



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



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No. 8

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GENERAL STRAUSSER AWARDED THE GRAND DECORATION OF CHIVALRY

One of the main Unified Session highlights was the conferring of the Grand Decoration of Chivalry upon General Commanding® Sir Joseph M. Strausser, Sr. "General Joe" is Pennsylvania's only elected General Commanding and now the third living Pennsylvania recipient of the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, the highest Honor that can be bestowed upon an Odd Fellow.

General Joe served the Grand Lodge as Grand Master, the Department Council as Department Commander and around 25 years as Adjutant. Surprising him on his special night was PSGM Paul & Allison Cuminale. PSGM Cuminale served as Sovereign Grand Master the year he served as General Commanding. Gen Strausser still continues to serve Canton Philadelphia No. 1 and is active in the Department Council. He is a friend and mentor to many. It was an honor to be able to give such an Odd Fellow this award.



@100FPA

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

Mackinaw Lodge No. 380, Landisburg
Kirby W. Kitner – initiated June 26th

Mahanoy Lodge No. 551, Dornsife
Guy J. Snyder, IV – initiated May 29th

Vienna Lodge No. 847, Allentown
Jay Iverson – initiated June 3rd

Falls Creek Lodge No. 957
Robert L. Thomas, Jr. – initiated
May 20th

**Hampton Lodge No. 1004,
Allison Park**
Brandon Wald – initiated April 29th

GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Greetings to all brothers and sisters,

We have had some very hot and humid days which, has historically been referred to as the Dog Days of Summer. The "Dog Days" Typically starts on July 3rd to August 11th. This 40 day rises alongside the Sun; it is now largely used to describe the peak of summer heat. I think this period started early this year. For the Unified Session held on June 23, 24, and 25, we had unbearable heat and humidity for that week. Fortunately, the meetings were held inside where we enjoyed the comfort of air conditioning. The overall meetings went well and we did accomplish many important issues and bills. The delegate that your lodge sent to represent you, should have by this time made a full report of the Session to you at your first meeting after the Unified Session. Your lodge will receive a journal of Proceedings from Grand Lodge. Please take time to review the proceedings and advise your District Deputy Grand Master of any questions or concerns you may have. During the last day of session, I expressed my concern and a concern of Grand Lodge that we still continue to not receive our annual and semi-annual reports in a timely matter. This May, Grand Lodge received a directive from Sovereign Grand Lodge Executive Committee that must be read and then follow the directive/ instructions on page three. We are now into August and to be honest the Grand Lodge Secretary or myself have not received many returns. I once again ask all lodge secretaries and Noble Grands to please complete this form and send it to Grand Lodge as soon as possible.

My new term will continue with the same charity and same programs as last year. Harmony, working to gain members, working to retain members and most of all work with each other in Harmony, Friendship, Love and Truth. My main theme is still "Be the Anchor". I have added more important part to being the anchor. Our order uses symbolism to help each member understand our rituals for each degree. Our three links are also shaped like a bridge, which to me shows that we also must be the bridge over the troubled times in our society. We should cross over that three-link bridge to reach out and offer an open helping hand for all mankind. "We seek to improve and elevate the character of mankind". This year offers our order many challenges and I know we are all up to accepting this challenge.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,
Paul E. Lautenschlager, Grand Master

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND PATRIARCH - WHO I AM

I am a member of Warfordsburg Lodge #601, Genesis Encampment #15, and Lady Evelyn Rebekah Lodge #22.

I have been married to Ruth for over 35 years; have two children - James Jr, age 26 and Marie, age 24. I enjoy spending time with my family, including the 4 legged ones - 2 dogs and 2 cats.

I have a Bachelor's degree in History Political Science and a minor in Philosophy and Religion. A veteran of PA Army Guard and US Air Force. Previously a volunteer fireman for over 24 years serving in many positions including Deputy Fire Chief. For employment, I have been working for a mechanical contractor the last 20 years where I use my skills as a commercial estimator and project manager.

I look forward to meeting as many members as I can. I believe in an open-door policy - feel free to reach out to me for anything. I will do my best to help you out. Here's to hoping this year will be a 'great' year for Odd Fellowship!

I will be seeing you soon,
Fraternally,
Jim Fuller Sr., Deputy Grand Master/Grand Patriarch

COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Lautenschlager has scheduled the following visits for August.

