Introducing the new Heads of our Order

The Honorable Charles E. Lusk
Sovereign Grand Master
I.O.O.F.

Kathleen (Kathy) D. Richen
President-IARA

Lady Margaret A. Gardner
President-I.A.L.A.P.M.
I.O.O.F.

General Michael L. Bowers
General Commanding
G.M.C.P.M.
I.O.O.F.

During Youth Days we were graciously visited by the 2019-2021 Leaders of our Order and the incoming 2021-2022 Leaders of our Order bringing information of their programs and extending a warm welcome to all who attended. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules. We appreciate your support!

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Here’s what happened at 2021 Youth Days!

This year at Youth Days we had a total of 19 Youth from 5 Jurisdictions. Total for our Youth Days Session to include those Youth present were 76. Those states represented were California, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington.

Friday:
Youth Days were held this year in Cincinnati, Ohio. Friday morning brought in the Youth for Orientation. Many new friendships were made as well as many old friendships were rekindled. With most of the Youth only seeing each other at this time of year, it is always special to see everyone again.

I.A.L.A.P.M. Pres. Jami Rafter, Gen. Jack Roberts, General Commanding practiced with those that were to be carrying the flags. During the Banquet, we had skits preformed by the Jurisdictions present. The flags were impressive and everyone did a fantastic job in putting on a wonderful evening for all who attended. We had 106 at the Banquet. Those included the Honorable E. Wesley Nelson, Sovereign Grand Master, I.O.O.F. Elizabeth Mowry-Harbstreit, President, I.A.R.A. General John Roberts, General Commanding G.M.C.P.M. Lady Jami Raffer, President I.A.L.A.P.M. Each gave a warm welcome to our Youth and extended their support for this years Youth Days.

Saturday’s Session began with presentation of the flags followed by greetings from the special dignitaries that were present. We had an unofficial count of 76 present.

We were visited by I.A. L.A.P.M. President Jami Rafter with her staff. I.A.L.A.P.M. Vice President Margaret Gardner gave a brief talk and extended her best wishes for a good year and shared gifts with all the Youth.

General Jack Roberts, General Commanding of the General Military Council, came forward and applauded the Youth in their efforts at the Banquet with the Flags and the Talent Show. He then introduced Dep. General Commanding Michael Bowers who gave a brief talk of encouragement to the Youth. He left them with a bag of goodies for each that were present.

Cathy Reichen V. Pres. I.A.R.A. brought the greetings of the I.A.R.A. She gave words of encouragement and expressed her support to the Youth and from the IARA to the Youth.

I.O.O.F. Dep. Sovereign Grand Master “Chuck” Lusk was introduced. He brought his excitement and support to the Youth. He expressed his appreciation to the Youth for their continued support of the Order.

Vicky Beaver brought greetings and information from the Education Foundation. She encouraged the Youth to look into the Scholarships that are available. This year, the Education Foundation has given $98,000 in Scholarships.

Leonard Boulton, Executive Director from the Pilgrimage for Youth visited with the Youth and gave them a brief summary of what the Program is all about and some of the places the Tour takes them. This wonderful program we have that enables the Youth (ages 16-17) an opportunity to experience a trip to our Nations Capital has been here since 1949. He also shared there are 2 benches in Central Park dedicated to Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. It truly is the educational trip of a lifetime!

Jurisdictional Reports were given by Oregon, Michigan & Washington. The state of California did not have a Jurisdictional Report, however, we did hear from Florin Theta Rho Lodge #68. She gave a report of the activities of her club for the year. Colorado did not have any Youth present, but a report was submitted by one of the Advisors of that state. All states are very active in their communities and have good support from their states.

The Jurisdictional Reports are included in this Edition of your Youth Informer.

Chairman Steve Adams presented the each Jurisdiction present with special awards for recognition of Outstanding Principles of Odd Fellowship & Service exceeding above & beyond and wished them all the best in their accomplishments.

Heart in Hand Community Recognition Awards were presented to
- Etu Theta Rho #94 - OR
- Red Rose Theta Rho #8 - MI
- Florin Theta Rho #68 - CA
- Spunky Blue Birds #93 - WA
- Acorn Theta Rho # 79 - WA
- Alpha Theta Rho #1 - CO
for displaying outstanding principles of Odd Fellowship.

This years new logo was won by Spunky Bluebirds #93, WA. Congratulations and well done!

This year, our Fun Night was a special bus trip to Coney Island Water Park. Both the Youth and Advisors swam, played miniature golf, went out on the lake in paddle wheel boats and played various games at the park. Dinner was provided with ice cream for dessert.

