

The Odd Fellows Star.

Devoted to the interests of Odd Fellowship.

Vol. 100

July 2025

No. 7

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.glpaioof.org>

Follow us on Facebook at The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Independent Order of Odd Fellows

NEW You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BRANCHES ON A NEW TERM!
BEST OF LUCK**

ALMA LODGE UTILIZES STOREFRONT

We, at Alma Lodge have an empty storefront at ground level on Main Street in Johnstown. We have commissioned an artist to paint our windows in our for-rent storefront with the two following pictures to help stop the “unknown” nature of our fraternity. In F L & T,
Jim Kuntz, PG



100TH ANNIVERSARY – SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The front cover article from the Philadelphia “The Odd Fellows Star.” This picture is volume 1, No. 2. Started in 1894. Not sure when it changed names to the Odd Fellows Siftings. Anyhow, to this months article. I truly hope all Odd Fellows read this article. If your Lodge has some time, please read it under Good of the Order. It’s worth reading and understanding it.
~ Justin Bailey

What have I done during the past six months that has been of any benefit to my Lodge?

What would become of the Lodge if every member had done exactly as I have done?

How many times have I been absent when I could have been present if I had made an effort to do so?

Have I visited the sick and spoken a kind word to cheer them in their affliction?

Would I be pleased to receive the same consideration in case of sickness as I have given to others?

If I have been negligent, is it because I am at fault or because the rest of the brothers don’t do their duty?

Am I in partnership with the rest of the members in running the business of the Lodge.

Is it right for some one else to do all the work and me to expect an equal share of the benefits?



The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

Published in the City of Middletown,
PA monthly by
**THE GRAND LODGE OF
PENNSYLVANIA
INDEPENDENT ORDER
OF ODD FELLOWS**
1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
717-944-7419
ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net
<http://www.grandlodgeofpennsylvaniaioof.org>

JUSTIN C. BAILEY

Editor

1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

Publication Number 426500
Periodical Postage paid at Middletown,
Pennsylvania
and additional offices.

**** Postmaster ****

Send change of address to:
Pennsylvania Odd Fellow
and Rebekah Magazine
1001 W. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Subscription price \$10.00 per year
10 or more to one address \$9.00 each

Subscribers should be careful to give their correct
post office address and when a change is necessary
be sure to mention the former address.

Articles for publication must reach the office of
the Grand Lodge in Middletown not later than
the 5th of each month to insure their insertion
in next month's issue.

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.

OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE

PAUL E. LAUTENSCHLAGER	GRAND MASTER
101 Maplewood Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431 570-877-5925	pelmlh@hotmail.com
JAMES W FULLER, SR	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388	jfuller@innernet.net
DAVID McHUGH	GRAND WARDEN
20 Washington Terrace, Hughestown, PA 18640 570-655-8627	diggienf@gmail.com
JUSTIN C. BAILEY	GRAND SECRETARY
1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-7419	ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net
JOHN S. CUPP, JR	GRAND TREASURER
P. O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445 724-437-4629	jcupp275@gmail.com
WILLIAM L. RAMSEY, JR	GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
16620 Trough Creek Valley Pike, Apt 1, Calvin, PA 16622 814-599-0617	wlr Ramsey0809@gmail.com
DAVID A. YOUNG	GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7550	iamanoddfellow@comcast.net
ROBERT B. RUFF	JUNIOR PAST GRAND MASTER
841 California Avenue, Apt 610, Avalon, PA 15202 412-621-0872	rruff2u@aol.com
ANDREW L. KILMER	GRAND MARSHAL
940 Springhill Road, Sterling, PA 18463	
NICOLE B. INAMA	GRAND CONDUCTOR
153 Lake Drive, Nesquehoning, PA 18240	
TRACY L. KNIGHT	GRAND CHAPLAIN
747 Main Street, Duke Center, PA 16729	
BRIAN L. BARR	GRAND GUARDIAN
188 Peach Bottom Road, Willow Street, PA 17584	
FRANK A. HILT	GRAND HERALD
1022 Patriots Way, Quakertown, PA 18951	
DEBRA L. YOUNG	GRAND MUSICIAN
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022	
MICHAEL D. BETTS	GRAND LODGE ATTORNEY
887 West Bristol Road, Warminster, PA 18974	
PAUL L. MILLER	GRAND MUSICIAN EMERITUS
1105 Stinson Drive, Leesport, PA 19533	

OFFICERS OF REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

.....	PRESIDENT
SARAH M. BAER	SECRETARY
115 North Centre Avenue, Leesport, PA 19533 610-916-1990	s.baer@baersservice.com

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

JAMES W FULLER, SR	GRAND PATRIARCH
577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388	jfuller@innernet.net
SANDRA L. HUCHEL	GRAND SCRIBE
1809 White Oak Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608	shuchel@hotmail.com , 484-794-6781

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

Mount Zion Lodge No. 74, York
Richard "Pete" Erdman – initiated May 19th
Tim Lee
Irene Bair

Walker Lodge No. 306, Philadelphia
James Spence – initiated April 14th
David Anderson

Freedom Lodge No. 88, Honesdale
Alyson Buchinski – initiated June 4th
Kimberly Rodney

GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Brothers and Sisters, Greetings.

