Introducing the new Heads of our Order

The Honorable 
John S Cupp Jr 
Sovereign Grand Master 
I.O.O.F.

EllenJean Whited 
President-IARA

General Howard G Malin 
General Commanding 
G.M.C.P.M. 
I.O.O.F.

During Youth Days we were graciously visited by the 2022-2023 Leaders of our Order and the incoming 2023-2024 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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We had an amazing year with your Youth with representation from 5 states! We had Youth from the states of Michigan (7), Colorado (6), and Washington (10) Oregon (5) and 1 guest Youth from Iowa. Giving us 3 Jurisdictions. Total for our Youth Days Session to include all those Youth present were 29.

Thursday evening started out with a Pizza Party given to Youth by Brig Gen. Jami Rafter Aide-de-Camp of Iowa to the Sovereign Grand Master. Thank you Jami!

Friday began with donuts given by the state of Colorado for breakfast then rules were read. Steve started the morning with a fun mix up icebreaker game for the kids to get to know each other. Thank you notes written for all the States and those that donated money and food for the for this years Youth Days events.

Grand Lodge of Iowa donated “Build a Bear” for the Youth’s Community Service Project. to stuff various toy animals for the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines, Iowa for the kids. The Youth dropped them off on their way to the “fun day” after session on Saturday.

Friday evening was the Dinner Theater with fried chicken and an ice cream bar for dessert. The Youth were scattered throughout the room at various tables mixed with the adults to enable them to chat and share what their clubs were doing and answer questions they might have about anything dealing with their clubs. Jami Rafter and Michelle Jones Past Presidents of International Association of Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militants practiced with those that were to be carrying the flags. During the Banquet, we had skits, and songs performed by the Jurisdictions present. The flags were impressive and the show was great! We had outstanding talent from all Jurisdictions represented! The Pin Design Award was given to Moira Struthers from Eta Theta Rho #94, Oregon. Congratulations!

Seeds of our Future Community Recognition Awards were presented to

Eta Theta Rho #94 - OR,
Thumbs Up Area United Youth #23 - MI,
Spunky Blue Birds #93 - WA
Acorn Theta Rho #79 - WA
Alpha Theta Rho #1 - CO
Echo Theta Rho #17-CO
Irene Theta Rho #10 –CO
Lamp Lighters United Youth #1 –MI
Nu Etta Theta Rho #15 -CO
Red Rose Theta Rho #8 –MI

for displaying outstanding principles of Odd Fellowship.

Saturday’s Session began with presentation of the flags followed by greetings from Howard “Doc” Malin, Deputy General Commanding of the General Military Council. came forward and applauded the Youth in their efforts and brief talk of encouragement to the Youth for their future to “hold on tight to their dreams”.

V.P. I.A.R.A Ellen Jean Whited stopped in and expressed her well wishes to the Youth. She gave a brief rundown of her Program. She then invited the Youth to next years session in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. She applauded the energy and excitement of the Youth and presented those present a special gift and her pin. Then ended her time with us in buying a Pin from the Youth.

Mark Ulrich Chairman from the Visual Research Foundation stopped in and addressed the Youth. He explained what the Visual Research Foundation does and it’s purpose within the Wilmer Eye Institute at John Hopkins Hospital. What an honor to be a part of this outstanding research foundation.

Honorable Michelle Heckett Sovereign Grand Master took time out her busy morning to greet the Youth and express her support and excitement for them to be in Iowa and to be at Youth Days. She reminded each one how important they all are in their individual way, to strive to be anything they want to be and to continue to move up in the Order to continue the work of what they have learned in their Youth Lodges as they move up into the next level. Before leaving, she gave all Youth present one of her blankets and cup with her emblems

Michael Bowers, Gen. Commanding Ret. stopped by to give a few words of support and encouragement on behalf of the General Military Council. He presented money from New Jersey and Gen. Commanding Earl Wys for the SGL-IARA JYC.

