen and Joe Westmoreland cooked the fish. Several others brought dishes and desserts. We had an awesome meal and wonderful fellowship. I hope to have some more to report next time, but for now I will close. Have a great month!

In FLT,
John Higginbotham
Grand Warden

Gone, but not forgotten



P.P.R.A. Faye Brothers and Past General Commander of Texas, Luther Wood



*Answers from our August 2020 Newsletter
Pictured l-r: Burnis Covington, Frank Ford, James Daniel,
Bill Guy, and Bunny Agan*

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY



JAMES CURTIS

Well, times are busy here in the Grand Lodge Office. Nancy and Laurie are busy with the fraternal side of our business with reports coming in and getting out the Odd Fellow News. Crystal is having to do the work of two people because, at the time I am writing this letter, Christy has not yet been released from the doctor to come back to work.

Right now, Crystal is getting all of the paperwork together for our new audit firm that

Finance Chairman David Sivernell found for us. The selection of the audit firm was approved by the Finance Committee which consists of Allen Wisdom, Frank Ford, Homer Feuchter, and Charles Stephenson. The C.P.A. who had been doing our audit for years has retired and is no longer doing audits. So, thanks to all of you on our Finance Committee for the outstanding job you are doing.

Brothers and sisters, I hope this finds each and every one of you safe from this virus as it has really gotten bad. Brother John Higginbotham, our Grand Warden, reported to us in lodge that his good friend and his wife have come down with it. This thing is deadly so please don't take it lightly.

On July 25th, Athens Lodge held a Degree Rally where we had three candidates for the Initiatory Degree. We then had four candidates for the First Degree and five for the Second and Third Degrees. We had a great time and had a good turn-out. We did our best to keep social distance and wear masks. I do hope that in the way it was handled, that no one became sick. It has been over two weeks since we had our degree rally and I have received no reports of anyone coming down with the virus and for that, I am thankful.

A donation jar was put out at the rally for anyone wishing to donate to the Texas Visual Assistance Committee and the members donated \$100 for the cause. The Visual Assistance Committee was unable to serve us lunch this time as they have in the past, so we hope this donation will help them out.

Assembly President Loretta Vernon made her official visit to Athens Rebekah Lodge on the 10th of August and we had a big turn-out for her. Assembly Vice President Terry Adams, Assembly Warden Barbara Curtis, Assembly Secretary Rosie McMillin, Assembly Treasurer Peggy Idom, and Jr. Past President Pam Isenhower were all in attendance. All of the ladies were dressed in the colors and dresses of the President and looked mighty fine. Past Grand Master Garry Bolch and his wife, Angela, are both members of Athens Rebekah Lodge No. 23 and were also present. Fish was fried by Troy Allen and Joe Westmoreland. We had hush puppies, cole slaw, and lots of other good eats. Unfortunately, my back was hurting so badly that evening that I had to leave early.

Well, I will close for now and talk to you later.

F. L. & T.,
James Curtis
Grand Secretary
Grand Instructor



Scholarship Recipients

B. J. Longshore Scholarship

Mason Minze
Lareina Carrillo
Maci Hodges
Emma Wright

W & O Homes Board Scholarship

Maiden Barber	Rachel Radke
Jennifer Welch	Rachel Lynn Williams
Rebecca Hammond	Canaan Hatfield
Crystal Harris	Ashleigh Elrod
Kamryn Lane	Jamie Spikes



I.O.O.F. EVENT CENTER Best Venue

The I.O.O.F. Event Center has won the “Best of the Best” eight consecutive years in a row!!
Congratulations to our Event Center team!



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH US??

IF SO, PLEASE EMAIL: LAURIE.SCHICK@GLIOOFTX.ORG
OR MAIL TO: ODD FELLOW NEWS OF TEXAS
3440 W. 2ND AVE
CORSIANA, TX 75110

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE
15TH OF EACH MONTH
IN ORDER TO BE IN THE NEXT EDITION.

ANY QUESTIONS/CONCERNS,
PLEASE SEND TO EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE
OR CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE. @ 800.299.7438

COPIERS & PRINTERS FOR SALE

The Grand Lodge office has several copy machines and printers available for sale. This equipment was used at the nursing home in Ennis prior to the facility being sold. Datamax serviced and maintained this equipment previously and if interested a maintenance agreement may be available with them.

