The theme of the 2020 Rose Parade was “The Power of Hope”. Our float was titled “First Responders Bring Hope” to honor all of our First Responder professions.

The float depicts many first responder professions including Firefighters, Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, Park Rangers, Search & Rescue Teams & so on.

The float is decorated during the last weeks of December each year by members of the IOOF who congregate in Southern California for a few days of comradery, fellowship & sunny weather. Volunteers come from all the affiliated branches of the Order of the IOOF around the world; the Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Encampments, Cantons, Junior Odd Fellows Lodge, Theta Rho Girls Clubs, United Youth Groups, Cadet Corps and Auxiliaries.

Happy New Year!

In this Issue
News from the Top! pg 2
One More Cast! Pg 3
Tomb of the Unknown Information pg 4
Registration Information pg 5
Proclamations pg 6
Did you know? Pg 7
Did you know, Cont. pg 8
It’s all for fun! pg 9
Subscriptions pg 10
Making Connections pg 11
News from the Top!

E. Wesley Nelson
Sovereign Grand Master
I.O.O.F.

...a few words shared from I.O.O.F. News...

...According to Mark Nepo, every human being yearns to be part of a community where they are seen, heard, respected and where they belong and are understood. However, in today's society more and more people tend to do activities alone. Hence, even our communities are also becoming less active.

Therefore, it has become time when we must rejuvenate our communities within our cities as well as within our lodges. How are we going to achieve this? YOU are the answer! Thomas Wildey did this 200 years ago. He planted the seed! He nurtured the seed until there was growth! With Growth comes stimulation.

I am asking each of you to go to your Lodges and replant that seed of Odd Fellowship within your Lodge! Keep it fed and watered! Stimulate the Growth so that Friendship, Love and Truth will continue! Rebuild your communities at the same time. Become involved! Promote the Order! Grow our membership!

“THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS, STEP UP TO THE PLATE”

In Friendship, Love and Truth

s/ Wes Nelson

Elizabeth Mowry-Harbstreit
President, International Association Rebekah Assemblies

...a few words shared from I.O.O.F. News...

May this season of blessings, generosity, and feasting bring you the richness of happiness, sharing, and joy!

Fraternally with focus on what’s important,

Elizabeth Mowry-Harbstreit

Lady Jami A. Rafter, President
International Association
Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant

Greetings To the Youth of our Order,
I trust that you had a wonderful holiday season and that is new year finds you all in good health. I shot out to the Rose Parade Float Committee for all the hard work they do thru the year. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed our time in California and working on the Float. The wonderful took great care of us, and attended to everyone of our needs! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Happiness starts with you. Not with your relationships, not with your job, not with your money, not with your circumstances, but with you, Be the SUNSHINE in someone’s day, you never know who might need it!

I wish for all of you a happy and healthy 2020, I’m looking forward to seeing and spending time with many of you this year!

Butterflies can’t see their wings. They can’t see how beautiful they are, but everyone else can. People are like that, Spread your wings this year and fly.

Chivalrously,

Lady Jami Rafter
President IALAPM

“Let’s make TODAY one step closer to a strong future.”

General John C. Roberts
General Commanding
General Military Council
Patriarchs Militant

...a few words shared from I.O.O.F. News...

Greetings Chevaliers, Ladies, Brothers and Sisters,

...This is the time of year when we remember our blessings and prepare for sharing and giving. It is also the time when we need to remember those who protect us, serve us, and give up their time with their families for our safety. One Man gave up His life for our souls. Other men gave up their lives for their duty to their country. Amen to both...

...I wish for all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, (a belated Happy Thanksgiving for our Canadian brothers and sister), a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukah, and a Happy New Year...

Chivalrously,

s/ John C. (Jack) Roberts General Commanding

'a peaceful ruler; serving as a soldier’
ONE MORE CAST From The Chairman

Happy New Year!

Our 200th anniversary has come and passed. It’s time to set the foundations for the next 200 years.

Have you asked that friend or neighbor about joining. Spread the word. Tell people you know about the good deeds your club is accomplishing.

We did such a great job in 2019 promoting out youth groups that new groups are starting to sprout up all over the country. Every month I receive emails and phone calls requesting information on starting new clubs. Keep up the good work everyone.

With the new year comes new responsibilities. Congratulations to your incoming and outgoing leaders. I’ve seen many of Facebook posts about sessions being held and officers being installed. Once again congratulations and we wish you success in your current terms.

2020 Youth Days will be held in Winston Salem, NC this year. The planning committee meets next month and your JYC committee meets in May. Stay tuned for further information.

Last year no “Advisor of the Year” letters were sent in. YOUTH, this is your responsibility to write these letters telling us why your Advisor is so outstanding. Send them to me either by mail or email. I’d like nothing more then to recognize your Advisors for their outstanding contributions.

