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**ONE MORE CAST From The Chairman**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

With the season of giving upon us It goes without saying what a fantastic job our clubs and organizations do for our friends, family, and communities. The outpouring of posts on social media I’ve received of clubs making cards for the elderly, gift baskets for the less fortunate, food drive for the hungry, and hosting fundraisers for charitable communities have been amazing. Not only during the holiday season but year-round our youth clubs really need to be commended and admired for their works. Great Job boys and girls!! You exemplify the true meaning of giving.

Of course, with a New Year fast approaching I’d like to wish each one of you a wonderful and successful new year. My guide word for this year is “Hope”. Hope can be used in many forms throughout the day, month, or yearly goals. Examples are: “I hope you have a great day.” “I hope you have a good meeting.” “I hope and pray for good health.” We can always use a little hope and prayers in our daily lives and activities. I hope everyone has a great New year.

This year will bring many new challenges and obstacles along the way, as we strive to become better people for ourselves, our clubs and our communities. The SGL/IARA Joint Youth Committee is starting to work on our annual sessions in Pittsburgh, PA. I hope as many of you can attend as last year. It’s going to be a great time had by all. Being this early in the planning, if you’d like to see anything again or something different, my email is always open.

Lastly, I need to apologize to Irene Theta Rho Girls Club #16. In our last edition of the Youth Informer their community service newsletter was missed. Their advisor sent it to me before session and it was read during our annual sessions but not turned over to the secretary for publication. It was completely my fault and I apologize. Irene #16 has been one of our most outstanding and dedicated clubs. Being the lone wolf of the east coast, they have always been very supportive of their community and local lodges. I have always been able to count on them for support during Youth Days and look forward to working with them in the future. Keep up the good work girls.

Everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Steve Adams
SGL/IARA Chair

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**Pin Design for 2024:**
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)
Did you know???. We have scholarships available!

More information can be found for each @ IOOF.ORG/programs/education-foundation

**Iowa CNA/LPN Nursing Certificate Scholarship**
The $1,500.00 award made possible by the Grand Lodge of Iowa is a Nursing scholarship for students enrolled in a CNA/LPN Certificate or diploma based program. It is based on leadership qualifications and financial need. Applicants must be a member of the Order or have a relative who is a member of an Odd Fellow or Rebekah Lodge.

**Iowa Odd Fellows Degree Program Scholarship**
The $3,000.00 award made possible by the Grand Lodge of Iowa is a Nursing scholarship for Degree Based Programs for students who have an interest in a Nursing Degree. It is based on leadership qualifications and financial need. Applicants must be a member of the Order or have a relative who is a member of an Odd Fellow or Rebekah Lodge.

**The Loan Program**
It is required that applicants must be, or have a relative who is an active member of an Odd Fellow or Rebekah Lodge. A student desiring a loan must write personally to the Executive Director for an application. A maximum of $16,000 can be borrowed for a complete course of four years or more. The maximum is $5,000 for one year of study. All applicants must be attending school halftime or more to be eligible.

**Ingstrom Trust Regional Scholarship**
The regional scholarships are based on Financial Need, Scholarship and Leadership. $4,000.00 is awarded annually to a student in each of 15 Regions of the US & Canada.

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

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

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

**Glenn Coursey Agriculture Scholarship**
Students who have completed one semester in college in an agriculture field and have an average to above average academic record. They must show a need for financial assistance, demonstrate leadership ability, be enrolled in an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational-technology school and pursue a career in agriculture.

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

**Betty Moates Science and Technology Scholarship**
For students pursuing a major in medical technology, chemistry, biology, mathematics, or an education major to teach in one of the aforementioned majors.
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, John S. Cupp Jr., 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, 2024, 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 2023, and in the 205th year of our Order.

Yours in F, L & T,

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Master
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, John S. Cupp Jr., 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 2023, in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and of our Order the 205th year.

/s/ Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Master
Sovereign Grand Secretary
Greetings to each Brother and Sister, of this great Order,

**JUST A REMINDER**

Who can join the Independent Order of Odd Fellows?

Any person of good character, of any race, gender, nationality and social status, who is loyal to their country and believes in a Supreme Being, is eligible for membership. Odd Fellowship strictly forbids any interference with one’s religious beliefs or political opinions. Most jurisdictions require candidates for the adult Lodges to be 16 years old. Junior Lodges, Theta Rho Girls’ Clubs or United Youth Groups accept members 8 to 18 years old. Lodges charge an initiation fee and annual dues. The amount of dues is set by the Lodges.

Those interested simply would either contact the lodge, meet a current member or come to an Odd Fellow sponsored event and let us know your intention. Once we are aware of your intentions, we strongly suggest the following.

1. Research the Order, information is in every library and all over the internet. Or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. Ask people you know if they know anyone who is an Odd Fellow or Rebekah. Check the Jurisdictions web site for someone who lives in the same state or province as you, and send an introduction note yourself, expressing interest in joining.

2. Find the local lodge, drop in on the day of a meeting about 30 minutes before the scheduled time, and introduce yourself. Most lodges are eager to find new members and will be glad to meet you.

3. Visit other Odd Fellow lodges in this area.

4. Keep in mind that you are considering joining a worldwide fraternal Order.

5. Consider the time you have to offer. We are Odd Fellows 24/7 - 365.

6. If you have contemplated the above and wish to proceed, you will need a sponsor. If you don’t personally know someone in the lodge and wish to join, and your intention to become a member is clear, then one will be appointed for you.

