



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 98

December 2023

No. 12

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NEW You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

Scenes from SGM Cupp Testimonial in Coraopolis, PA



Honorary first lady, PGM
Emilie Cupp, SGM John S.
Cupp and Grand Musician
Debra Young, GR David
Young, Aide-de
-Camp was Master of
Ceremonies



GM Robert Ruff with SGM John Cupp



Places to GO People to See

JANUARY

21 / Unified Session Committee, Red
Lion, Harrisburg - 1:00PM
(snow date 1/28)

AUGUST 2024

15 - 22 / SGL Session, Pittsburgh
+ denotes details to follow

** On the second Sunday of each month,
at 1:00PM, year-round, Centre Lodge
#153 of Bellefonte is still conducting their
Music Jams! Please check their facebook
first because there may be a scheduling
conflict!

All Lodges are reminded when planning
an activity, if you would like your state
officer's support please contact the Grand
Lodge at iiofpaglsecty@verizon.net or
717-944-7419



@iiofpa



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In an effort to save money for the magazine, if you would like to receive this magazine via email instead of hard copy, please email the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net with your name and Lodge and this will be done accordingly.



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THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

FRED R. KORMAN LODGE NO. 55, GLASGOW
 Frank K. Keith – initiated October 23rd
 Scott L. Burket
 David C. Hiner
 Jeffrey W. Laughard
 Paul Sweed

ALERT LODGE NO. 936, ROCHESTER MILLS
 Eric V. Cook – initiated September 14th

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Holiday Greetings Brothers and Sisters, Rush, Rush, Rush, Hurry and order your gifts and quick run to the store to purchase the sale items before the sale ends or they run out of the special sale items. Newspaper ads, radio and TV ads, along with the Christmas music, started before Halloween and Thanksgiving even arrived. I hope you had a chance to enjoy Halloween and a thankful Thanksgiving.

This hurry and rush way of life today, brings to mind our Odd Fellows Lodge meetings. We seem to have those members who are in a big hurry to start the meeting and want to get it done as fast as possible. They have to end the meeting quickly so they can get home to watch a game on TV and do not want to miss a minute of the play by play commentary. This, along with other distractions in life is sad.

Does your Lodge open with the reading of the officers' positions, the opening Ode, the opening prayer and then conduct the business of the Lodge. Does your Lodge close the meeting with the Closing Ode, Closing prayer and Valediction "I Am An Odd Fellow".

Do you as a member read or recite those parts just to get it done. We should take the time to learn the true meaning of those words and let them "sink deep into our hearts". The Odes, prayers and Valediction are the cornerstone of our membership and remind us of our duties as a member.

This Christmas season, as we renew our faith in a Supreme Being and celebrate the birth of the Holy Child, we also keep our promise to the Oath we took as Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Patriarchs and Chevaliers. In doing this we will continue our mission to "strive to make the world a better place in which to live and to improve and elevate the character of Mankind through Friendship, Love and Truth, Faith, Hope and Charity, and Universal Justice."

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season with family, friends and Brothers and Sisters.

Happy Holidays,
Paul E. Lautenschlager
Deputy Grand Master

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND MASTER

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a healthy, happy prosperous New year!

GM Ruff



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates PGM/PGS Charles H. Bailey for 40 years in Odd Fellowship and Boyertown Lodge No. 708 for 120 years in Odd Fellowship this month.

WARREN LODGE 339 MUSIC

Warren Lodge 339 is proud to be a sponsor of the Youngsville Marching Eagles High School band. For years this band has

been one of the best in Pennsylvania. In prior years they have been invited to play and have traveled to Ireland, Disney,



Philadelphia and other locations. For over 20 years, band director, Cindy Scheid has produced some of the best performing bands each year. For next year, March 14 to 24, the band will again be traveling to Ireland to compete in the Limerick International Band Competition and will march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin with an expected attendance of about 1.5 million people. They will also be playing in St. Patrick's Cathedral. This will be the band's fifth trip to Ireland, previously 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018.

This past year, despite rainy conditions, they climbed the rankings by almost 5 points to score a 90.1 at McKeesport, bringing home first place.

