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This year’s Advisor of the Year was presented to
Brig. Gen. Michael Bowers
from Virginia Cadet Corp
Platoon No. 1.

Winner of this year’s Irene Meigs Award for Community Service goes to:
Virginia Cadet Corp Platoon #1, VA
Florin Theta Rho Girls Club #68, CA
Eta Theta Rho Girls Club #94, OR
Acorn Theta Rho Girls Club #79, WA
A year of wonderful dedication and great deeds to be proud of! Well done!

Winner of this year’s Pin Design goes to Acorn Theta Rho Girls Club #79 from the great state of Washington!
Congratulations!
Your art will be featured in the 2017-2018 Youth Informer at the top left corner. Outstanding!
**INTRODUCING THE 2017-2018 LEADERS OF OUR ORDERS**

**John A. Miller Sr**  
Sovereign Grand Master  
I.O.O.F.

Here’s a look at his Program for 2017-2018...

**MOTTO:** Don’t just say: “Make a Difference” - Do it!  
**THEME:** Moving forward in Unity.  
**EMBLEM:** Coming Together in Fraternity.  
**CHALLENGE:** All units, in all branches of the Order, to increase their total membership by “1”.  
**GOALS** To remind and encourage all members to leave petty differences behind and come together in fraternity at the end of each meeting.  
**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 133:1—Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!  
**GUIDE:** Code of General Laws  
**SONG:** Come Together  
**FLOWER:** Yellow Swamp Irish  
**DEDICATION:** My year is dedicated to all the brothers and sisters in our great Order, both past and present. Brotherhood and Sisterhood in togetherness and unity is what makes us great. It is my hope that we all dedicate ourselves to these principles.

**Linda L. Thompson ,President**  
International Association  
Rebekah Assemblies

Here’s a look at her Program for 2017-2018…

**MOTTO:** Bloom Where You’re Planted.  
**GUIDES:** The Rebekah Creed and Odd Fellows Valediction  
**THEME:** Back to the Basics.  
**BELIEVE** and follow the Odd Fellows Valediction and Rebekah Creed; be an ACTIVE member; SUPPORT the leaders you have chosen to serve; INQUIRE into the needs of others, then do something for them; have COURAGE to speak up, to always say and do the right thing; strive to be of SERVICE to one person each day.  
**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:15-16—Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works.  
**FLOWER:** The Sunflower  
**COLOR:** Yellow  
**SONG:** She’s an Eagle when she Flies by Dollie Parton  
**HYMNS:** It is Well With My Soul  
**Because I have Been Given Much**

**Lady Estella Crowder, President**  
International Association  
Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant

Here’s a look at her Program for 2017-2018…

**THEME:** Time  
**EMBLEM:** Clock  
**MOTTO:** Take time to be a friend.  
**AIM:** To increase membership everywhere  
**GUIDES:** Holy Bible and Ritual  
**FLOWER:** Yellow Rose  
**COLORS:** White, Purple and Gold  
**SONG:** Rock Around the Clock  
**HYMNS:** One Day At A Time; Just As I Am; Just A Closer Walk With Thee  
**SCRIPTURE:** Ecc 3:1—To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under Heaven  
**PRAYER:** Bless me, Heavenly Father, Forgive my erring ways. Grant me strength to serve Thee, put purpose in my days. Give me understanding enough to make me kind. So I may judge all people with my heart and not my mind. And teach me to be patient in everything I do, content to trust your wisdom and to follow you. And help me when I falter and hear me when I pray. And receive me in They Kingdom to dwell with Thee some day. AMEN.  
**DEDICATION:** To my husband Bill, my parents Arnold and Jane Leeder for encouraging me to follow my dream and the Department Association of Ontario for supporting me.  
**PROJECT:** IALAPM Travel Fund

**Lt. Gen. R. L. ‘Ken’ Lasswell**  
General Commanding  
General Military Council  
Patriarchs Militant

Here’s a look at his Program for 2017-2018…

**THEME:** Service & Loyalty  
**AIM/GOAL:** Assist in Making the P.M. More Affordable.  
**GUIDES:** The Rituals and Code of General Laws  
**FLOWER:** Blue Hydrangea  
**COLORS:** Royal Purple and Gold  
**SONGS:** American Pie; Mambo No. 9  
**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 21:21—He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor.  
**EMBLEM:** Smokey Badge  
**PROJECTS:** US DAV; Canadian DAV

Friendship is the reflection of a little sunshine and a lot of love.
Here’s What Happened at Youth Days!