If interested please call the Grand Lodge office at 800-299-7438.

Canon



Canon image RUNNER ADVANCE 4245
Multifunction Copier
Copy, Print, Scan, Send, Fax
(2) units available
\$1100 each



Canon image RUNNER ADVANCE 6255
Multifunction Copier
Copy, Print, Scan, Send, Fax
(1) unit available
\$1500



Canon image RUNNER 5050
Multifunction Copier
Copy, Print, Scan, Send, Fax
(1) unit available
\$750

Lexmark™



Lexmark M3150
The Lexmark M3150 network-ready laser printer includes a 10.9 cm (4.3 inch) color touch-screen, internal 2-sided printing, 512MB of standard memory, 650-sheet input and a front USB Direct Interface.
(6) units available
\$50 each

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER			
9/7/2020	LABOR DAY		
9/11/2020	Executive Committee Meeting	1pm	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
9/12/2020	W&O Homes Board Meeting	9:30am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
9/19/2020	State Secretaries, Scribes, Clerks, & Treasurers' Association		
9/25/2020	Grand Lodge & Rebekah Assembly Finance Committee Meeting	9:30am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
OCTOBER			
10/3/2020	SPECIAL SESSION	10am	IOOF Event Center
10/9/2020	Executive Committee Meeting	1pm	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
10/10/2020	W&O Homes Board Meeting	9:30am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
10/17/2020	Grand Encampment Meeting		Corsicana Lodge #63
10/24/2020	Athens Lodge #961 Fish Fry	11am	Athens Lodge #961
NOVEMBER			
11/13/2020	Executive Committee Meeting	1pm	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
11/14/2020	W&O Homes Board Meeting	9:30am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
11/26/2020	THANKSGIVING		


ODD FELLOW HISTORY

By John Slate, Waxahachie #80


Texas Colonizer

Burchard Miller, born Burkhardt Mueller in 1809 in Hanover, Germany, immigrated to the United States as a young adult, first to St. Louis and then to Texas in the late 1830s. With Henry Fisher, he sought to colonize south-central Texas through a land grant from the Republic of Texas. The Fisher-Miller grant aimed to settle 1,000 German, Dutch, Swiss, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish families from 1842-1855. Representing German noblemen, Brother Miller sold land to bluebloods who established two now famous towns - Fredericksburg and New Braunfels.

His initiation date is unknown, but Brother Miller was a member of Lone Star Lodge #1 in Houston and served as a trustee when the lodge faced hard times. He traveled between Europe and his Houston home as an agent, and died of yellow fever there in 1858. His resting place is unknown, as many yellow fever victims were buried in unmarked graves.



GRAND LODGE
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS OF TEXAS
 -INSTITUTED 1841-
 3440 WEST SECOND AVENUE
 CORSICANA, TEXAS 75110
 (903)872-7438
 (800)289-7438
 FAX (903)872-7277



August 11, 2020

72nd Annual Homes Pilgrimage
 CANCELED

TO ALL ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH LODGES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:


I regret to inform you that the annual pilgrimage to the I.O.O.F. Retirement Center, normally held in September, has been canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Retirement Center follows the guidelines set forth for nursing home facilities and therefore, no visitors are allowed at this time. On the bright side, our home has been free of the virus thanks to the vigilant work of our Director and her staff.

This would have been the 72nd annual pilgrimage. I'm not sure that the pilgrimage has ever been canceled since the first one held in 1948. However, as we all know, these are very difficult and trying times. It is my hope that the pandemic is past us by next year and the 2021 pilgrimage can be held. We'll just have to wait and see how things are next year.

Our residents enjoy the pilgrimage each year and I'm sure that they will miss all of the festivities. If you have time, please consider sending them a card or letter to brighten their day. I know they will appreciate your thoughtfulness.


Thank you for your understanding of the cancellation. I'm hoping all of our members and their families stay healthy!