The Youngsville High School Marching Eagles took first at the Region 8 Championship on Saturday at Penn Trafford with a Group 1 Open score of 92.70. The group also took awards for percussion, auxiliary, music and visual.

~ Lou Dussia, VG #339

DDGM Dzyak installed the Officers of Alert Lodge No. 936 of Rochester Mills, Indiana County



Norristown and Jamison Installation



On Tuesday evening, October 17th, Victory Lodge #658 hosted the Installation of Officers of Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #658 and Jamison Lodge #447. Frank Hilt, Grand Warden, and Bruce Torrence were the presiding officers from Grand Lodge and Victory Lodge #658 that installed the officers of both lodges. Afterwards, we celebrated in fellowship with cake as we do at our Installations.



Encampment Happenings



GRAND PATRIARCH TOM KUTCHNER VISITS PERSEVERANCE ENCAMPMENT NO. 135

On November 2, 2023, Grand Patriarch Tom Kutchner made an official visit to his home Encampment of Perseverance No. 135, which is also the home Encampment of Past Grand Patriarch's Charles Danihel and Dorothea Oertel. The meeting was held at a regularly scheduled meeting of Perseverance Encampment at Walker Lodge No. 306 in Philadelphia. Under the introduction of visiting members Grand Patriarch Tom was introduced by Chief Patriarch Courtney Franklin (who is also the Grand Marshall of the Grand Encampment). After official introductions, Honors of the Order were given and Courtney escorted Grand Patriarch Tom to sit at the right of the Chief Patriarch.

Upon completion of Perseverance's normal business Chief Patriarch Courtney recognized Grand Patriarch Tom. Tom introduced himself and spoke about his goals and targets while in the office which include communicating information about Odd Fellowship to increase membership in the order. With great inspiration, Tom went on to provide detailed information about his charity program in office which is "Feeding America." Within the Encampment and outside of it, Tom's goal is feeding children and is based upon his many years of personal involvement with various organizations which have similar goals.



1



2

(1) Picture taken during introductions of visiting members are (left to right) Grand Marshall Courtney Franklin, Past Grand Patriarch Charles Danihel, Past Grand Patriarch and current Inside Sentinel Dorothea Oertel, Grand Treasurer James W. Sellers, Grand Senior Warden Michael J. Serverson, Grand High Priest Yvonne M. Calhoon and Grand Patriarch Thomas J. Kutchner (David Sellers is next to Tom)



3

(2) Picture of Grand Patriarch Tom during his very inspirational message.
(3) A group picture of those in attendance - noting that missing in the picture is Patriarch Bob Smedley who took the pictures.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT RALLY HELD IN SELLERSVILLE



A very successful Degree rally was held at the hall of Bushkill Encampment #55 as a joint rally, with Bushkill Encampment #55 of Sellersville and Scott Encampment #132 of Tamaqua as joint hosts. There were five Candidates from five different Encampments: Michele Matherly of Chosen Friends #88 Malvern, Jessica Kilmer of Scott #132 Tamaqua, Lindsay Cheromcka of Bushkill #55 Sellersville, Howard Tendler of Mt Vernon #14 York and Christopher Tomasello of New Jersey.



Three generations of Past Chief Patriarchs: From left to right Bobbi Johnson, PCP of Genesis Encampment #15, Laura Huchel, PGP and Sandra Huchel, Grand Scribe both PCP's of William F. Packer Encampment #127. PCP Johnson received her Grand Encampment degree on the 14th.

YVONNE CALHOON TESTIMONIAL 10/21/2023



Left to right Dorothea Oertel PGP, Yvonne Calhoon current PGP and Sandra Huchel Grand Encampment Scribe, picture by Pat. Will Oertel

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



Latrobe Visitation

Freedom Lodge Visitation



Hampton #1004 Official Visitation/ Installation Bill Ehmann Installing Marshall

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER

Freeport Lodge Visitation



Warren Lodge Visitation



Ridgway Visitation



PATRIARCHS MILITANT RALLY HELD IN YORK



On November 4th, the Patriarchs Militant came together throughout Pennsylvania to confer the Chevalier degree on a class of three candidates. The day started with a lunch, provided by York, then a Memorial Service, the Chevalier Degree, and finally the semi-annual meeting. The day was arranged by Department Adjutant BG® Nicole B. Inama and Vice President BG® William F. Hanby. The picture shown was taken after the board meeting, but there were many more in attendance for the Degree. Thanks to all who helped out and showed up!