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

This year, our Fun Night was a strip to Adventureland! Youth, Advisors and Chaperones rode on water rides, roller coasters and had a blast!

We want to give special thanks to the host committee of Iowa. The support given by all present to include Sovereign Grand Lodge, International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, General Military Council Patriarchs Militant and the many, many others that contributed to make this years Youth Days a success with your generous donations. We couldn’t have succeeded without you! Thank you!

Your SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee
PHOTOS FROM YOUTH DAYS

Thursday night Pizza Party!

We stuffed animals and delivered them to Ronald McDonald House on our way to Adventure Land.

Friday night Banquet The flags were sharp! Many were in attendance as the Youth Hosted the various table this year being able to visit with the many that came to show their support of the Youth in Des Moines, Iowa.

Our Moderators were fantastic as they introduced everyone and kept the evening moving.

General Earl Wys, General Commanding, Sovereign Grand Master Michelle Heckart and President Ruth Earle, IARA joined us and gave the Youth their support and encouragement for a great Youth Days.
PHOTOS FROM YOUTH DAYS

So much entertainment! It was amazing!

Saturday Session was great. We had a wonderful crowd. Next year Pittsburg!
What has your group been up to???
Check out what these Jurisdictions had to say!

Jurisdiction Report for State of Michigan

Michigan has 2 Theta Rho Clubs and 2 United Youth Groups.

Our Youth have visited New Jersey, Tennessee, and Michigan Grand Lodge Sessions. We’ve attended Bushnell Wreath Laying. We had a lodge camping trip when we instituted our new United Youth Group.

Our Youth volunteers at the Thumb Area Foster Closet. We clean up around our Grand Lodge and lodge building. We donated flowers to our camp the campers. We also give out a Scholarship.

We have had several Youth become Odd Fellows this past year. And as always, enjoy our annual trip to Sovereign Grand Lodge Youth Days.

In FLT,
Mackenzie Smith, President
Thumb Area Kids
We have More Jurisdictional Report to Share!

Jurisdictional Report for the State of Oregon

Hello, I am Victoria Schlim, and I am the President of the Theta Rho Assembly of the Jurisdiction of Washington. I am so pleased to be representing Washington and Oregon. I am so very excited to be able to be here and I am so excited for the fun night planned. The Washington Grand Lodge has hosted our Assembly at the Red Lion Hotel in Yakima Washington for a number of years now. We always hold it during the second or third weekend in June.

In our Assembly we have a total of three clubs participating. We have 2 in Washington, Spunky Bluebirds #93 and Acorn #79 along with one in Oregon Eta #94. Our numbers have certainly grown. Spunky Bluebirds had a total of 5 members this year. They both lost one and gained one by initiating Alister and graduating Danny. Acorn #79 has a total number of 11 members and 5 senior members along with getting presented the “Most New Memberships Award” at our annual Assembly. Our club in Oregon, Eta #94 has the highest number of members at 14. Sadly, no new members. During our Assembly we had a total of 21 members with Acorn bringing 11, Spunky bringing 3 and Eta bringing 7. We were very fortunate to have 7 advisors and a grand total of 25 guests.

Our clubs are very active with fundraising and community service. Acorn holds an annual Papa Murphy’s Card Sale as well as a Turkey Raffle for the Make a Wish project. They have also adopted an Assisted Live home to which they send cards, as well as buying toys for Operation Christmas Child. Eta participated in Oregon’s Scio Rebekah Lodge’s Christmas Bizarre. Eta also hosts an annual Parents Night Out where they offer free childcare for one night to parents. Spunky has been involved by participating in their Trunk or Treat Event and at Christmas time they stockings for Neighbors without Homes. All of our clubs also have liter pickups and help weed and maintain local spots around all of our communities.

