Annual Pilgrimage to the
Tomb of the Unknowns

The 2019 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. We will be staying at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311. Banquet will be Saturday evening.

The memorial services will begin at noon followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 1:00 p.m. changing of the guard. Please note the dates and times the program will be held this year. The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable Douglas E. Pittman, Sovereign Grand Master.

You MUST mention “Odd Fellows Pilgrimage” when reserving your room to receive the special rate of $119 single/double, $129 triple, and $139 quad. All room rates are subject to applicable hotel tax.

For reservations call: 1−703−845−1010
or 1−800−HILTONS (1−800−445−8667)

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**NEWS FROM THE TOP!**

Douglas E. Pittman
Sovereign Grand Master
I.O.O.F.

*A few words shared from I.O.O.F. News…*

…I am excited by the projects of the various jurisdictions and the potential that I see for them to ultimately help us to recruit new members into our lodges. In Iowa the Brothers and Sisters have formed a partnership with the Mercy Hospital Foundation and Ronald McDonald House and will financially sponsor the construction of the Kitchen Facility as well as one of the Family Rooms in a new Ronald McDonald House facility that will be constructed within Mercy Children’s Hospital in the near future. I am happy that I have been invited back to Iowa in early December to take part in the check presentation ceremony.

...In Conclusion, Thank You for what you do as Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. We are making the world a better place for all mankind. Our work in the world is important and we do make a difference in the lives of people we have not yet met. This became even more apparent to me when I met some of the people who have benefited from the research and new treatments that have resulted from our work and association with the Arthritis Foundation.

Fraternally Yours, In Friendship, Love and Truth,
Douglas E. Pittman
Sovereign Grand Master Independent Order of Odd Fellows

**Patty A. Heighton, President**
International Association
Rebekah Assemblies

December 1, 2018

Hello to all Youth Members and Advisors;

It is with many thanks for the invitation to attend your Youth Days in Baltimore, MD. I hope everyone enjoyed the treat bags, Yo Yo’s were a big thing when we were younger. Many hours were spent learning tricks. Thank you for the knapsack of treats, the socks have come in handy with the cold weather in Nova Scotia arriving early.

You, being the Youth of the Order play a vital role at the Annual Sessions. We enjoy attending your meetings, watch your performances at the banquet and of course supporting the pin sales. It is a highlight of the Annual Sessions. You are the future leaders of the Order and I encourage each of you to fulfill your Dreams. Being the President of the IARA, was a Dream of mine. Never give up, no matter how hard it may seem. Please remember that we are here for you!

I am looking forward to Youth Days in Winston Salem and what you will have planned for the Banquet.

**With Love**

Patty

Together We Can!
Greetings to All the Youth,

Greetings from the General Military Council, this is the 200th Anniversary of Odd Fellows in North America. I am proud of each and every one of the youths I met in Baltimore as well as the ones that could not make it to SGL this year. I have known several of the youth leaders around the country that have gone on to become PGM, PPRA and IALAPM Presidents. You have a bright future ahead of you if you wish to take advantage of your opportunities. Whatever you do have fun and enjoy yourself.

The Youth must be encouraged and support by not only SGL/GMC but individuals in each branch of the order. It is been said many times that the “Youth is our future”. The Jurisdiction’s where the youth are doing well, you will find a strong adult supporter. The adult leaders that make membership fun and interesting have very large and interested youth groups. The young people must have a learning part (how to conduct a meeting) and a fun part (games) to their meeting, oh yes and some kind of meal or snacks must be included also because youth like to eat.

I would like to encourage each of you to join the Cadet Corps PM Branch. Gen ® Dan Mathews (general.dan.mathews@gmail.com Cell Phone 503 522 8730) can help with all the information to start or join a local unit. We will need members for adult supervision of the Cadet Corps. When you become eligible, we would welcome you into the Patriarchs Militant Branch. The youth must be the foundation of our order or we will not continue to survive. PM members feel free to wear your uniforms to the Cadet Corps Meeting (Please do not let the Youth play with a real sword/too much danger). Please continue to move forward.