The lake is frozen and the fish are biting. Hope everyone enjoys the season.

To FLT
Steve Adams

We, the Committee would love to attend your sessions in your jurisdictions. All you have to do is send an invitation (email or letter via snail-mail) and someone will be there. Please do this asap as travel plans need to be made. Attending your sessions will allow us to answer questions and take your ideas to others.

CONTESTS FOR YOUTH!

Pin Design for 2020:
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

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.

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

Advisor of the Year 2020
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.
Eighty-seventh I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the
Tomb of the Unknowns
May 1-3, 2020, Arlington, Virginia
November 2019

Greetings to all members, families and friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. You are cordially invited to attend the Eighty-seventh 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 2020 Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2020 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 E. Wesley Nelson, 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 $120 single/double, $130 triple, and $140 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 2, 2020, 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 E. Wesley Nelson, Sovereign Grand Master, Independent Order of Odd Fellows from the Jurisdiction of Alberta, Sister Elizabeth Mowry-Harbstreit, President, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies from the Jurisdiction of Missouri, General John C. Roberts, General Commanding, General Military Council, Patriarchs Militant, from the Jurisdiction of Virginia, and Lady Jami A. Rafter, President, International Association of Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant from the Jurisdiction of Iowa.

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 1-3, 2020 in Alexandria, Virginia.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Chuck Remminger and Chris Clow
General Co-Chairmen
Jennie Sue Pearson Co-Chair Emeritus

For registration & hotel information, please refer to the IOOF News found online at: IOOF.org
Eighty-seventh I.O.O.F. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns
May 1-3, 2020, Arlington, Virginia

PRE-REGISTRATION AND PURCHASE OF TICKETS FORM
ONE FORM PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTRATION: $5.00 per person, pre-registration deadline: March 31, 2020.
Registrations postmarked after March 31, 2020 or in-person registrations: $8.00 per person. Any
questions about registration? Contact Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Com-
mitee, Treasurer Wanda Smith Phone: 1-703-590-1267 – E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE REGISTRATION DESK (upper lobby foyer of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center)
Open Friday, May 1, 3:00-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 3,
8:00-10:00 a.m. Pre-registered participants must pick up their registration envelopes which
include the Pilgrimage badge and certificate of attendance and any pre-paid tickets as requested on
this form. In-person registrations are accepted. Any transportation tickets still available may be
purchased.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE – ONE FORM PER PERSON - (Please copy this form as needed)
PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 31, 2020

Name ________________________________________ Phone # __________ E-mail __________
Address ____________________________________________
Jurisdiction __________________________________________

Highest Title you want printed on the certificate ____________________________________

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. NO REFUNDS.

( ) $ 5.00 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE available until March 31, 2020, after March 31, 2020, fee
is $8.00

( ) $ 55.00 SATURDAY PILGRIMAGE BANQUET – MUST be reserved and prepaid by March
31. Unless there are canceled reservations, no additional banquet tickets will be available.

( ) $ 47.00 ARLINGTON CEMETERY TRANSPORTATION TICKETS – round-trip bus from
the Hilton to the Visitor Center; round-trip shuttle from the visitor center to the tomb for Sunday, May
3, 2020 only. Space is limited. Unless there are cancellations, last minute transportation tickets may
not be available.

****NO PRIVATE VEHICLES or BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE
CEMETERY AND PARK. PRIVATE VEHICLE AND BUS PARKING IS AVAIL-
ABLE FOR A FEE AT THE COMMERCIAL PARKING GARAGE AT ARLINGTON
CEMETERY. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Check # _________ Amount of check _________

All funds are stated in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars.
Make checks payable to:
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee and send with this form to:
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Pilgrimage Committee
P.O. Box 7165, Woodbridge, VA 22195
Phone: 1-703-590-1267 – E-mail: 0302wsmith@gmail.com
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, E. Wesley Nelson, by virtue of the authority duly vested in me as 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 2019, in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and of our Order the 201st year.

Attest: /s/ Douglas E. Pittman
        /s/ Terry L. Barrett             Sovereign Grand Master
        Sovereign Grand Secretary

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, E. Wesley Nelson, 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, 2020 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 monitarily 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 2019, and in the 201st year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

Attest: /s/ Douglas E. Pittman
         /s/ Terry L. Barrett              Sovereign Grand Master
         Sovereign Grand Secretary
Greetings to all the Youth of our Order!

I would like for you to know what a pleasure it was for me to be able to work with you at the 2019 sessions this past August, in how to carry the flags. What a joy it was for me to see the smiles on your faces as we worked with you.

Your enthusiasm inspired me! I would like to work with you more in educating you on the flag presentation. I have been asked to give you instructions, so when you come back to session this year, you're prepared when we work with you again!