Next year Youth Days will be in Winston-Salem. Plans are already underway for your next Youth Days. We want to see you there!

We want to give special thanks to the state of Maine for the Lunch they provided for both Friday and Saturday; Penny Furnald for her magic fingers on the keyboard both Friday and Saturday; the host committee of Ohio for helping with everything needed to keep us moving with copies when needed and all the “little things” that go unnoticed. The support given by all present to include Sovereign Grand Lodge, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, General Military Council Patriarchs Militant and International Association Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant I.O.O.F.

We couldn’t have succeeded without you! Thank you!
Your SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee
PHOTOS FROM YOUTH DAYS

Renewing old friendships!

Great job with the Flags!

Moderators

Marching in!

Winner of the 2021-2022 Logo Spunky Bluebirds #93, WA

Advisor of the Year; Judy Diekman, Spunky Blue Birds #93, WA

What a crowd! Thank you for joining us at our Banquet!
PHOTOS FROM YOUTH DAYS

Support from the 4 heads of our Order

Skits from all Jurisdictions present gave us fantastic entertainment!

Penny with the magic fingers!

All those smiling faces!
California 2021 Youth Day Cincinnati, OH
Florin Theta Rho #68

I’m Emily VonBrant, a member of Florin Theta Rho Girl’s Club #68 of Sacramento California. Due to Covid 19 we have not been able to have meetings at our hall. Our advisor and us girls make welfare calls, texts and emails to each other.

Last month 2 clubs & 1 Junior lodge & perspective members to start a new Theta Rho and Juniors at our Youth Camp- but it ended up being cancelled. Our state Theta Rho Assembly is in February at the President’s Holiday Weekend.

Michigan 2021 Youth Day Cincinnati, OH
Red Rose Theta Rho #8

The last 2 years have been nothing short of crazy, we did what we could with quarantine, social distancing, and DCD guidelines, and all our clubs did all they could do and still remain safe.

We, The Red Rose Theta Rho Girls Club were able to help our local sponsoring lodge with its Friday Night Fish Fry, and also helped with hall rentals. We where also lucky enough to help the Grand Lodge of Michigan move into their new building, which is our original building dating back to 1894. We enjoyed helping to renovate and organize the building which is going to be the new home of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. This organization supplies much needed supplies and resources to foster kids in our area.

Lamplighters United Youth Group helped with Child Miracle Network. And the Irish Bells Theta Rho helped with the girl’s orphanage in the Philippines.

It was great to see you all and I hope to see you all next year in Winston-Salem in 2022
To the Sovereign Grand Lodge – International Association of Rebekah Assembly Youth Committee,

There are two Theta Rho Clubs in Washington. Acorn #79 has ten members and two advisors, and Spunky bluebirds #93 has seven members and two advisors. Pasco #14 turned in their charter right after the 2019 Theta Rho Assembly. Washington has no Junior Lodges, United Youth Groups or Cadet Corps.

Oregon has one Theta Rho Club, Eta #94 which has fourteen members. Oregon has no United Youth Groups, as Hillsboro #1 and Samaritan #2 turned in their charters. Oregon does not have any Junior Lodges or Cadet Corps. Due to the limited number of Theta Rho Clubs in both Washington and Oregon, Oregon has for a number of years been invited to join the Washington Theta Rho Assembly. There were not very many opportunities for fundraising this year, but many monetary donations were given to the different clubs, and we did raffles, however, due to Covid we were unable to do many of our traditional fundraisers.

Various Club activities include Halloween parties, sleepovers, campouts, pizza night with games, scrapbook night, Christmas party, swimming parties, dinner and movie at an advisor’s home, overnight at the lodge hall, and pen pals with veterans.

Acorn #79 won the most new members award at Assembly, however, every club had new members making a better membership total all around compared to past years.

Visitations to other jurisdictions include members from Acorn #79, Spunky Bluebirds #93, and Eta #94 went to Youth Days in North Carolina in 2019, Eta visited Washington for assembly, and the Theta Rho Assembly President Piper Fyffe visited Oregon for her official visit when she participated in the Bohemia Mining Days parade with us.

Special Events included initiation of new members and Acorn #79 participated in the Holland Happenings parade and Eta #94 participated in the Bohemia Mining Days Parade. Eta #94 also had an Honors Night where multiple members received their Honors Pins they had been working on over the last year, however none have finished the final level since last youth days, through some are close.