This year Youth Days was held in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hyatt Regency Hotel across the park from the Arch. We had 23 Youth in attendance. California-4, Washington/Oregon-10, Michigan-5 and Virginia-4.

Friday was orientation with lunch in the park across from the hotel. Thank you to the state of Missouri who gave us box lunches from Jimmy Johns. The kids enjoyed signing T-Shirts as they got to know each other and renewed old friendships.

At orientation we went over the rules and practiced flags, moderators, escorts and chaplins. Kids prepared for the evening talent show/banquet. Banquet/Talent show began at 6:00. The Taco Bar was a big hit followed by the treats of various ice creams as was requested by the kids.

Youth Days session began Saturday at 9:00. Jurisdictional Reports were given by California, Oregon/Washington, Michigan and Virginia by their representatives. Colorado report was given by Carla Branson later in the day. We heard presentations of the Rose Bowl Float committee and Educational Foundation. Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, John Miller, General Commanding Dan Matthews, President of the L.A.P.M. Lady Tracy Boyer, who was accompanied by all of her elected officers and IARA Warden Patty Heighton. First Vice President of the L.A.P.M., Lady Crower brought us her program.

This year, our community awareness project was the youth showing their community service. They shared their community activities on poster boards which were displayed throughout this year’s SGL-IARA Session.

The youth were then taken to the park across the street for pizza, followed by visiting the Old Court House Museum and the Arch tram experience to learn a little history of St. Louis, MO.

Steve gave Golden Nugget Awards to Michael Bowers, Katrina Bowers, Julia Smith, Stephanie Wigle, Liliana Sota, Bethany Struthers, Archie Bruce and Penny Furnald for displaying outstanding principles of Odd Fellowship throughout Youth Days.

Irene Meigs Award was earned by 4 clubs this year due to the exceptional work done by the following groups: Acorn Theta Rho Girls Club No.79, Eta Theta Rho Girls Club No. 94, Florin Theta Rho Girls Club No.68 and Virginia Cadet Corp Platoon No.1.

Youth Days was a huge success. Next year we will be in Baltimore, Maryland. We hope to see everyone there!
What do you want to be when you grow up?

The idea of making a decision can be hard. What are your choices?
The **EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows began its operation on September 20, 1927. The purpose of the Foundation is to operate a revolving loan fund for qualified students dependent in part, or wholly, on their own efforts for an education, and to award scholarships to students based on scholarship, leadership and financial need. Since the beginning of the Foundation, donations of approximately $3,500,000 have made it possible for over 3,500 young people to receive student low interest loans amounting to over $6,800,000, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships.

**The Scholarship Programs are as follows:**

**Ingstrom Trust Regional Scholarship** - Ingstrom Trust Regional Scholarship  
The regional scholarships are based on Financial Need, Scholarship and Leadership. $3,000.00 is awarded annually to a student in each of 15 Regions of the US & Canada.

**Charles J. & Christine Wirz Scholarship** - Charles J. & Christine Wirz Scholarship  
The Wirz scholarships are based on Financial Need, Scholarship and Leadership. Usually, two $2,000.00 scholarships are awarded annually to students without regard to Order affiliation.

**Christine Smith Graduate Studies Scholarship** - Christine Smith Graduate Studies Scholarship  
Christine Smith served as a member of the Educational Foundation, IOOF for 24 years. Her generosity through her estate has initiated the Educational Foundation’s Graduate Studies Scholarship to respond to the need for research and study focused on Children & Family issues.

The scholars who receive the $15,000.00 Christine Smith Graduate Studies Scholarships conduct critical inquiry and evaluation that impacts the disadvantaged and underserved, becoming highly trained professionals working in the area of social intervention after completing a specialized program at the masters or doctoral level addressing the needs of society relating to Children & Family issues.

The Foundation selected the first Christine Scholar in 2004.

**Continuing Education Career Enrichment Grants** - Continuing Education Grants Career Enrichment Grants  
The Educational Foundation, IOOF endorses career development by supporting members who wish to enroll in continuing education courses in job related fields, or for enrollment in continuing education courses in a new field to further their occupational goals. Grant funds will be awarded as an incentive for individual growth and development.

**Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Vocational Technology Scholarship** - Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Vocational Technology Scholarship  
The Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Vocational Technology scholarships are based on Financial Need and Leadership. This scholarship evolved from the Lawson/Pezo scholarships that were awarded in 2005 from the efforts of LaVaughn Lawson, PGM and Martha Pezo, PP. $1,000.00 is awarded to eligible students annually.