I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

7 - Centre #153 OV - 7:30PM

**14 - 23 - SGL Session
Charleston, WV**

**28 - Mackinaw #380 OV -
7:00PM**

*Thank You
Thank You*

I would like to thank, first of all, my Department Commander, B/G Bill Hanby and the Officers of the Department Council for procuring the Grand Decoration of Chivalry award for me. Second, all the members of the Patriarchs Militant of Pa. for conferring this award on me; a very good job done. Third, I wish to thank all the members (*friends*) who were there to see this great honor bestowed on me. Finally, a special thanks to Kenny Bailey for his playing the bugle and drum for the ceremony.

~Gen Sir Joseph Strausser

COME VISIT THE GRAND PATRIARCH

Grand Patriarch Fuller has scheduled the following visit for August. I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

**5 - William F. Packer #127 OV -
7:30PM**

CHARLEROI LODGE #1030 HONORS CHARLEROI AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARS FOR 2025

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Charleroi Lodge #1030, honored four Charleroi Area High School senior students during the Class of 2025 "Salute to Scholars" award presentations on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Each recipient was presented with a plaque to serve as a reminder of this special evening and to recognize their outstanding achievements during their academically successful years at CAHS. A \$1,000 monetary award was also presented to each recipient in the hope that they may consider becoming an Odd Fellow and/or Rebekah in the near future.



Pictured (from L-R): Joe Valla (VG), McKenna Shields, Lilli Lee, Matthew Burkholder, Fernanda Andrade, Bill Palmer (C).

McKenna Shields, daughter of Cristy and Steven Shields, will attend Westmoreland Community College (Youngwood, PA) to pursue a degree in Radiological Technology. Lilli Lee, daughter of Stacey and Michael Lee, will attend Slippery Rock University (PA) to major in Strategic Communications and Media.

Matthew Burkholder, son of Jody and Dan Burkholder, will attend Washington and Jefferson College (Washington, PA) to obtain a Psychology Degree.

Fernanda Andrade, daughter of Yanai and Fernando Andrade, will attend Pennsylvania Western University-California to pursue a degree in Speech Language Pathology.

On behalf of the I.O.O.F. Charleroi Lodge #1030, the Scholarship Awards Committee wishes McKenna, Lilli, Matthew, and Fernanda many happy, healthy, and educationally fulfilling years at their institutions of higher learning.

MACKINAW LODGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



On June 26th, Mackinaw Lodge #380, of Landisburg, with the assistance of York Springs Lodge No. 211, conferred the initiatory degree upon Brother Kirby Kitner. Welcome Brother Kitner and congratulations to Mackinaw Lodge for bringing in a new member!

THREE LINKS HIJINKS AN ODD FELLOW'S JOKE BOOK



WRITTEN BY
IAN LOVE-JONES
ILLUSTRATED BY
SARAH KEENA

All of us at the Heart In Hand Institute are pleased to announce the publication of our newest title, Three Links Hijinks. It's an Odd Fellows joke book written by Brother Ian Love-Jones and edited by Brother David Scheer, both of Peninsula Lodge #128 of Oregon. It includes original illustrations by Pacific Northwest artist and illustrator Sarah Keena. The book is a collection of fun, light-hearted jokes perfect for any Odd Fellow or Rebekah occasion such as Installations, Testimonials, Banquets, Receptions, or any other events where members are gathered together for fun and fellowship. All of the information about the book is in the attached press release which also includes cover art for the book and a picture of the author.

—Toby Hanson, PGM, PGP



100TH ANNIVERSARY – ADVERTISING OUR ORDER

From the October 1925 Pennsylvania Odd Fellow:

The world is talking advertising on large scale. Everywhere we go we cannot fail to see huge billboards with their screaming announcements of some prominent actor or play, or advising us to eat a certain kind of breakfast food. Advertising is what makes business, and big business makes success. In this line it would be well to look at it from our point of view as members of the largest fraternity in the world. What are we doing to advertise ourselves? What steps are taken to let the stranger without the gates get a small glimpse of the beauty inside? What are the inducements offered for membership in this great fraternity which we all love and boast about its good qualities? Could we not get our lodge talked about by doing something out of the ordinary in our line?