Carrying the Flag: With the butt of the flag staff resting on the ground or floor, by the right foot, and with the right arm hanging naturally at the side, grasp the staff with the thumb and fingers of the right hand. With the left arm across the body, grasp the flag staff with the left hand at about the level of the right arm pit. Raising the butt of the staff slightly, move the right arm to the rear until the flag staff is inclined forward at an angle of about twenty-five degrees from the body, and in a plane parallel to both the body and the line of March. When carrying the flag: the left arm should be kept in contact with the body and the shoulders squared to the line of March. If the staff is too short, the flag may be raised by repositioning the right hand to a point nearer the butt of the staff.

Friends, thank you again for allowing me to help you with this. I can't wait to see you along the road of Odd Fellowship in my travels.

Lady Jami Rafter
President IALAPM

Did you know???

Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns

The Pilgrimage will be May 1–3, 2020 at Arlington, Virginia. We will be staying at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311. Banquet will be Saturday evening. Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns will take place on Sunday, May 3 at Arlington National Cemetery. The Memorial Service will be held in the Amphitheater at noon with the Laying of the Wreath at 1:00.

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

You MUST mention “Odd Fellows Pilgrimage” when reserving your room to receive the special rate.

**For more information, please visit IOOF.ORG and check out the Newsletter**
Several other countries around the world created their own unknown soldier monuments, including India, Australia, Canada, Russia, Austria, and many others.

**Symbolism and Importance of the Tombs**

- Some of the tombs around the world have simple designs that focus solely on the remembrance of the unknown soldier; others are more elaborate and intricate with their details.
- In many countries with monuments and tombs, the unknown soldier is typically honored with a funeral procession, an address or speech, and the lowering of a coffin into the tomb.
- Although the remains of the soldier inside the tomb are unknown to the general population, some tombs are inscribed as “known but to God”.
- The anonymity of the unknown soldier is a strong symbol of the monument for all of the sacrifices made for war from a particular country; they act as a symbol for all of a country’s unknown dead, regardless of where they fell or where they are buried.

***It is very important to remember the sacrifices made, not only by those who were identified, but also to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice without the luxury of being identified by their home country.

**Other Facts About the Tombs**

- At present, there are 72 tombs dedicated to the unknown soldier.
- The name “Unknown Soldier” has been used as titles for books, short stories, films, musical albums and songs, as well as a characters in both DC and Ace Comics as a war hero and superhero character, respectively.
- It is said that if you want to become a tomb guard, it is incredibly difficult, especially in the United States. You must go through an intense period of training that includes passing tests on weapons, cadence, military bearing, ceremonial steps, uniform preparation, and much more.
- It is said that tomb guards have the highest standards for their military uniforms of all military members.
- The Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier lies in front of the National War Memorial and contains the remains of a soldier who had been buried near Vimy Ridge in the First World War.
- In Australia, their tomb was erected in 1933 after recovering the body of their unknown soldier from Adelaide Cemetery in France.
- Egypt’s Unknown Soldier Monument pays tribute to the unknown Egyptian and Arab soldiers; the most famous one is in Cairo and is in the shape of a pyramid; it was inaugurated in October 1975.
- In the United States, the Tomb Guard badge is the least awarded badge in the Army.
IT'S ALL FOR FUN!

Winter Word Scramble

1. PCONENEI
2. IEC
3. TTEMISN
4. ATOC
5. RPIECFELA
6. AEGEDNIRGBR
7. EZRNF0
8. YBURARFE
9. SONW
10. OWOD
11. EBDMECER
12. TEAKS
13. OTBOS
14. YEOKHC
15. LIICEC
16. UAYRAJN
17. OLCD
18. KSSCO
19. INHMCEY

Q. 3 men went for a swim in the pond. Why did only 2 get their hair wet?
   A. the 3rd man was bald

Q. What is the longest word in the dictionary?
   A. Smiles.

Q. What kind of milk does the invisible man drink?
   A. Evaporated milk

Q. If you throw a white stone in the Red River, what would it become?
   A. Wet

Q. What is heavier, a pound of bricks or a pound of cotton?
   A. Both weigh the same, a pound is a pound

Riddle me this!!!

Mr. Snowman!

Let's build a snowman! First we need to have a really __________ snowstorm, of course on a __________ day. Watching all that __________ snow fall makes me __________ for a bowl of __________! __________ it's still __________ and there's a lot of it! Let's go! Next is __________ to go out in the cold. Once that is done, we need to get busy. We make a __________ and __________ it in the __________. It gets so __________ we can't roll it anymore. Then we do __________ more and stack them on top of each other. We __________ for __________ in the driveway for the __________ eyes and __________. Mom gives us a scarf, hat and __________ to complete Mr. __________! __________ he's done! Finally, now the best part, __________.

[Image of Mr. Snowman]
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:
Michele Trynor

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) __________________________

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.

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.
YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

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

SECRETARY: Michele Trynor
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Email: gwen.century21@aol.com

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.

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.