Attest:



James Curtis
 Grand Secretary
 DR/nc

Fraternally,



Dan Reynolds
 Grand Master
 903-425-0126

Rebekah Lodges

- **Athens Rebekah Lodge No. 23** - meets 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00pm at 1301 Cayuga Drive, Athens, TX 75751. Mail: PO Box 1323, Athens, TX 75751— 08/2021
- **Balch Springs Rebekah Lodge No. 78** - meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm at 12001 Crumpton, Balch Springs, TX 75180. Mail: PO Box 800514, Balch Springs, TX 75180— 10/2020
- **Denton Rebekah Lodge No. 18** - meets 1st & 3rd Monday at 4:30pm at 1415 Eden, Denton, TX 76209. Mail: 1018 Manhattan Dr., Denton, TX 76209— 08/2020
- **Harlandale Rebekah Lodge No. 179** - meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:00pm at 6720 S. Flores, San Antonio, TX 78214. Mail: 14215 Cradlewood Street, San Antonio, TX 78233— 10/2020
- **Humble Rebekah Lodge No. 154** - meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm at 307 Charles Street, Humble, TX 77338. Mail: 3114 Pathfinders Pass, Spring, TX 77373— 06/2021
- **River Oaks Rebekah Lodge No. 467** - meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm at 1501 Hemphill Street, Ft. Worth, TX 76104. Mail: Same— 10/2020



Dan Reynolds Grand Master Pins



All proceeds from pin sales go to Grand Master Project—The Retirement Center in Ennis.

Actual size: 1^{1/4}" x 1"

Date									
Name				Quantity:					
Address				(Shipping charges from Grand Lodge office will be \$1.00)					
Email				Total Enclosed:					
Phone #									
Lodge #									

Please mail this form and payment to Grand Lodge office @ 3440 W. Second Ave.—Corsicana, TX 75110

Or Dan Reynolds @ PO Box 58— Eustace, TX 75124

Any questions, feel free to contact the Grand Lodge office @ 1-800-299-7438

Rebekah T-Shirts For Sale for President LORETTA VERNON

Thank you for all of your support this year and for ordering the Rebekah t-shirt. Working together in Peace and Harmony, we will be able to accomplish things we couldn't do alone. The money raised by the sale of the shirts will support my projects for this year. My goal is to be able to deliver your t-shirts when I make my "official visit" to your lodge. If I am unable to visit, then shirts will be shipped and shipping charges will apply. ~ Loretta Vernon, Rebekah Assembly President, 2020-2021

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE # _____

LODGE # _____

SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please mail order form and payment to:

Torrance Baker
3613 Fallmeadow Street
Denton, TX 76207
940-391-8104



T-Shirts

Small—2x \$15
3x—4x \$18

TEXAS DIRECTORY *Odd Fellow Lodges*



GRAND LODGE OFFICE

James Curtis, Grand Secretary & Editor

3440 W. 2nd Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110
Phone: (903) 872-7438;
(800) 299-7438
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E-mail: jcurtis@nctv.com
www.iooftx.org

REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

Rosie McMillin, Secretary

16400 CR 4060
Scurry, TX 75158
Phone: (903) 498-4528
Fax: (903) 498-8363

RETIREMENT CENTER

Levonne Cannaday, Director

2302 S. Oak Grove Rd.
Ennis, TX 75119
Phone: (972) 875-8641
Fax: (972) 875-9819
Email: levonne.cannaday@ioofrc.com
www.iooftx-rc.org

I.O.O.F. EVENT CENTER

Deanna Hayes, Director

601 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
Phone: (903) 641-6607
Fax: (903) 641-6621
E-mail: deanna.hayes@nctv.com
www.ioofeventcenter.com