... On the other hand, do we advertise ourselves in our Order in the way which we should? Odd Fellowship consists of four distinct branches – the Subordinate, Encampment, Patriarchs Militant and Rebekah. How often in the Subordinate lodge do you hear the Encampment branch talked of in an intelligent manner, giving its history and purpose, and its relation to the other branches? The fact is obvious. With a subordinate membership in Pennsylvania of about 200,000, the Encampment numbers only about one-fifth of that number, and the Patriarchs Militant about 2,500.

According to the ruling of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, a member of the Order is allowed to wear the regalia of the highest order he has attained, except while acting in an official capacity. Thus we can readily see that members of the Patriarchs Militant could advance the interest of their body by appearing in Subordinate and Encampment lodges in uniform. Past officers and members of the Encampment are entitled to wear the regalia of their rank in the Subordinate lodge. Do you know what would happen? Some members would immediately ask, "Why is Brother B-wearing that collar?" You would then have an opportunity to advance the interest in the higher branch by a good, instructive talk under the good of the Order. Try it out some time, brothers, and see if you don't get an advanced enthusiasm in the higher branches.

Places to GO...People to See

AUGUST

10 / Jurisdictional Joint Youth Committee / 6:00PM Virtual
15-21 / SGL, IARA, GMC Session, Charleston WV

SEPTEMBER

27 / Live music to benefit Malvern-Pocahontas #201 / Phoenixville

OCTOBER

25 / PM Rally, York PA
30 – 11/1 – SGM Calabrese testimonial, Atlantic City, NJ

** 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 ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net or 717-944-7419

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers
congratulates the following on
achieving milestone years in Odd
Fellowship this month.

35 YEARS

Robert D. Kriebel, #57
Stephen R. Goldsmith, #150
Bruce C. Martin, #150

40 YEARS

Kenneth K. Klawitter, #74
Charles A. Danley, #116
Joseph E. Shorten, #306

70 YEARS

Richard E. Rose, #207

140 YEARS

Ridgely Encampment No. 217,
Strasburg

180 YEARS

Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125,
Shamokin

JURISDICTIONAL JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE REORGANIZES

On Saturday, June 21st, the Jurisdictional Joint Youth Committee met to reorganize and handle the upcoming (now past) IOOF Fun Day. Of special note, Joseph & Mary Giebel have retired from the committee; we thank them for many years of dedication to this committee and handling everything with Knoebel's Grove.

Nominated and elected for the current term were President – Julie Stokes, Vice President – Ruth Good, Secretary – Kathy Barber and Treasurer – Nicole Inama. Their first meeting is scheduled virtually on August 10th at 6:00PM. All committee members will be sent an invite link to attend. If YOU are interested in the workings of the Joint Youth Committee, IOOF Fun Day, or think you may want to start a Youth Group in your area, please email the Grand Lodge for a copy of the Zoom Link and you can attend!

GRAND MASTER PAUL VISITS WALKER LODGE NO 306

On June 9, 2025, Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager made an official visit to Walker Lodge No. 306 located in Philadelphia. Grand Master Paul was accompanied by Andrew Kilmer, Grand Marshal. Also visiting with GM Paul was brother Bruce N. Torrence. Before the meeting visitation, dinner was enjoyed by all members in the dining area.

The meeting was opened by Noble Grand Dave L. Harte who proceeded to "Order of Business - Introduction of Visiting Brothers and Sisters" at which time Grand Marshal Kilmer requested Grand Master Paul and District Deputy Mike Serverson of Walker Lodge to exit the lodge room with him and re-enter to be officially recognized. Pictured below is Grand Master Paul and his visiting staff where upon their reentering, received "Honors of the Order" and Grand Master Paul was seated to the right of Noble Grand Harte. After completing normal lodge business, Noble Grand Harte

provided Grand Master Paul with the floor at which time the Grand Master gave a very inspiring talk of the need to encourage people to join the Order (to fill the ranks) and in doing so provide much needed aid and assistance to the general populous in the area. On a personal note, he told of multiple instances of people he knew had committed suicide. These examples led him to select "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE" as his charity.

Finally, GM Paul provided information about his pins and explained the meaning of the anchor on the pin and thanked the lodge for the opportunity to visit. He also



thanked the lodge for their very active participation in the "Pilgrimage for Youth" program who without Walker's very active involvement would not be the success it is.