**Glenn Coursey Agriculture Scholarship** - Glenn Coursey Agriculture Scholarship  
Glenn Coursey grew up on a farm in Warren county, Illinois. He worked for the State Highway Department, eventually becoming employed as a railway postal clerk. He also farmed most of his life. A bequest from his estate was received in 2007 to fund this scholarship.

**Non-Traditional Scholarship Application** - The funds may be used for tuition, books and other educational expenses including transportation and child care. One-half of the award will be paid prior to enrollment of the student. One-half of the award will be paid when the Educational Foundation receives a transcript of the student's grades for the semester for which the student was enrolled to receive payment of the first installment of the award.

You can find applications and eligibility requirement to these Scholarships by going online to:  
[www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org) click on “OUR WORK” then “EDUCATION”.

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**Did you know …**  
**We have Scholarships Available!!!**

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ONE MORE CAST From The Chairman

Thank you!

“Thank you” from the Joint Youth Committee to all the Youth and Advisors who made Youth Days 2017 in St. Louis a huge success. Your actions and leadership throughout the weekend were extraordinary! The future of our Order is in great hands with each and every one of you. Great job!

No rest for your Committee. We have already started planning the 2018 session in Baltimore. The kickoff to 200 years of Odd Fellowship is going to be huge! Let’s get more youth to attend this session. Start those fundraisers early, as it’s a long way to travel this year. Approach the youth committee in your state for help. Ask everyone you know to help send more youth than ever to this session, cause its gonna be spectacular! Looking forward to seeing you all there in Baltimore.

Please update the mailing address of your lodge with your Youth Committee, as we are only sending copies of the Youth Informer to lodges with current mailing addresses. We do offer email editions. Many found us at our booth this year and registered at the SGL-IARA Session in St. Louis. You can also email the Youth Informer to get on the email list. So get informed with your Youth Informer.

Have a safe school year and send us your articles. We love to hear from you.

Steve Adams
JYC Chairman

CONTESTS FOR YOUTH!

Pin Design for 2018:
Submit your design for the Youth Pin. Please remember the finished size of the pin is approximately 1” diameter. Keep the design simple. The design must include: the year of the pin, Emblems of the 4 units; Junior Odd Fellow Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Club, United Youth Group & Cadet Corp, the colors to be used. Please make sure your name and address are on the back of the design.

SEND YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES TO:
Chairman, Steve Adams
114 Galleon Run Dr. SE
Poplar Grove, IL 61065
Email: seawayo@yahoo.com

Irene Meigs Award 2018
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Send us a list of your community service activities in which your lodge, club, or group participated in without compensation. Provide the description of the projects, amount of money collected/donated, the number of participants and the hours of service provided.

Advisors of the Year 2018
Submit in writing why you feel your advisor should receive this award. Tell us the special things that he or she does to make your meetings more fun. Let us know what your advisor has taught you and how you have grown in knowledge of our order. Although we realize that Assistant Advisors are very special too, this particular award is for the Club/Lodge/Group Advisor only.
Time for a scary story...or two...

Rap, Rap, Rapping!

When my grandmother died, I was given the task of cleaning out her house in preparation for selling it. The second night I was staying in the house, I heard a faint "rap, rap, rap" sound somewhere in the house. I got up and searched for where the sound was coming from. In the hallway, it was louder, "Rap, Rap, Rap," and seemed to be coming from downstairs.

As I went downstairs, the sound became louder, "Rap, Rap, Rap!" I explored the entire downstairs, but could not find the source of the sound. It seemed to be coming from under the floor of the kitchen. The cellar?

When I opened the door to the cellar, the sound was much louder - "RAP, RAP, RAP!"

Although I was scared, I had to find the source of that rapping. The sound became louder as I descended the stairs. In the corner was an old trunk. Now I could tell the sound was coming from the trunk. I opened the lid very slowly, and there it was - a roll of wrapping paper!

The Coffin

On a dark night like this, a young man was walking home, on a dark, deserted street. As he passed the gates of a small cemetery, he felt as if he was being followed. Suddenly, he heard a bump behind him. Afraid to look back, he increased his pace. Bump, bump, bump.

The bumping behind him continued, getting closer and louder. Finally, unable to ignore the bump any longer, he turned around. Terror stricken, he saw a coffin standing on end, bumping down the road from side to side - Bump, Bump, Bump, Bump... He started running for his life, but the coffin only kept on coming, increasing its pace to match his. BUMP, BUMP, BUMP. As the man became tired from running, the coffin began to get closer. The man grabbed a large metal trash can as he ran by and threw it at the coffin. Unfazed, the coffin kept coming, getting closer and closer. BUMP, BUMP, BUMP.