Due to Covid-19 there was no Washington Theta Rho Assembly in 2020, and we all kept our stations for one more year until, the 2021 Washington with Oregon’s Annual Theta Rho Assembly. The Assembly was held in Yakim, Washington Friday June 18th through Sunday June 20th, 2021. There were twenty six girls and nine advisors present, plus many guests. Friday evening we had a picnic and pool party flowed by Saturday’s sessions and an Alice in Wonderland Fun Night. Sessions wrapped up Sunday with installation of officers.

Community service projects include and crafts and babysitting, cards and treat bags for nursing homes, various monetary donations, beach cleanup, Adopt-A-Highway, reader board clean up, gift bags for the firefighters in Oregon, gift bags for the New York Coved Relief, and a cemetery clean up. Our sponsoring lodges are giving us a building to use and monetary donations, while many of us go on to join our sponsoring lodges. Eta #94 has a total of 5 members that have joined their respective Rebekah lodges.

The youth of Washington and Oregon has a fun and surprisingly productive couple of years all things considered, and want to thank the adults for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted by,
Moira Truthers
President of the Washington with Oregon Theta Rho Assembly
The jurisdiction of Washington has 2 active Theta Rho Clubs. Acorn #79 is in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. Acorn has 12 girls and 4 senior members. Spunky bluebirds #93 is located in Tacoma and has 9 girls and 4 senior members.

Twelve girls and 4 chaperones from Washington State are attending the 2021 SGL-IARA Youth days here in Cincinnati. We are super excited to be back with all of you. We are immensely thankful to the SGL and IARA for providing this amazing opportunity to participate at the national level of Odd Fellowship. We also thank our own Grand Lodge for generously making sure we can all be here. And a special shout out for our Grand Lodge Secretary, Laurel Delony, who has put in countless hours to ensure every detail of our trip has been taken care of so we will all be safe, well fed and, having fun. You are our hero, Laurel!

Before the pandemic hit, we were busy:

- Doing service projects such as filling Christmas gift bags for a women’s home, creating and writing cards for friends in a local assisted living home
- Hosting a community Halloween party
- Initiating new members
- Holding a joint sleepover just for fun
- Attending installations
- Celebrating Acorn Theta Rho’s 60th Anniversary

During the pandemic we diligently worked hard to stay active by:

- learning to use Zoom for meeting & parties
- participating in drive-by graduation parades
- holding outdoor meetings in parks
- conducting beach cleanups
- continuing to send Christmas, Valentine’s, and Mother’s Day cards to our elderly friends
- making donations to projects and charities

When we were allowed to meet again, we:

- initiated more new members
- held our annual Theta Rho Assembly with our Oregon Theta Rho friends
- enjoyed reconnecting at a pool party and BBQ Dinner
- attended the all-branch reception
- participated in a community parade with the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

We are honored to be a part of this great Order of Odd Fellows and are delighted to be here spending time with all of you.

In Happiness Through Service,
Lucy Crouch, Vice President of the Theta Rho Assembly of WA
Like all jurisdictions the youth of Colorado have struggled with the effects of Covid 19, but are trying our utmost best to maintain our membership and continue to grow. Our jurisdiction has maintained all our four Theta Rho Clubs. Three of the four clubs are active, one of our clubs is struggling with membership as the advisor is battling cancer for the second time and has been unable to help her club prosper currently. Some of the activities our clubs and members have participated in include:

* Making, filling and delivering personalized toiletry bags for all the residents in the Friendship House at the Home, “Odd Fellow Home” in Conon City.
* Making cards for members of other clubs when they were sick and in distress
* Making snack bags to hand out to the homeless in our community
* Making card for veterans for Halloween and Christmas
* Making cards for nursing home for Halloween and Christmas
* Planting flowers at the Legacy Center Assisted Living Center at the Odd Fellow Campus of Care
* Having a picnics with the residents of the Legacy Center
* Enjoying club Halloween parties
* Making our annual trips to the pumpkin patch
* Our clubs had Christmas parties and exchanged Seret Santa gifts
* Many of our youth and young at heart were able to attend youth camp at the Grand Encampment Campground hosted by our new TRA President Isabel Parker of Colorado Springs
* Went Christmas caroling and gave gifts to the residents of the Campus of Care in Canon City
* Raising and donating fund to the Teen House for homeless or wayward teens
* Donating funds and time to a family of a little boy that needed a heart transplant.

We are happy to report that his body accepted the new heart and he is doing very well

* Applying temporary tattoos to the attendees of the Mile High Hook and Ladder Fire Muster of Father’s Day Weekend
* The Assistant Advisor of one of our clubs was honored to participate in decorating the float in 2019 for the Rose Parade and would love to do it again.