After closing the rather lengthy and informative lodge meeting, the Grand Master received a check for his charity from Noble Grand Harte - pictured below. Also pictured below are photos taken at the meeting. (In FL&T: Brother Smedley)



HONESDALE INITIATES TWO MEMBERS

Freedom Lodge #88 of Honesdale is at it again. June 4th, we initiated two new members - Alyson Buchinski and Kimberly Rodney.

Many members were there to celebrate them into the Lodge. Light refreshments were had after the meeting in the spirit of brotherhood. A good time was had by all.

In FLT,
Doug Buchinski, Noble Grand



VIENNA LODGE PARTICIPATES IN FLAG DAY PROGRAM



Vienna Lodge #847, IOOF of Allentown, partnered with the Emmaus Rotary club to invite local residence, friends, veterans, scout troops and area dignitaries to gather Saturday 6/14/25 at 2:00 to present the borough of Emmaus Flag Day Observance. Students in the 5TH grade and 8TH grade read their winning poetry & essays about "What the American Flag means to them". Vienna Lodge #847 is a proud sponsor of the programs, songbooks, trophies and refreshments to all. This yearly tradition starting in 2019 for Vienna #847, and we look forward to continuing into the future. Rory King

UNIFIED SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



PCP David Sellers and PSGM Douglas Pittman discussing Dave's upcoming birthday. Jim and Dave were pleased that not only did Doug remember David, but Doug was able to pull a picture up on his phone from 2018 when he was in PA last time. A reunion of old friends



IARA President Mira Pittman is focusing on women in the military for her term. PGP Jim Sellers' daughter, Hannah Cutshaw, is a U.S. Navy Veteran (2008 - 2012) and a member of Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge No. 182 of Leesport. PIARA Pittman gave a certificate and coin for PGP Sellers to present to Hannah. She graduated with degrees in criminal justice and biology and is a Deputy Coroner for Berks County. Jim was honored to be able to present her with everything from the IARA

WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES SECOND BENCH FROM FREEDOM LODGE 88



Members of Freedom Lodge and WMH Staff

Members of our lodge stepped up when they recognized the need for more seating at the patient pick up area of our local hospital. Our Noble Grand ,Doug Buchinski ,reached out to the head of the hospital who was thrilled to have us help solve this situation. We immediately started collecting soft plastic through the Trex program and soon acquired enough to receive the bench and promptly present it to the hospital.

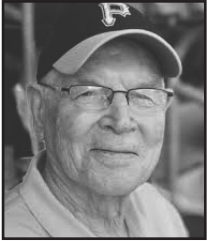
SELLERSVILLE LODGE DONATES TO MUSEUM

Saturday, June 14th, Bruce Torrence & Frank Hilt from Victory Lodge #658, of Sellersville, donated to the Sellersville Museum the 200 year IOOF Anniversary Book and \$100 check. The photo from left to right. Bruce Torrence, Treasurer, Mary K. Cornish, Museum Coordinator, Jim Christina, Museum Chairperson, Heather Davis, Museum Coordinator, & Frank Hilt, Financial Secretary.



AUGUST OBITUARIES

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



John E. McFadden
Falls Creek Lodge No. 957
May 9, 2025

Brother John E. "Jack" McFadden, 93, of Curwensville, PA, was initiated into Bethesda Lodge #821, Curwensville, PA, on June 6, 1952, where he became a Past Grand. He became a member of Falls Creek

Lodge #957 through consolidation on November 16, 1971. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest member, by age and tenure, and the last surviving member of Bethesda Lodge #821 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a member of Curwensville United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Margaret Bloom, and one grandson. Surviving is one daughter, one son, four grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

Burial was held in the Historic Crown Crest Cemetery, Clearfield, PA.



Robert L. DeMacio
Clover Lodge No. 348
June 3, 2025

Brother Robert L. DeMacio, 78, of Ewing, NJ, was initiated into Clover Lodge #348, Baden, PA, on April 27, 2006.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter. Surviving is his wife, the former

Maggie McCartney, three daughters and seven grandsons.



Raymond H. Oaks
Alma Lodge No. 523
William F. Packer Encampment No. 127
June 7, 2025

Brother Raymond H. Oaks, 85, of Johnstown, PA, was initiated into Alma Lodge #523, Johnstown, PA, on November 1, 1974, where he became a Past Grand.

He was a Patriarch of William F. Packer Encampment #127, Johnstown, PA, having joined on March 15, 1977.