All of our clubs strive for more members and to participate in social events, with our clubs holding Ice Cream socials, Halloween houses along with Christmas parties. Our clubs are big supporters of supporting other Jurisdictions. All our clubs joined the reception in Olympia, Washington for the Washington Heads of the Orders. Eta was able to attend the Oregon reception for the Oregon Heads of the Orders as well as getting to present at both the Oregon Rebekah Assembly and the Oregon Grand Lodge Sessions. Washington Grand Lodge helps hold a Theta Rho retreat in Olympia to help us all prepare for our Assembly and let me tell you it’s very much needed! All of our clubs, I am happy to report were able to send girls to Youth Days in Des Moines, Iowa.

We have one girl who should be reaching the last level of the Honors and should be getting presented her Honors Jewel at the Rebekah Assembly in Oregon by President Darrelne Beaver.

This year has been a crazy but wonderful year. It has truly been an honor to be representatives of Washington and Oregon. I am so very excited for the fun night planned. Also, as President of the Washington Theta Rho Assembly, I would personally like to invite all of you to my session this coming year in Yakima, Washington June 21-23, 2024.

Try everything in Friendship, Love and Truth,

Victoria Schlim, President
Theta Rho Assembly of Washington
Jurisdictional Report for State of Washington

Hello. My name is Hailey Hanna and I am the Vice President of the Theta Rho Assembly of Washington.

We have two active Theta Rho Clubs in Washington. Acorn #79 with 13 active members and Spunky Bluebird #93 which currently has only 4 members due to two members reaching graduate age. We also have one inactive club Pasco #14 that is in the process of reactivating. We have no Junior Odd Fellows, United Youth Groups or Cadet Corps. Our total memberships is pretty much the same.

Our interesting fund raisers include selling Papa Murphy Pizza discount cards and a turkey raffle at Thanksgiving.

Our community service activities have included the Turkey raffle for Make A Wish, putting together boxes for Operation Christmas Child, making favors and cards for assisted living for various holidays including our own IOOF Home in Walla Walla, cleaning up around the outside of our hall for Earth Day, helped bring awareness to Child Abuse by putting out hundreds of pinwheels, donating food and working at food banks, sending donations to Help Heal Vets for Craft Kits, The Vietnam Memorial and Arthritis. Our fun activities have included picnics a camping weekend, pizza and movie nights, Halloween Party, visited a haunted house, craft days, making gingerbread houses at Christmas a day at Fort Casey State Park. Neither of our clubs has mad any visitations to other jurisdictions since the last Youth Days and none of the clubs in our jurisdiction do the Honors Program.

Both of our clubs future plans include increasing our membership. Acorn will continue to try to increase our club awareness in the community and Spunky Bluebirds is hoping to have a permanent new meeting place by fall.

Our Assembly was held in Yakima June 23-25 with 21 girls in attendance and many adults as visitors who came to show their support of the youth. Our sessions started Friday night with practice followed by a pizza/pool party. Ourt sessions were held all day on Saturday with President Lucy Crouch presiding and Saturday night was the banquet and Fun Night with a theme of Never Land. Our closing was Installation of new officers on Sunday morning.

We try to show support to our sponsoring lodge by doing joint projects and helping with anything they ask us to do. Acorn’s sponsoring lodge gives us all special gift bags put together by them at Christmas. They also provide transportation and chaperones when needed.

Spunky Bluebirds sponsoring lodge includes them in their pre-meeting meals since they currently meet the same night due to the building issues.

A special event we have is a Spring Retreat held in April at the IOOF Park in Olympia to prepare for sessions and just to have fun with the members from the other clubs. We would like to thank our Grand Lodge, Rebekah Assembly and JJYC for their support in making this trip to Youth Days happen and a special thank you to our travel agent Laurel Delony for always taking care of us. You all are one in a million.

In Happiness Through Service

Hailey Hanna, Vice President
Theta Rho Assembly of Washington
Jurisdictional Report for State of Colorado

To the Officers, Members, and Youth attending Sovereign Grand Lodge Youth Days
Greetings from Colorado to everyone at Youth Day!