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Interesting Facts:

The Rebekah Lodges numbered around 1,000. Some of the numbers, you'll also see more than once, as some of these Lodges only lasted a few years.

How many Rebekah Lodges were in YOUR County??

Did you ever wonder if your town had a Rebekah Lodge?

Do you know where it was or do you even remember some of these Lodges?

If you can take a picture of the Lodge Hall that was once in your town and mail it in, we'd be glad to have it for our archives and it could perhaps end up in the magazine!

**Next Month – Westmoreland County.
Get your pictures and articles in now!**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Ambler – Flourtown Rebekah Lodge #448 – consolidated 1981
 Ardmore – Lady Banyan Rebekah Lodge #444 – consolidated 1985
 Collegeville – Perkiomen Rebekah Lodge #92 – consolidated 1979
 Conshohocken – Vida Rebekah Lodge #62 – consolidated 1951
 Elkins Park – S. Louise Erdman Rebekah Lodge #429 – consolidated 1965
 Gladwyne – Molly Pitcher Rebekah Lodge #516 – defunct 1965
 Kulpsville – Crystal Rebekah Lodge #405 – defunct 1917
 Norristown – Woodbine Rebekah Lodge #342 – consolidated 2000
 North Wales – Lanah Rebekah Lodge #133 – consolidated 1946
 Pottstown – Hattie M. Ritter Rebekah Lodge #480 – defunct 1936
 Pottstown – Lady Wittenmeyer Rebekah Lodge #20 – defunct 2006
 Royersford – Lady Augusta Rebekah Lodge #94 – defunct 1903
 West Conshohocken – Amy Rebekah Lodge #179 – defunct 1916

13 Rebekah Lodges with 1 active

1st Rebekah Lodge – Lanah Rebekah Lodge #133 in 1883

Last Rebekah Lodge – Lady Whittenmeyer Rebekah Lodge No. 20 in 2006

30 Odd Fellow Lodges

CANAWACTA LODGE 207 OF HALLSTEAD



Canawacta Lodge 207 of Hallstead purchased and donated 106 lbs of sausage to the New Milford United Methodist Church. Picture taken by Andrew Kilmer

497 RAFFLE HELD



Nakomis Lodge # 497 held Raffle. Grand prize was a wooden American flag donated by Zegers Freedom flags. Photo by Toni Nyberg

PIN PRESENTATION AT LODGE 278



Jim Hiles 65-year pin presentation at Connoquenessing lodge #278, Butler. Presenting the pin was DDGM Shirley J. Whitlinger.

762 MUSIC FESTIVAL



Vincent Lodge #762 recently participated in the Spring City Music and Market Festival. We gave out soft pretzels and were able to talk to numerous people about Odd Fellowship. We also collected \$53 in support of the Grand Master's project of Alzheimer's research. Our lodge is matching what we collected as will our Noble Grand Chris Grumblatt for a total of \$159.00 to be donated.

In FLT, Sue Grumblatt, Secretary, Vincent Lodge #762

THE TREASURER'S TALES

DECEMBER 2023

We are following the tales of Barney Wells, an Odd Fellow, farmer, high school English teacher and unsung hero. The time December 1928. December is a cold month, filled with holidays and snow. School closes for the last two weeks of the month.

December 1928 marked many important events. On December 1, National League President John Heydler proposed a baseball rule change calling for a 10th man, or 'designated hitter', to bat in place of the pitcher; the NL voted in favor of proposal, but the American League turn it down. On December 11, Buenos Aires police thwart an attempt to assassinate President-elect Herbert Hoover. On December 13, the clip-on tie was invented. On December 20, Ethel Barrymore Theater opened at 243 W 47th Street, New York City. On December 26, Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) announced his retirement from amateur swimming.