Surviving is his wife, the former Joyce Baumbaugh, one son, Darren, and siblings, Richard Oaks and Karen Stem, all who are also members of Alma Lodge.

WARREN LODGE MAINTAINS MONUMENT

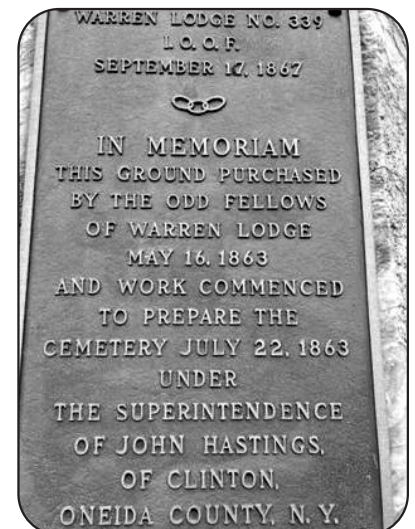


For several weeks now, some of the Lodge members have spent time cleaning and repairing the Odd Fellows Monument at the Oakland Cemetery. On Tuesday June 3rd, several members got together to do more cleaning.



From left to right in first picture Conny Elston, Dan Swab, Al Webster, Rich Perry, Jim Tellman, Troy Winkles, Kate Glasgow, Tom Ruth, Shawn Estes, Miranda Estes and Lou Dussia on ladder in back.

Information on the plaque shows date land was purchased and monument erected.



TREASURER'S TALES - AUGUST 2025

June was a hot month this year and August is a hot month in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In August 1930 it was a hot month. Barney continues as a tenth grade (sometimes 11 or 12 too) English teacher and a farmer. In 1930 school was scheduled to start in September, so Barney did some planning for the fall semester, but his greatest efforts in August were toward farming.

On August 3, Chuck Klein of the Philadelphia Phillies hit safely in his 26th straight game. On August 8, the St. Louis Cardinals were 12 games back, yet went on to win the pennant. On August 12, Clarence Birdseye was granted a patent for a method for quick freezing food, and the world has not been the same since. On August 20, Dumont network's 1st TV broadcast for home reception in New York City, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DuMont_Television_Network to get the whole Dumont story. On August 26, Chicago Cub's Hack Wilson hit his 44th HR, breaking Chuck Klein's National League record.

On August 5, Neil Armstrong, American X-15 pilot and astronaut - 1st man on the Moon (Gemini 8, Apollo 11), was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio. On August 14, Earl Weaver, American Baseball Hall of Fame manager (World Series 1970 Baltimore Orioles), born in St Louis, Missouri. On August 16, Robert Culp, American actor, screenwriter, voice actor, and director (I Spy, Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice), was born in Oakland, California. On August 25, Scottish actor and producer (James Bond films; Indiana Jones), Sean Connery, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. On August 30, Warren Buffett, American business magnate (world's wealthiest person in 2008), born in Omaha, Nebraska.

There were a number of prominent books published in 1930, including *As I Lay Dying*, by William Faulkner; *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett and *The Secret of the Old Clock*, *Nancy Drew Number 1* by Carolyn Keene. I recall reading a number of Nancy Drew mysteries, including this one.

People always wonder about old movies. In August 1930, a number of films were released, including *The Chain Gang*, *Wings of Adventure*, *The Office Wife*, *Monkey Melodies*, *Doughboys*, *Night Work*, *Dixiana*, and *The Glow Worm*. You can watch a version of *The Chain Gang*, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F16uRrMJPkw>.

Barney had a hard time turning down assignments, so he was volunteered to perform many tasks. He was considered a consummate farmer and owned some of the most modern equipment in the area. Many of the members noticed that the parking lot was in need of repair. The lodge trustees decided that the parking lot should be dug up, covered with gravel and rolled. Barney was in charge of the job.

Barney had all the vehicles and junk removed from the parking lot. He next plowed the dirt parking lot, harrowed it and rolled it. Barney didn't have a roller so he borrowed one from a road contractor who belonged to a lodge in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This job took four days because it had never been done before. The parking lot was a little over an acre and not really flat.

After the dirt had been compacted, six truckloads of gravel were dumped on the lot. Four of the members, including Barney, spent a day distributing the gravel. All of them

packed lunches and left them in the cab of Barney's Model A. Barney left the windows down in his car so the heat wouldn't build up inside.