Colorado has three active Theta Rho Clubs. Alpha #1, NuEta #15 and Echo #17. We have potential members to increase the membership in an additional club, Irene #10. The 2023 State of the Order report shows 24 members, 20 Lifetime Members and 41 Senior Sisters.

Darcy Lorimor, from Alpha #1 was Theta Rho Assembly President for the 2022-23 year. Theta Rho Assembly was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado on June 9-11. On Friday the girls learned how to cut and tie velour blankets. They presented the completed blankets to the local Colorado Children’s Hospital. Assembly sessions were held Saturday. We were honored to have a special visitor, Gwen Wixom from the SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee. A Disney themed banquet and swim party completed our day. Sunday began with Devotional Service followed by a Memorial Service. The clubs then competed in Drill and Dance activities. Installation of 2023-34 Officers was held with Mahayla Waggener from Echo #17 being installed as Assembly President.

The Theta Rho Assembly President Darcy’s project this year was to raise money for St Jude’s Children’s Hospital in memory of our beloved Janice Parker-Knight (a former Colorado Theta Rho Assembly President and long-time club advisor). A raffle was held during our Assembly. With the raffle money and donations, over $500 that will be donated to the Children’s Hospital from the Theta Rho Assembly Colorado.

Our girls are active in many service projects with their own clubs. NuEta participates in an annual fire Muster, Echo supports the residents in Canon City Friendship House at the Home and Florence Care Home with holiday cards, home-made p mats and gifts. Alpha makes cards for local Veteran’s hospitals and care centers. Echo made thank you cards and took them and cookies to the VA Nursing Home for Veterans’ Day. Our fund raising activities included selling butter braids and fun shaped pastas. Thanks to all who supported our efforts.

Colorado Theta Rho Girls participate in local and state Odd Fellow activities such as camp outs, serving dinners for official visits and District meetings, and cleaning of Odd Fellow Halls. Theta Rho members helped with the Divine and Memorial service and Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Sessions. The Assembly President also gave a report on 2022 Youth Day trip. Members attended the Reception for Western Slope State Leaders in Delta in April where Darcy Lorimor, the Theta Rho Assembly President was also honored.

Colorado Theta Rho girls are also active with individual achievements. These include 1st place beam at regional gymnastics meets, best appearing car at Bandimere Speedway, High Points Race and a Wally, Most Valuable Player and many school awards.

The Theta Rho Assembly sessions will be held in Loveland, Colorado on June 7-9, 2024, with Mahayla Waggener serving as president. We welcome all to attend.

Colorado is excited that so many of its girls are here for Youth Day. A Big Thank You to all that made this possible. We are hoping to make new friends and get new ideas.

In Happiness Through Service,
Darcy Lorimor, Past President
Theta Rho Assembly of Colorado

Given by,
Mahayla Waggener, President
Theta Rho Assembly of Colorado

We have More Jurisdictional Report to Share!
Did you know?

Your SGL-IARA Joint Youth Committee will come to you! Youth and Advisors, please contact us either by email or letter. We must have a written invitation to get your club on our schedule. You can reach out to any of us. Our contact information is always in the Youth Informer. If you want us to come to you, all you need to do is send us an email! We are waiting!!!

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.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR ADULTS

NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ ADDRESS CHANGE ☐

NAME _______________________________________________________________

ADVISOR ☐ (NO CHARGE)

ADDRESS __________________________________ CITY ________________ STATE/PROVINCE _______ ZIP _____

FILL OUT COMPLETELY & MAIL WITH $10 (U.S. OR CANADIAN) PER YEAR TO:
SGL-IARA JYC YOUTH INFORMER, Gwen Wixom - 2816 IRISH RIDGE RD., BURLINGTON, IA 52601

OFFICE USE: AMOUNT SUBMITTED $__________ U.S. ________ CANADIAN

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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.