Abernathy No. 809 - 728 Avenue C, Abernathy, TX 79311. Meets: Thursday at 6:30pm
Abilene No. 325 - 2139 Cottonwood, Abilene, TX 79601. Mail: PO Box 325, Abilene, TX 79604. Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 8:00pm
Amarillo No. 410 - 600 SW 7th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101. Meets: Monday at 7:30pm
Athens No. 961 - 1301 W. Cayuga Dr., Athens, TX 75751. Mail: PO Box 1259, Athens, TX 75751-1259. Meets: Thursday at 7:00pm
Austin - Capital No. 23 - 6809 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78752. Mail: PO Box 49113, Austin, TX 78765. Meets: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm (capital23.org)
Balch Springs No. 64 - 12001 Crumpton, Balch Springs, TX 75180. Mail: PO Box 800514, Balch Springs, TX 75180. Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00pm
Carthage - Gaiety No. 84 - 106 E. Sabine, Carthage, TX 75633. Mail: PO Box 616, Carthage, TX 75633. Meets: 1st Monday at 6:30pm
Commerce No. 234 - 1209 1/2 Alamo Street, Commerce, TX 75428. Mail: PO Box 323, Commerce, TX 75429. Meets: Thursday at 7:30pm
Conroe No. 67 - 1018 N. Roberson, Conroe, TX 77301. Mail: 12510 Lyra Drive, Willis, TX 77318. Meets: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30 pm
Corsicana No. 63 - 3330 W. 2nd Ave., Corsicana, TX 75110. Mail: PO Box 1342, Corsicana, TX 75151-1342. Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:00pm
Dallas No. 44 - 1808 S. Hampton, Dallas, TX 75208. Mail: PO Box 226802, Dallas, TX 75222. Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm
Denton No. 82 - 1415 Eden, Denton, TX 76209. Mail: 600 Northridge, Denton, TX 76201. Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm
Ennis No. 227 - 2309 S. Kaufman, Ennis, TX 75119. Mail: PO Box 283, Ennis, TX 75120. Meets Tuesday at 7:00pm
Farmersville - Pride No. 228 - 803 Wisdom Street, Farmersville, TX 75442. Mail: PO Box 263, Farmersville, TX 75442. Meets: 1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30pm dinner; 7:30pm meeting.
Fort Worth - White Settlement No. 52 - 400 W. Terrell Ave. Ft. Worth 76104. Mail: 324 S. Fox Ln., Burleson, TX 76028. Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:00pm
Fort Worth No. 251 - 1501 Hemphill St., Ft. Worth, TX 76104. Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm
Garland No. 304 - 713 Austin Street, Garland, TX 75040. Mail: 1613 Dakota Drive, Garland, TX 75043. Meets: 2nd Monday at 6:00pm dinner; 7:00pm meeting
Gonzales No. 38 - 1405 Conway Street, Gonzales, TX 78629. Mail: 562 CR 238, Gonzales, TX 78629. Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm
Granbury No. 237 - 602 Casas Del Norte Ct., Granbury, TX 76049. Meets: 2nd Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and 3rd Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.
Grapevine No. 402 - 330 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051. Mail: PO Box 385, Grapevine, TX 76099. Meets: 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm
Greenville - Fred Ende No. 87 - 2411 1/2 Johnson Street, Greenville, TX 75401. Mail: PO Box 33, Greenville, TX 75403. Meets: Thursday at 7:30pm
Houston - Greater Houston No. 6 - 2401 W. Belfort, Houston, TX 77054. Meets 2nd Thursday 11am, and 4th Saturday at 10:30am
Houston - Thomas J. Rusk Heights No. 225 - 115 E. 14th Street, Houston. TX 77008. Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm; Meet & Greet Social Meeting 1st Tuesday at 7:30pm
Kennedale No. 925 - 320 Kennedale Pkwy, Kennedale, TX 76060. Mail: PO Box 1581, Kennedale, TX 76060-1581. Meets: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30pm
Marshall - T. Whitfield Davidson No. 74 - 604 Cross St., Marshall, TX 75670. Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30pm
Mineral Wells No. 440 - To be determined. Mail: PO Box 1127, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm
New Boston No. 110 - East Hoskins Street, New Boston, TX 75570. Mail: 713 Anderson Street, New Boston, TX 75570. Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm
Plano No. 114 - 1111 Jupiter Road, #105b, Plano, TX 75074. Mail: PO Box 860643, Plano, TX 75086 Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm
San Antonio - Harlandale No. 26 - 6720 S. Flores St., San Antonio, TX 78221. Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 6:00pm
Smithville No. 393 - 406 Turney, Smithville, TX 78957. Meets: 1st & 3rd Monday at 7:30pm
Springtown No. 75 - 112 S. Main Street, Springtown, TX 76082. Mail: PO Box 924, Springtown, TX 76082. Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm
Tyler - William Tell No. 27 - 220 1/2 W. Erwin Street, Tyler, TX 75701. Mail: PO Box 967, Tyler, TX 75710. Meets: Thursday at 7:30pm
Waco No. 137 - 611 Kane St., Bellmead, TX 76705. Mail: 611 Kane, Waco, TX 76705. Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:00pm
Waxahachie No. 80 - 208 1/2 S. Rodgers, Waxahachie, TX 75165. Mail: PO Box 324, Waxahachie, TX 75165. Meets: Monday at 6:30 pm dinner; 7:30pm meeting.