As you might have guessed, the smell of sandwiches in the warm August air attracted Melchizedek. Sly and cunning, the raccoon waited till he could enter the Model A without being noticed. The damage was done without being discovered.

Barney and the crew broke for lunch around 11:45 am. Barney noticed wrapping paper on the ground as he approached the Model A. All four of the lunch bags had been pilfered. There was a thermos of coffee that was unopened, but the bottles of lemonade had the corks pulled and were empty. Wrapping paper, an apple core, several peach pits and the shells from several hard boiled eggs were all that remained. There was no trace of the bandit. Barney was very suspicious of the little raccoon that lived in the tree on the edge of the woods, but he had no proof.

The work crew went to the lunch counter at the local pharmacy and ordered lunch. It cost about \$0.40 each to buy a good lunch. The work crew billed the lodge for the lunches, which the lodge agreed to pay after much grumbling. Some members thought the volunteers were too fat and didn't need lunch. Odd Fellows of today find food essential and no one would have suggested they shouldn't have lunch, although a few would think they should pay for it themselves.

After the gravel was distributed, Barney rolled it with the other crew members hanging on to the tractor to add weight. Measurements were taken to insure the lot was smooth and relatively flat with drainage to the ditch at the back of the lot. The township wouldn't allow the parking lot to drain toward the road. A small amount of cement powder was spread on the gravel and it was rolled again. This step facilitated the surface hardening.

With the parking lot in good shape, the lodge held a picnic on the last Sunday of the month. The picnic was well attended. Barney and his crew were honored with hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and a variety of home made pies. A barrel of lemonade was set on a stool on the back porch of the lodge hall while the members ate inside, using the parking lot for its intended purpose. One of the members noticed a small animal under the spout of the lemonade barrel, drinking directly from it. He chased Melchizedek away and went back to lunch.

When all was over and the garbage put in the barrel at the edge of the lot, Barney took the lid off the trash barrel. He told Vic that he might as well make it easy so there wouldn't be as big a mess to clean up the next day. The rainy season made dirt lots treacherous, but the Odd Fellows had made their hall more serviceable.

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

LITITZ LODGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Names from Left to Right:

Members: Joan Lobb, Secretary Debora Lobb, Treasurer Debbie Ibach, Vice Grand Foster Lobb, Stacy Miller, Noble Grand Jeff Lobb(back), Scholarship Recipients: Alleha Glen, Taryn Toburen, Carly Ruchalski, and Mallory Dodson.

The Lititz Lodge #1050 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows presented scholarships to four graduating seniors from Warwick High School on the eve before their graduation. Alleha Glen, Taryn Toburen, Carly Ruchalski, and Mallory Dodson each received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to pursue their college educations at various schools. We thank all those who participated in our Scholarship Fundraiser Trivia Night at the Lititz Inn and Spa in April and those who participated in our Sub Sale over fall. We were able to increase our scholarships because of the successful fundraisers. Please watch for our next Trivia night this coming fall.

The Odd Fellows is the oldest international fraternal organization celebrating 250 years. We are always seeking new membership to help us make our Lititz Community a better place. As we strive



to make our world a better place in which to live, our Motto is Friendship, Love and Truth and our Objective is to improve and elevate the character of mankind. Anyone interested in membership, please contact us at Lititzlodge@gmail.com or call Debbie at 941-661-9967 or 717-665-5039. We would love to share Odd Fellowship with you.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL MAYNARD J. ERNST, PDC

I barely had time to unpack and catch up on sleep after our successful 2025 Unified Sessions when it was time once again to gather with a group of dedicated Chevaliers and honor another Past Department Commander. Department Officers Bailey, Torrence and Faustner joined me at the beautiful grounds of Durham Cemetery, near Riegelsville, to remember our seventeenth Department Commander, Major General Maynard J. Ernst.

Maynard John Ernst was Born in Williams Township in 1922, the son of John W. and Emma (Ruch) Ernst. A 1941 graduate of Bethlehem Technical High School, Mr. Ernst worked as an electrician for thirty years at Bethlehem Steel until retiring in 1982. He also co-owned a dairy farm with his wife Betty in Riegelsville for thirty years. Maynard Ernst honorably served our country in the US Army during WWII and the Korean Conflict.