7. This becomes your official start. You will be educated on what is expected and you will be asked to become involved in various lodge functions and activities.

8. When your sponsor feels confident that you have gained enough knowledge to make a well-informed decision to join the Order, you will be presented with an application and your sponsor will submit the application to the lodge. An interviewing committee will meet with you, their report will precede a vote on your application at a regularly scheduled meeting.

9. Submitting an application does not guarantee membership into a lodge. The lodge will ballot to accept you as a member. If the vote is favorable, you will be brought to the next initiation ceremony and start a lifelong journey helping your fellow man and expanding your fraternal relation with the world.

Does your Lodge follow these steps or does your lodge bring potential members in one week, and then vote on them the next week?

How does your lodge know the potential member and the potential member know your lodge, or the Order?

Let’s keep in mind that membership in this order takes a lot of time and patience. Respect, for each other’s opinions, and feelings, getting along with each other even if their opinions are not the same as yours.

Respect for one another is the key to membership, no one is going to stay or join an organization if they are not treated with respect and understanding. Think About It!

In Friendship, Love, Truth, Faith, Hope, Charity, & Universal Justice,

Rodney M Metoyer, Chairman
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Committee on Membership
Be a Partner in the 2024 Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth Program

The Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth program is looking for partners to sponsor one or more activities for the 2023 Pilgrimage tour.

We would like to:

Sponsor lunch for ____ Delegates @ $10.00 ea. $________
Sponsor dinner for ____ Delegates @ $15.00 ea. $________
Sponsor ____ Delegate Room-Nights @ $40.00 $________
Sponsor ____ Tee-Shirts @ $10.00 each $________
Sponsor ____ Delegate’s U.N. Tour @ $14.00 $________
Sponsor ____ Delegate 911 Museum Tickets @ $15.00 $________
Sponsor ____ Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Tickets @ $19.00 $________

Other [Please specify] _____________________________ $________

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

Gift From:
Name: ...........................................................................
Address: ...........................................................................
..................................................................................
Amount: $......................................................................

Return this form & your donation to:
IOOF Pilgrimage for Youth, Inc.
422 Trade Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-
November 2023

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to all Odd Fellows and Rebekahs,

The 2024 Pilgrimage for Youth Tour is in the early planning stages at this time. I can report at this time are the tour dates, cost of the tour, deadlines, and tour route.

**Tour dates:** June 29-July 12, 2024 Fly into Philadelphia.

**Cost per Delegate:** $2,100.00

**Deadline for total fees and applications:** February 1, 2024

**Tour Route:**
- June 29: Fly into Philadelphia, PA
- June 30-July 5: New York
- July 5-6: Boston, MA
- July 7: Niagara Falls, NY
- July 8: Gettysburg, PA
- July 9-10: Washington, DC
- July 11: Philadelphia, PA
- July 12: Fly home

All the applications and forms can be downloaded and printed from our web page: [www.ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com](http://www.ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com). If you have problems with the web site, please contact me and I will be glad to help you. Now is the time to start finding your delegates. The best source is to utilize your local school guidance counselors. Students must be 16-17 years old and have one year of school left after this school year.

If you need anything at all feel free to contact me at (304) 550-9434 or email me at: pilgrimage@ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

s/Leonard Bolton

All applications, payment forms and donation forms can be downloaded on our website: [www.ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com](http://www.ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com).

All fees, applications and donations are to be sent to: Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth Leonard Bolton, Executive Director 6223 Six Mile Road Danville, WV 25053
IT’S ALL FOR FUN!

Winter Word Search Puzzle

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Christmas word scramble

All the words below are related to Christmas. However, they have all been muddled up! Can you help by unscrambling them?

RATS ____________________
STHICMRSA ________________
SMWANNO __________________
TERE ____________________
LRDOHOP __________________
RPNETES __________________
AANST ____________________
ALGNE ____________________
KTUERY ____________________
LHISEG ____________________
TRADRNEICOOS ______________
DAMEAGRIRNBNE ____________

Winter Cryptogram

Decode the words by finding each substitute letter!

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| B Z Z | O H S O O R B M |
| B T S | O D D Y Z |
| F E D | R Y |
| E T T | W M L R B E E E E |
| E E B | W E E W W W |
| E E E | V B W O W T |
**WINTER Crossword Puzzle**

**ACROSS**

4. Flakes that fall from the sky
7. Frosty was a famous one
8. Water in its frozen state
9. African-American winter holiday
10. Mean reindeer wouldn’t let Rudolf play these
12. Sport on frozen water
15. Measures temperature
16. These hang from your roof when it’s very cold

**DOWN**

1. Time off from work or school
2. Largest arctic land mammal
3. No two are alike
5. The coldest season
6. Jewish winter holiday
11. They keep your hands warm
13. Used to decorate a Christmas tree
14. 32 degrees
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:
Linda Goetsch

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

We want to include you in The Youth Informer!
The Youth Informer would like to publish your article in our next publishing. Please submit your articles to: Gwen Wixom, 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.

2024 Youth Days will be in Pittsburgh, PA!
YOUTH COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

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

SECRETARY: Linda Goetsch
(970) 306-8781
Email: lindadeecolorado@yahoo.com

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

PIN COORDINATOR/WEB SITE: Greta Bowers
(267) 620-5477
Email: gretabowers@ymail.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.
The Youth Informer
Gwen Wixom, Editor
2816 Irish Ridge Road
Burlington, IA 52601