My Team is here to support the youth in any way we can. As I have always liked to say “You only get out of any position or organization what you are willing to put into it.” Everything we do must be fun and enjoyable or we will stop doing it. Remember my Motto: E.M.T.: which stands for Educate, Motivate and Train. We must Educate/Mentor new and many of our current members on our laws, rules and regulations. Always keep all members Motivated, members having fun and enjoying what they do will bring in new members. As a Military Unit we must Train on our marching and sword proficiency constantly to remain sharp. But always “Treat others as you wish to be treated.” We must work together as a TEAM!!!!!!!!!!!

Chivalrously,

Gen. S. Ray Johnson

General Commanding of GMC  2018-2019
Happy New Year to all Clubs, Groups, Lodges, and Companies!!!

It’s another exciting year of Youth Odd Fellows activities, events, and programs being planned and accomplished soon. The SGL/IARA Youth Committee is fast approaching Youth Days in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Site Inspection is planned on the 19th of January. We will get the information out to you as soon as possible so you can make sure and make your plans to attend Youth Days 2019 August 16th and 17th.

April 26th, 2019 is Odd Fellows in North Americas BIG DAY.
You Only Turn 200 ONCE!!

Help organize a function in your area to help promote our Order, plan a picnic, have a birthday party, invite your friends. Write a column for the local or school newspaper in your area, describing what Odd Fellows means to you and your members. Let everyone know what good things we are doing year after year to better our communities and ourselves. This will all help grow our Order.

Thank You for your posts on Facebook. Seeing and sharing all your group activities are a great way of spreading the word and sharing our ideas with others. All of our groups once again are showing great pride and enthusiasm. Please continue to share your pages. If you haven’t joined or followed SGL - IARA Youth Facebook page please do. We’d love to hear from you. Keep up the Great Work Everyone!!!

Hope everyone had a safe and Merry Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year.

CONTESTS FOR YOUTH!

Pin Design for 2019:
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 take the time and color your designs and make sure your name and address are on the back of the design.

Send your contest entries to:
Chairman, Steve Adams
Email: seawyo@yahoo.com

Website: www.ioof.org  (Click on YOUTH)

Advisor of the Year 2019
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.

Community Service Recognition Award
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.
Thomas Wildey Day Proclamation

To all Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

Whereas, pursuant to a dream, Thomas Wildey founded an Order that in time would influence men and women of every walk of life, and

Whereas, it is appropriate to remember the founder of our Order who through his vision, determination, wisdom and talent saw the culmination of his dream, which resulted into the priceless heritage, we enjoy today.

Now therefore, I, Douglas E. Pittman, by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do proclaim,

That January 15, 2019 the anniversary date of the birth of our founder be celebrated as Thomas Wildey Day throughout the world of Odd Fellowship.

Further, please observe the birthday of Brother Wildey with special ceremony on or as near the 15th of January as is possible, and

Further, all Units of the Order are encouraged to initiate a Wildey Class in celebration of the occasion, and

Further, that the month of January be Thomas Wildey Museum Month in which members are encouraged to contribute to the museum, either monetarily or with items for display.

Contributions should be sent to The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., Thomas Wildey Museum, 422 Trade Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 1st day of November 2018, and in the 200th year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

Attest: /s/ Douglas E. Pittman
Sovereign Grand Master

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Educational Foundation Proclamation

To the Officers and Members of all Degrees of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Fraternal Greetings:

Whereas, the Educational Foundation, the oldest project of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, established in 1927, has made it possible for thousands of people from all walks of life to further their education with low interest loans amounting to more than 7.4 million dollars, and

Whereas, the Educational Foundation depends upon donations from all Units and members for its continued service in this most important field, and

Whereas, the need for loans is ever increasing to meet the higher cost of helping men and women to find their place in life, working in all types of professional, business and trade fields, and

Whereas, one of our commands is 'to educate', what better way to achieve this command than through loans and scholarships of the Educational Foundation.

Now Therefore, I, Douglas E. Pittman, by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as the Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, do hereby proclaim,

The month of February as Educational Foundation Month throughout Odd Fellowship.