With what seems like limitless energy, Mr. Ernst was also a member of St. John United Church of Christ, Riegelsville and was a member of the Consistory of the Durham Reformed Lutheran Church, giving generously of his time and resources to those congregations. He also served as Vice President of the Bucks County Milk Producers cooperative in the 1960's. In 1973 Mr. Ernst ran for supervisor of Durham Township. He was a good man who selflessly supported his family, church, community and country.

Brother Ernst became one of us in about 1946 with his initiation into Confident Lodge #1133, Hecktown (Confident Lodge merged with Aluta Lodge #488 in 2001). By 1948 he was a member of Star Encampment #139 and later, after consolidation, with Bushkill Encampment #55. Patriarch Ernst served as a DDGP and was elected Grand Patriarch in 1971. He later became Grand



Treasurer of the Grand Encampment. He belonged to Heraculus Sanctorum #144 and was Registrar of the Mid-Atlantic States A.M.O.S. He was a member of Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant Canton Allentown #39. After rising through the ranks of the Department Council, Chevalier Ernst was elected to be our seventeenth Department Commander, with the rank of Major General, serving from 1988-1998. Major General Ernst was our last Department Commander to be awarded two stars upon assuming the office, as during his 10 years as Department Commander the department was reduced to less than 16 Cantons and thus dropped from Division status. This was not due to lack of leadership - it was simply a fact that Odd Fellowship as a whole was reducing in numbers during that time. He was our last Department Commander to serve more than one elected term and only three Pennsylvania Department Commanders served longer than he did. His long term in office speaks to the trust and respect that the Chevaliers of Pennsylvania had for Major General Ernst.

We also took time to remember Mrs. Betty Ernst, for she too was an Odd Fellow and dedicated many years to the Rebekah and L.A.P.M. branches of our Order. Betty Kathryn Schleicher and Maynard John Ernst were married in 1946. She served as Noble Grand of Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge #202 in Nazareth and served as a District Deputy for that region. She was also an active member of Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant Allentown #39 and went on to serve as President of the L.A.P.M. of Pennsylvania. She was a member of Ladies of the Orient in Allentown. Lady Betty Ernst died in 1999 at age of 76. She and Maynard shared 52 years of marriage together. We honor and respect the many years of her life that she dedicated to our Order. Major General Ernst married again to Kathleen M. Millheim, also a Rebekah, but is not buried at Durham Cemetery.

I very much appreciated the participation of three Chevaliers in this ceremony, fresh off of a demanding number of days at Sessions. Past Department Commander and Department Director of Work Major General Sir Justin Bailey sounded taps, Past Department Commander and Department Chief of Staff Brigadier General Bruce Torrence offered the prayer and Department Medical Officer Major Patricia Faustner reverently placed Odd Fellows and Rebekah



flags at the grave. While reflecting on their personal remembrances of the Ernsts, both Major General Bailey and Major Faustner remembered the good-natured personality of Major General Ernst. Brigadier General Torrence spoke on Major General Ernst's long time and important involvement with the Orphans Home. I personally never had the privilege of meeting Major General Ernst, but I feel a special connection to him. My mentor in the Patriarchs Militant has been General Joseph Strausser. General Strausser in turn was mentored by Major General Ernst. I am therefore probably hearing a bit of Major General Ernst's advice through General Strausser's words of wisdom. Odd Fellowship is a continuing chain of Brothers and Sisters who speak to us through the ages, generation to generation.

Major General Ernst died in 2008 at the age of 83. He and Betty now rest together at the peaceful grounds of the Durham Evangelical Lutheran Church. They were a true Odd Fellows couple, dedicated fully to our Order and to their important leadership roles in the Patriarchs Militant and Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant. On this day we noticed our sacred Three Links symbolism carved upon their stone, showing their eternal commitment to our ancient order. May past Department Commander Major General Maynard Ernst and Lady Betty Ernst forever rest in peace, knowing that we remember and respect their time as leaders of our Order. We will not forget them.

BG William F. Hanby
Department Commander

Falls Creek hangs Hometown Heroes banners

By **Brianne Fleming**

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FALLS CREEK — For the first time in Falls Creek history, the town is adorned with banners in honor of its brave veterans.

Roger Mikulec, property manager for the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (IOOF) #957 building on Main Street in Falls Creek, said the idea for the Hometown Heroes banners honoring military veterans came about at the 175th anniversary of the town.