He finally arrived home. As he ran into his yard, he noticed the axe resting against the side of the house next to the woodpile. He grabbed it up and hurled it at the coffin, but it simply bounced off. The coffin followed the man up unto the porch and crashed down the front door the man had closed and locked behind him.

BUMP, BUMP, BUMP. He ran upstairs and grabbed his shotgun from where it hung on the wall, firing at the coffin as it came through the doorway. Still, the now partially shattered continued towards him. BUMP, BUMP, BUMP.

In desperation, the man ran into the bathroom, closed the door, and backed as far as he could. He knew the coffin would simply break down the door. However, the man did not intend to give up. Grabbing a bottle of cough syrup, he hurled it at the coffin. The bottle shattered, covering the coffin with cough syrup. And the coffin stopped.
Save the date!

2018 Youth Days will be in Baltimore, Maryland
August 17 & 18, 2018!

Headquarters and Sessions will be held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor

Room reservations can be made at either of these hotels:

Hyatt Regency Baltimore
on the Inner Harbor
300 Light St, Baltimore, MD 21202
800-223-1234 or 888-421-1442

OR

Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel
300 S. St. Charles St,
Baltimore, MD 21201
888-627-7061

2018 Annual Communication of
The Sovereign Grand Lodge
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Commemorating the founding of
Odd Fellowship
on the North American Continent
26th April 1819
at the Seven Stars
Baltimore, Maryland

Start making plans now to attend!
It’s going to be BIG!

Where did it all begin?

Odd Fellowship began in England sometime previous to 1745, with the earliest mention being of a Loyal Aristarcus Lodge meeting held at the Oakley Arms, Borough of Southwark, London.

While several unofficial Odd Fellows lodges had existed in New York City sometime in the period 1806 to 1818, because of the charter relationship, the American Odd Fellows is regarded as being founded with Washington Lodge No 1 in Baltimore at the Seven Stars Tavern on April 26, 1819, by Thomas Wildey along with some associates who assembled in response to a newspaper advertisement. The following year, the lodge affiliated with the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity and was granted the authority to institute new lodges.

Previously, Wildey joined the Grand United Order of Oddfellows (1798-) in 1804 but followed through with the split of Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity (1810-) before emigrated to the United
IT’S ALL FOR FUN!

It’s SuDoku Time!

5
6 3
6
4
3 2 4
4
5

Daily SuDoku for Kids: Sun 10-Sep-2017  medium

Rhyme Time

Q. Can you name a bear with no socks? A. A bare-foot!

George went fishing, but at the end of the day he had not caught one fish. On the way back to camp, he stopped at a fish store.

I want to buy three trout, he said to the owner. But instead of putting them in a bag, throw them to me.

Why should I do that? the owner asked. So I can tell everyone that I caught three fish!

Q. What do you call a little monsters parents A. mummy and deady

Q. Why did the skeleton go disco dancing? A. to see the boogy man.

What Am I?

I can be hairy and itchy all over. I hang on a stick. I can be the scariest thing you have ever seen. I stand in the middle of nowhere.

What am I?

A scarecrow!
Anyone graduate from your lodge, club or group?
Is your jurisdiction working on the Youth Honors Program?
We would like to add any of this information to our Newsletter for mailing and recognition purposes:

Graduate Members: Jurisdiction: ____________________________ Graduate Name: ____________________________
Youth Honors Program: Level ______________ Name ____________________________________

Please send this form to the SGL-IARA JYC Committee Secretary:
Mary Houle’ - 27997 C. G. Lorane Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.

We want to include you in The Youth Informer!
The Youth Informer would like to publish your article in our next publishing. Please submit your articles to: Gwen Wixom at 2816 Irish Ridge Road, Burlington, IA 52601. Or E-mail to gwen.wixom@century21.com Remember, this is your paper. Take an interest in being a writer for your community and let us know what your club has been up to. Send me your pictures and articles and we will try our best to get all entries in your Youth Informer.
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Did you know: you can find us at these places?
Website: www.ioof.org  (Click on YOUTH)
FACEBOOK PAGE: SGL-IARA Youth
*Use Facebook to share your activities with others.
*Use Facebook as a question and answer page.
*Keep in touch with everyone that attended Youth Days in the past or just this year.
*Share your organization’s website with others.

SGL-IARA
Joint Youth Committee
would like to express
our appreciation and thanks
to the Grand Lodge of Iowa
for printing & postage
of your Youth Informer.

THANK YOU!