Many famous people were born in December 1928, including December 9, Richard "Dick" Van Patten, American actor, businessman, and animal welfare advocate (Tom Bradford in 8 is Enough), was born in Queens, New York. On December 10, Dan Blocker, (American actor Cimarron City - "Tiny"; Bonanza - "Hoss"), born in DeKalb, Bowie County, Texas. On December 21, Edwin "Ed" Nelson, American actor (Peyton Place, Along Came a Spider), was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. On December 30, American rock 'n' roll pioneer guitarist (Bo Diddley), born in McComb, Mississippi.

Barney had been overwhelmed by Christmas. After the tenth, his class was almost completely preoccupied. He had a terrible time discussing anything with his students. Elizabeth was busy watching three children and preparing for the holiday. She was making decorations, packaging gifts and fixing an unending list of food items. She managed to get Schuyler and Rebekah to sit down and write letters to Santa Claus, so she had some idea what to get them. As the children sat around the table by the front window, the smartest raccoon in the world was watching them. He observed that the children would write letters to Santa and then gifts appeared on Christmas morning.

After visiting his personal department store, known as a the garbage dump, Melchizedek retreated to his hollow tree and began to write a letter to Santa Claus. His requests were simple, and food oriented. He asked for nut rolls, mince meat pie and lots of cookies.

Melchizedek didn't have stamps, so he waited till Elizabeth put the children's letter in the mailbox, opened the envelope and stuck his letter in with the children's letters. Raccoons write in a distinctive scrawl that requires a great deal of practice to understand. Melchizedek figured that millions of raccoons before him had written to Santa and he had figured out the odd cursive.

As the day approached, there was a lot of activity all around town. Barney was delivering several large boxes of popcorn balls to the lodge for distribution at the last meeting before Christmas. When he brought in the last box, it didn't seem as heavy. Barney thought

the last box must have just been what was left.

Elizabeth took the letter from the mail box just before the mailman would pick it up. She was surprised there were three pieces of mail in the envelope and not two. One was written on a piece of tissue paper from a shoe box. It was a difficult cursive that Elizabeth did not understand. She showed it to Barney, but he couldn't decipher it.

December 24 was the busiest baking day of the year. Elizabeth's mother Alice and sister Mary came over to help. The two families did many things together. The porch was enclosed and the ideal place for cool storage. Elizabeth put out many nut rolls and three mince meat pies. There were hundreds of cookies left on the porch table to cool. The family went to church and returned late. The children had fallen asleep and were taken up to bed. Barney and Elizabeth shared a glass of cider and went to bed too.

In their haste to come inside, either Barney or Elizabeth had failed to lock the porch door. The small town was peaceful and no burglaries had occurred for years. Neither thought about the unlocked door. At 1:00 am, Melchizedek began to wonder if Santa had come. He scampered toward he porch and tried the door. He was quite familiar with door knobs. The door opened effortlessly. He looked around and saw the green icing on a Christmas tree, peeking out from a tea towel that covered a tray of cookies. He jumped on it in an instant.

For two hours Melchizedek feasted on pie, cookies and nut rolls. He was now a true believer. When it became hard to waddle, he curled up under a chair and fell asleep. Around 7:00 am, he heard noises in the hall upstairs. He ran out the door, leaving it open just a crack. He barely missed Barney, coming down the stairs to milk the cows.

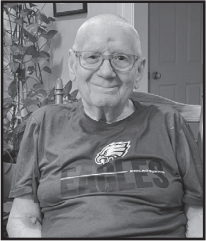
Barney was half asleep and didn't notice the missing pastries. He yelled to Elizabeth, "We forgot to shut the outside porch door" and went off to the barn. Barney was raising more beef cattle and hogs, so he only had four cows that were fresh. After about thirty minutes, he returned to the porch, only to find Elizabeth caught between crying and laughing. The malicious marauder had eaten 18 nut rolls (they were bite size) an entire mince meat pie and an undetermined amount of cookies. Barney held her and all was laughter. They thought they had been raccooned but they weren't sure. They cleaned up the mess and gave any suspicious pastries to Warden and Conductor. A bell was put on the back door knob. Christmas was wonderful and the legend of Santa Claus gained new meaning in the raccoon community.