Finally joining neighboring towns and boroughs, there are 30 banners hanging around Falls Creek now, said Mikulec, including lining Main Street, some on Route 950 and around the Veterans Memorial Park.

The Hometown Heroes banners were mounted and displayed just in time for Memorial Day this

year.

This is not the end for this project, as the IOOF in Falls Creek will be hanging more Hometown Heroes banners, but needs the community's help to do so. They are actively looking for local sponsors and donations to put towards more flags. The cost is about \$150 to get each one produced and displayed.

The goal is to have several more up by Labor Day, Mikulec said.

There is "no cap" when it comes to how many more they can do, he said, adding that they are looking to hang more down Route 950, down to the Short Street area and possibly on Taylor Avenue.

The IOOF put forward most of the funds for the flags. Mikulec noted that the Falls Creek Community Coffeehouse at the United Methodist Church

See Banners, A3



Brianne Fleming

Roger Mikulec with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Falls Creek Lodge 957 is shown at the Veterans Memorial Park in Falls Creek.

also donated a month's worth of proceeds to the project, and Falls Creek Borough and the Falls Creek Eagles generously donated for the flags as well.

Also notable, three men are responsible for mounting all of the banners — Mikulec, Keith Snyder of Falls Creek and Dave Simmons, owner of Neon Exposure in Reynoldsville.

The IOOF aims to "provide a framework that promotes personal and social development." Members strive to help people in need, contribute to their communities, etc., according to the organization's website.

Honoring the military heroes of Falls Creek through the banners has been long overdue, Mikulec said, and it is has been a special experience to be able to bring this vision to life.

The feedback for this project has been over-

whelming, with a vast amount of interest in the banners, Mikulec relayed.

"People are thrilled," he said. "This is the start of many great things for Falls Creek."

In addition, the IOOF Falls Creek Lodge 957 has been working hand-in-hand with the borough to revamp storefronts on Main Street and add thriving businesses to town.

For example, Coffee and Collab on Main opened in May of this year, and coming soon will be a bookstore/art gallery, Mikulec said. Another circulating idea and possibility for Main Street is a Falls Creek museum.

It's his goal, Mikulec said, to see Falls Creek make a comeback.

"It's a beautiful place," he said.

Falls Creek Borough Manager Chuck Case commended the IOOF for

purchasing and placing the military honor flags around town.

"It's a powerful reminder of the brave service men and women in the Falls Creek area," he said. "They are keeping the memory and service of our military family front and center in our community, and (the) sense of community pride that the banners show is just another thing that makes it so great to live in a small town."

Mikulec highlighted that the IOOF Falls Creek Lodge 957, a long-standing organization that has been seeing a decline in membership, is always seeking new members looking to make a difference in the community.

Anyone interested in purchasing a flag can email Mikulec at crystalcityantiques@yahoo.com or stop into the Crystal City Antiques and Consignments shop at 112



Brianne Fleming

Shown is a banner in honor of Laird K. Snyder, which hangs near the Veterans Memorial Park in Falls Creek.

Main St. in Falls Creek. It is preferred that a phys-

ical copy of the hometown hero photo for the banner

be brought to Mikulec in person.

LODGE 339 SPONSORS WINNING GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

Each summer Warren Lodge 339 sponsors a Girls Softball team in the Warren County Little League Softball Majors Division. Of the past four years our team has taken First Place three times in that Division. The girls record this year was 12 wins and 0 losses. To end the season and honor the girls for their great season the Lodge sponsored a pizza party and game night at the Lodge on July 2nd. The girls enjoyed an evening of pizza and played pool, ping pong and air hockey. Each girl was also given a trophy honoring their undefeated season.

~ Lou Dussia



Periodicals

JUNE DONATIONS

VISUAL RESEARCH

74	Mount Zion	500.00
488	Aluta	200.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		725.00

PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE

74	Mount Zion	500.00
562	Newburg	50.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		575.00

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

2	Unified	50.00
88	Freedom	<u>25.00</u>
		75.00

PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

	Odd Fellows Home of Western PA, Meadville	2,000.00
	1004 Hampton	<u>50.00</u>
		2,050.00

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

	Odd Fellows Home of Western PA, Meadville	2,000.00
2	Unified	<u>50.00</u>
		2,050.00