Further, request all Units of the Order to support this project by:

Making a special effort to sponsor a money-raising event for the benefit of the Educational Foundation or a treasury donation.

All monies raised and contributions made should be sent to the Jurisdictional Secretary of each Unit of the Order and the Jurisdictional Secretary will, in turn, send the total donations for the Jurisdiction to: R. Kenneth Babb, Ex. Dir., Educational Foundation I.O.O.F., P.O. Box 20455, Winston-Salem, NC 27120. This will enable each Jurisdictional Secretary to give credit for contributions made by Local Units.

When you reach out and touch people through education you provide them with the knowledge.

Done this 1st day of November 2018, in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and of our Order the 200th year.

Attest: /s/ Douglas E. Pittman
Sovereign Grand Master

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary
Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Eighty-sixth Annual Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns. Members of all units of the Order are encouraged to participate. The Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to provide the following information about this annual event.

The 2019 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services will begin at noon followed by the wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb immediately after the 1:00 p.m. changing of the guard. Please note the dates and times the program will be held this year. The Pilgrimage address at the Tomb will be delivered by the Honorable Douglas E. Pittman, Sovereign Grand Master.

The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, at 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311, will be our headquarters. Room reservations are to be made directly with the hotel, at toll-free 1-800-Hiltons (1-800-445-8667) or 1-703-845-1010. You MUST mention “Odd Fellows Pilgrimage” when reserving your room to receive the special rate of $119 single/double, $129 triple, and $139 quad. All room rates are subject to applicable hotel tax. (See attached information about hotel accommodations).

The annual Pilgrimage banquet will be held in the hotel on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at 7:00 PM. (Advance ticket purchase required – see attached pre-registration form.) A social hour will be held from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. After the banquet, all present will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Honorable Douglas E. Pittman, Sovereign Grand Master, Independent Order of Odd Fellows from the Jurisdiction of Colorado; Sister Patty A. Heighton, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Atlantic Provinces; General S. Ray Johnson, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of Indiana; and Lady Michelle Jones, President, International Association of Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant from the Jurisdiction of Colorado.

We recommend that you schedule flights to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), the nearest airport to take advantage of the free shuttle service to the hotel provided by the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The Washington metro area is also served by Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles southwest of the Capital in Northern Virginia. (There is no free hotel shuttle from this airport.)

We encourage you to publicize this special annual event in your I.O.O.F. community. The contact information for the various events is listed on the reverse of this page or on the attached forms. We look forward to seeing you May 3-5, 2019 in Alexandria, Virginia.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Jennie Sue Pearson and Chuck Renninger
General Co-Chairmen
November 2018

THE TOUR IS ON IN 2019

The 69th Tour of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage for Youth is ready for a lifetime experience for delegates as they travel to New York City or on the extended tour: Washington DC, Ottawa and other historical sites.

The 7-day Tour and the 14-day Tour will both start on the same date – July 9, 2019.

Did you get your Delegate count and 1/2 Delegate Fee sent to the Pilgrimage for Youth office? If not, get it in NOW! A bus may have a seat available, we would like to ‘fill the bus’.

The next deadline is April 1, 2019: items due are:
  a. 2 copies completed Delegate Registration packet.
  b. 2 copies completed Chaperon to Delegate Registration packet.
  c. 2 copies completed Tour Leader Registration packet.
  d. 2 copies completed Staff Registration packet.

The Board of Directors will select Tour Leaders and Staff at their February 9, 2019 Board meeting. Tour Leader and Staff applicants should have sent their Application to the Pilgrimage for Youth office. If you are still thinking of being a Tour Leader or Staff person, fill out the Application and send it in.

Contact the Executive Director or Board Members with any questions or concerns, we are here to not only support this awesome program but to assist you in sending a young person on a tour which may enhance or change their life.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Janet Bruce, Executive Director
pilgrimage@ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com
Be a Partner in the
Odd Fellows & Rebekahs
Pilgrimage for Youth

The Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth program is looking for Partners to sponsor one or more activities for the Program and Tour. You and Your Lodge can be that Partner. Reach out, “Make a Difference” in a young person’s life and future. The Pilgrimage for Youth program is affiliated to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and your generosity has made this program a success for over 69 years. Through your continued Donations, You and Your Lodge will help to keep this program funded into the future.