Next month is January 2024 and we will see our lodge heros start a program for new members.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer. You can contact him by email at jcupp275@gmail.com or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445.

DECEMBER OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.



David E. Johnson
Boyertown Lodge No. 708
August 19, 2023

Brother David E. Johnson, 87, of Chatham, NJ, was initiated into Boyertown Lodge #708 on February 12, 1957, where he became a Past Grand and received his

Grand Lodge Degree on November 21, 1959. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest tenured member.

He was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Renae Lorah. Surviving is his daughter, his son and two grandchildren.



Francis D. Hughes, Jr.
Clover Lodge No. 348
October 25, 2023

Brother Francis D. "Frank" Hughes, Jr., 74, of Cranberry Township, PA, was initiated into Clover Lodge #348, Baden, PA, on September 28, 2019, where he served as

Vice Grand.

He was a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Surviving is his wife, the former Kathy Spath, two daughters and one granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Clover Lodge #348, 271 State St., Baden, PA 15005.



John S. Cooper
Charleroi Lodge No. 1030
October 6, 2023

Brother John S. Cooper, 76, of North Charleroi, PA, was initiated into Charleroi Lodge No. 1030 on March 20, 1990.

Surviving is his wife, the former Sandra

Joseph, two sons, one daughter and three grandchildren.

Burial was private.



James P. "JP" Wetzel, III
Clover Lodge No. 348
November 2, 2023

Brother James P. "JP" Wetzel, III, 43, of Baden, PA, was initiated into Clover Lodge #348, Baden, on March 17, 2021.

He was a member of Vallen Christian

Fellowship, Rochester, PA.

Surviving is his wife, the former Rachel Bruce, parents and three children.

Burial was held in Oak Grove Cemetery.



Harry K. Klose
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Unified Lodge No. 2
October 17, 2023

Brother Harry K. Klose, 91, of Pittsburgh, PA, was initiated into Peter Fritz Lodge #486, Pittsburgh, PA, on August 19, 1998,

where he became a Past Grand October 31, 2002 and received the Grand Lodge degree June 27, 2005. He transferred to Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, on July 22, 2005, and served as Noble Grand from 2007 - 2008. He was a Representative to Grand Lodge and served as District Deputy Grand Master from 2010 - 2011. He held associate membership in Peter Fritz Lodge #486 and currently Hampton Lodge #1004, Allison Park. He also served as President of Orchard Manor, Grove City until 2019.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn. Surviving are three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Burial was private.



Luke N. Rebuck
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Mahanoy Lodge No. 551
November 3, 2023

Brother Luke N. Rebuck, 85, of Dornsife, PA, was initiated into Mahanoy Lodge #551, Dornsife, on April 7, 1977, where he

became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree. He went on to serve as District Deputy Grand Master from 1980 - 1981. He served Mahanoy Lodge #551 as Financial Secretary for many years.

He was a member of Himmel's Church, Dornsife.

Surviving is his wife, the former Mary Lou Lenker, of Idella Rebekah Lodge #58, Dornsife, four children, four grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge.

Periodicals

OCTOBER DONATIONS

GM RUFF PROJECT – ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION

969	Ridgway	500.00
88	Freedom	275.00
708	Boyertown	250.00
847	Vienna	250.00
762	Vincent	110.00
150	Metropolitan	100.00
658	Victory	100.00
1128	Fallowfield	100.00
762	DDGM Christopher Grumblatt	<u>55.00</u>
		1,740.00

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

1128	Fallowfield	165.91
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EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2	Unified	50.00
R30	Salome	<u>25.00</u>
		75.00

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

1128	Fallowfield	66.37
2	Unified	50.00
R30	Salome	<u>25.00</u>
		141.37

** In the October Pennsylvania Odd Fellow & Rebekah Magazine, for the August donations, \$100 was listed from Freedom Lodge No. 88. That was not from Freedom Lodge, but from DGM Paul and Monique Lautenschlager.

VISUAL RESEARCH

2	Unified	25.00
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VISUAL ASSISTANCE

1128	Fallowfield	66.37
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		91.37