Theta Rho Assembly in 2020 had to be postponed due to the pandemic, but we were excited to be able to have session in Canon City the second weekend of June 2021 with 11 girls and about 21 adults in attendance. Two of which were initiated at the beginning of our sessions. We were pleasantly surprised to have President of the International Assemblies and her husband in attendance at our sessions. Thank you, Sister Elizabeth and Steve, for visiting us. It was great to get to meet you and spend the weekend with you both. We also enjoyed seeing each other, your Hawaiian Luau banquet, the swimming parties at the hotel pool, in addition to learning a lot in our meeting.

We are excited to announce that Alph Theta Rho #1 in Clifton will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary this coming spring.
THE HONORABLE
CHARLES E. LUSK
SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER
INDEPENDENT ORDER
OF ODD FELLOWS

EMBLEM
Open Door

2021-2022 OFFICERS
OF
THE SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE, I.O.O.F.

Charles E. Lusk, OH
Sovereign Grand Master
Commander-in-Chief

Michelle L. Heckart, IA Deputy Sovereign Grand Master

John S. Cupp Jr., PA
Sovereign Grand Warden

Terry L. Barrett, IL
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Harrell D. Ward JR, TN
Sovereign Grand Treasurer

Steve E. Wright, OH
Sovereign Grand Marshal

Gerald V. Workman, WV
Sovereign Grand Conductor

Neville Richen, MA
Sovereign Grand Chaplain

Shawn E. Miller, PA
Sovereign Grand Musician

James Edwards, ON
Sovereign Grand Guardian

Thomas J. Calabrese, NJ
Sovereign Grand Messenger

Brig. Gen. Paul R. McAfee, OH
Aide-de-Camp

E. Wesley Nelson, AB
Past Sovereign Grand Master

Charles W. Carson, OH
Ambassador of Goodwill

MOTTO: Be the person who makes everybody feel like somebody.

THEME: Open your Lodge doors, extend your arms and open your heart. The survival of our Order depends on us, we need to show everyone what Odd Fellowship is about, and what it can do for everyone, not just our members.

AIM: To educate the public on what Odd Fellows do, what programs we have and how they affect everyone. We are something that everyone should want to be a part of.

GUIDES: Bible, Rituals, Code of General Laws

FLOWER: Roses

COLORS: Orange and Green

SONG: Happy by Bruno Mars
      Hang on Sloopy by the McCoys

HYMN: How Great Thou Art

SCRIPTURE: Corinthians 16:14 – Let all you do be done in love.

DEDICATION:
First & foremost, I want to dedicate and thank my beautiful and wonderful wife Cindy, who has been by my side through good times and bad times, who has always encouraged me to keep moving forward no matter how dark the future may look, and my family who is always behind me in whatever I do and my middle son Shane who we lost in 2010 who was also a great Odd Fellow.

Secondly, to my lodge, Vienna No. 345 who for 34 years has shown me what true Odd Fellowship is and supported me in all my endeavors going through the chairs at the State and Sovereign level as well as the support from all branches of the order in our great state of Ohio.

And finally, for all my Brothers and Sisters everywhere who have put their faith in me to move our great order forward.
My *pin* depicts this slogan: with golden roots that symbolize our lodges. We need to strengthen our lodges.

My *flowers* are pink roses and lilacs with pink and lavender as my colors.

My Bible verse is: Matthew 5:3-12, known as The Beatitudes.

**Hymn:** Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary

**Song:** From a Distance by Bette Midler.

My dedication is three-fold:

*First,* I want to dedicate my year to my husband Neville Richen who gave me the gift of belonging to this Order when we married. He is my rock and inspiration.

*Second,* I dedicate this year to the hard-working members of our lodges who might not aspire to high office, but who make certain the heat is turned on early for a cold meeting night with a pot of hot coffee ready. So much of our Order’s work is accomplished at the lodge level. This is where we reach out to our communities, friends and neighbors. I will spend my year celebrating the accomplishments of our lodges.

*And Third,* I dedicate my year to Raymond and Ruth Witt, my parents who are always foremost in my heart.

When I ran for the office of Warden I promised to be your officer, the one you could turn to resolve problems and celebrate triumphs. I repeat that promise here. I am your president and as such, I will always be eager to hear from you. We are strong when we work together and I promise you we will do just that!
GENERAL MICHAEL L. BOWERS
GENERAL COMMANDING

2021-2022 OFFICERS OF THE
GENERAL MILITARY COUNCIL
PATRIARCHS MILITANT
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Theme: Unity: effecting that all Brothers and Sisters are in one accord in harmony, peace and love.