Over the past 69 years did your lodge feed a bus as it crossed the country, host or sponsor a bus, a delegate, a bus tour leader? You may do so again, be a participant in the Pilgrimage for Youth program, donate today.

Besides sponsoring a young person for this program, there are many ways you can help sponsor this program:

Sponsor Lunch for _______ Delegates @ $10.00 each $ ____________
Sponsor Dinner for _______ Delegates @ $15.00 each $ ____________
Sponsor _______ Delegate Tee-Shirts @ $10.00 each $ ____________
Sponsor _______ Delegate Room Nights @ $40.00 $ ____________
Sponsor _______ Delegate United Nations Tours @ $14.00 $ ____________
Sponsor _______ Delegate 911 Museum Tickets @ $15.00 $ ____________
Sponsor _______ Statue of Liberty Tickets @ $19.00 $ ____________

Partner with another Lodge to feed a bus on a route $ ____________
Help with the Cost of an Adult Bus Tour Leader $ ____________
Help with the Cost of the Buses $ ____________

(Donations in the United States are tax deductible)

Gift From:
Name: __________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
Amount $ _______________________________________________________

Return this Form & Your Donation to:
I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage for Youth, Inc.
422 N. Trade Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830
Here are a few Facts about Winston-Salem, NC

*Home of the Krispy Krème Donut in 1937

*The Odd Fellows Cemetery is located right next to an large apartment complex and up until recently, it was just an empty 10-acre covered in kudzu and tall grass. What people didn’t know, not even those who lived adjacent to the lot, was that underneath all of the tangled vines and overgrowth, it was littered with gravestones. It’s estimated that there are nearly 10,000 people buried in Odd Fellows, many of them former slaves. Only recently has it been cleaned up by The Odd Fellows Reclamation Project. Even now it still feels a little creepy, and unless you check out the historical marker you’d probably still miss the fact that you’re standing where 10,000 people were put to rest.

*Winston-Salem is home to the tallest office building in the region, 100 North Main Street, formerly the Wachovia Building and now known locally as the Wells Fargo Center

*The origin of the town of Salem dates to January 1753

*In 1849, the Salem congregation sold land north of Salem & in 1851 it was then known as Winston

*In the 1880s, the US Post Office began referring to the two towns as Winston-Salem

*The city of Winston Salem is a product of the merging of the two neighboring towns of Winston and Salem in 1913
**SPONSER OF A NEW MEMBER**

SPONSER NAME ___________________________ DATE ADMITTED ____________ BRO. _____ SIS. _____

NEW MEMBER’S LODGE ___________________________ NAME ___________________________

LODGE SECRETARY’S NAME ___________________________ ADDRESS ___________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________ CITY ___________________________

CITY ___________________________ STATE/PROVINCE ___________________________

STATE/PROVINCE ___________________________ POSTAL/ZIP CODE ___________________________

POSTAL/ZIP CODE ___________________________ DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/Y) ___________________________

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**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.

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**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, Editor. E-mail to gwen.century21@aol.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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**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: Darrel Schlim
YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

CHAIRMAN: Steve E. Adams
(307) 256-4518
Email: seawyo@yahoo.com

SECRETARY: Darrelene Schlim
(541) 451-2995
Email: djschlim@hotmail.com

YOUTH DAYS COORDINATOR: Laurel Delony
(253) 468-1949
Email: laureljdelony@gmail.com

PIN COORDINATOR/WEB SITE: Greta Bowers
(267) 620-5477
Email: gretabowers@gmail.com

EDITOR YOUTH INFORMER: Gwen Wixom
(319) 754-5532 or (319) 750-1179
Email: gwen.century21@aol.com

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.

We’re here for you!
Do you need us? Do you need help? Advice? Or just an ear to listen? Request a visit by contacting Youth Committee Chairman Steve Adams directly by phone, email or letter and we will be there. We only ask that you contact us as soon as possible to enable us time to make arrangements to get to you as quick as we can.