Goal: To support recruitment of Brothers and Sisters to ensure a base of recruitment for the Patriarchs Militant

Aim & Challenge: For every Chevalier and Lady to bring in one new member for their Canton and Auxiliary.


Flower: Roses

Colors: Red, White & Blue

Hymn: It Is Well With My Soul

Blessed Assurance

Song: You Say by Lauren Daigle

Scripture: Isaiah 41:13 — For the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee.

Dedication:
To my parents, Herman and Eva Bowers who dedicated their lives to their family by providing love, peace and protection. For their strong belief and teachings of the word of God to us. Encouraging us to reach our goals and continue to chase our dreams.

To my family, Greta, Emily, Katrina, Everett and Austin for allowing and supporting me on my journey.

Project: Youth Days Activities and our Youth Programs of the Order.

Quest: For the General Military Council & International Association Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant to complete the restructure as set forth by The Sovereign Grand Lodge in the 5-year plan to become one viable unit.
Greetings from the General Military Council,

It is with great pleasure that I get to address everyone in this Youth Informer Newsletter. I would like to say congratulations to all elected and appointed officers of the Order.

I would like to say thank you and a job well done to the Youth Committee of the SGL and IARA for another great youth sessions. A great big Thank You to the Youths or better known to me as the youngsters for allowing me to be involved in your session and activities. It is such an honor being part of your sessions learning from what you do throughout the year in your lodges, jurisdictional meetings, community involvement and your special projects. You all do an amazing job.

This year as General Commanding of the General Military Council my staff and myself will be promoting the youth of our Order, which is the future. The more we can be involved with you the more we feel you will want to be involved in the other branches of the order. This year my motto is Unity and my theme is effecting that all Brothers and Sisters are in one accord in harmony, peace and love. My project is for the Youth Days Activities, my GMC pin which is not for sale but given away with the asking of a donation to my project for the Youth Days Activities.

It is amazing watching what you do as the Youth of our Order. If anyone or any jurisdiction is interested in starting any one of the youth groups available we encourage you to do so. The Youth Committee of the SGL and the IARA is a great bunch of folks to work with. Once again Thank You Youngsters for my time enjoying and learning what you do for OddFellowship. Keep up the great work.

Chivalrously,
General Michael L. Bowers
General Commanding General Military Council
**Lady Margaret A. Gardner**

**President—T.A.L.A.P.M.**

**2021-2022 Officers of the International Association**

**Ladies Auxiliary Patriarch Militant I.O.O.F.**

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**Emblem: Cross of St. John**

**Theme: FAMILY LOVE**

**Aim:** To go into the future UNITED with FAITH, grace and dignity.

**Flower:** Yellow Rose – in honor of my parents

**Colors:** White, Purple and Gold

**Songs:** *One Pair of Hands* – sung by Elvis

*One Day at a Time*

*Here I am Lord*

*The American Way*

**Guides:** The Bible and Our Ritual

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is Patient; Love is Kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood, over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love’s forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord watch over those I love and care for, be with them each and everyday – AMEN.

**Dedication:** To my parents who always encouraged me to try no matter what was before me, they supported me in every endeavor.

To my family and friends, I couldn’t have achieved this position without your love and support.

**Project:** Joint Youth Committee
Proclamations

Rebekah Degree Proclamation

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

Fraternal Greetings:

September 20, 1851 the Rebekah Degree became another Degree of Odd Fellowship bringing woman’s softening influence into the Order.

Now, 170 years later the Rebekah Degree has spread throughout the world.

Therefore, I, Charles E. Lusk, Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by authority duly vested in me, do proclaim that,

September 20, 2021 be proclaimed REBEKAH DEGREE DAY, in observance of the 170th Anniversary of its inception. Lodges are asked to hold a special ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 30th day of August 2021, in the 203rd year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

[Seal]

/s/ Charles E. ‘Chuck’ Lusk
Sovereign Grand Master

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth Proclamation

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

Fraternal Greetings:

The Pilgrimage for Youth having been organized in 1949 provides educational tours to the United Nations and other historical landmarks. Approximately 49,000 students have participated in the program since its inception.

The 69th tour is now being organized whereby additional students will ‘live the Spirit of Odd Fellowship’ in the coming years. These young people are the future leaders, and this is our contribution to society.

Therefore, I, Charles E. Lusk, Sovereign Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, by authority in me duly vested, do proclaim that:

The month of October is Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth Month. All units are asked to make immediate plans for their delegates and to support the Pilgrimage in all ways possible.

Done in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, this 30th day of August 2021 in the 203rd year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

[Seal]

/s/ Charles E. ‘Chuck’ Lusk
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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.

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.