The Unified Session for 2025 has been held and each lodge that had a delegate or representative at the meeting will receive a copy of the journal with all of the information from the Unified Session. Your lodge Delegate /Representative, who attended the session should be prepared to give a full report to your lodge at your first meeting night after returning from session. Our new Grand Lodge year is now beginning a new year of Friendship, Love and Truth, working in Harmony being the Anchor of your lodge and Grand Lodge. I, along with each Grand Lodge Officer, District Deputy Grand Master and other Committees, will need your help and cooperation to make this Order great again. Here is a little poem about friendship:

The Gift of Friendship

*Friendship is a Priceless Gift
that cannot be bought or sold,*

*But its value is far greater than a mountain of gold –
For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither see nor hear,
And in the time of trouble, it is powerless to cheer –
It has no ears to listen, no heart to understand.*

*It cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand -
So when you ask God for a Gift, be thankful if He sends
Not diamonds, pearls or riches, but the love of real true friends.*

Helen Steiner Rice

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

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



Official Visit to Askam Lodge No. 899, Sugar Notch

May 19, 2025

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

25 YEARS

Richard M. Marmo, #512

45 YEARS

Courtney V. Franklin, #306
Edward J. Movinsky, #339

50 YEARS

Donald L. Kline, Sr., #290

55 YEARS

Richard R. Morgan, #306

70 YEARS

Charles O. Thompson, #2

120 YEARS

Clover Lodge No. 348, Baden

175 YEARS

Earl Lodge No. 413, New Holland

Charleroi Lodge #1030 is requesting that any lodges holding onto or having any extra gravesite markers/flag holders, they would be interested in purchasing them. Please contact the secretary of Charleroi Lodge #1030, Robert Grant, @ 724-483-8875.

CHARLEROI LODGE #1030 LIFE CHANGING SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS

Charleroi Lodge #1030 held a May 1, 2025 "social" meeting to promote Odd Fellowship and provide a community service by inviting the public to hear about the organization "Life Changing Service Dogs For Veterans."

This organization provides service dogs to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), emotional or mobility issues, and other injuries.

Tom Anderson, treasurer of LCSDFV, spoke about the founding of the organization, which came about because a couple of veterans were frustrated to hear about fellow veterans taking their own lives. He then briefly explained why he became involved....."I feel like I have a great obligation to those people to do anything I can do to help them," Anderson said. "I am not a veteran, but at any moment in time, less than one percent of the population is defending our country. The country that we live in and the things that we have, those men and women have ensured that they are ours."

It costs between \$20,000 and \$50,000 to train a service dog and integrate it into the home. It takes up to two years to train a dog, and training begins as a puppy. Each dog has a different training and different ways of alerting humans about potential problems. There were zero suicides when the dogs were given to their owner, and the divorce rate among recipients of a service dog is around 5%, which is less than the veteran divorce rate of 85%. Approximately twenty-two veterans die each day by suicide and the organization has raised more than \$2 million for the gifting of the service dogs to more than 70 veterans per year.

Craig Hodgkins, MSGT USMC, of Upper Saint Clair, told his story as a veteran to lodge members and guests present. Trained at Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, his service dog Foxy, a long-haired German Shephard, hasn't left his side since May of 2020. As a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Hodgkins has faced numerous challenges after his service, including PTSD, vertigo, suicidal thoughts, and more. "Foxy mitigates the challenges of PTSD: This includes shielding, grounding from anxiety/panic attacks and flashbacks, and waking me from nightmares. With my mobility issues, Foxy assists me with my balance and alerts to Vertigo." Hodgkins now has a full-time job, plays in a band, and is fully engaged in society, thanks to Foxy, who has gotten him out of burning buildings, saved his life many times, and is his companion.

"Because of her, I get to spend time with my grandchildren," Hodgkins said. "There is no way I would be able to tell you what I was going through if it wasn't for this dog. With Foxy by my side, I've found the strength and confidence to navigate daily life once again. She provides practical assistance when I need it, but it's her unwavering emotional support that has truly transformed my life."

Foxy was honored as the Service Dog of the Year by Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs in 2022. The donation from the Charleroi Lodge #1030 will go toward helping veterans, like Hodgkins, to be able to function by providing them service dogs that can save their life.

More about Life Changing Service Dogs For Veterans can be found at www.padogsforvets.org.

Charleroi Lodge #1030 is already making plans for a presentation this fall by the Rescue 22 Foundation, a veteran-operated nonprofit that also provides free service dogs to veterans.

Submitted by Bob Grant, Charleroi Lodge #1030 secy



L-R: Dennis Caldwell (RS), George Hogan (Treas.), Craig Hodgkins w/ Foxy, Bob Grant (secy), Jim Howells (NG), Ed Bryner (RSVG), Tom Anderson, Bill Palmer (C), Joe Valla (VG)

ALMA LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS



Alma Lodge #523, of Johnstown, gave two \$3,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship on Thursday May 8, 2025. The winners of the \$3,000 scholarships both attended an award banquet and presentation ceremony. The names are omitted for the privacy of the students. The other scholarship winner was in Florida with family and could not attend.

I'm enclosing the scholarship photos with their respective families for publication in the Odd Fellow and Rebekah monthly newsletter
In F L & T,
Jim Kuntz, PG



ODD FELLOWS FEATURED IN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Though the weather did not cooperate at all, roughly 10 Members of Harmony Lodge and Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 86 of Tamaqua took part in the 1st Annual Tamaqua Community Days at the Owl Creek Reservoir. We sold cotton candy, candied apples and got a chance to try the new popcorn machine.



WYSOX LODGE NO. 1152 SCHOLARSHIP



Wysox Lodge No. 1152, I.O.O.F., has given Sarah Kerr, a practical nursing student, an Odd Fellows Scholarship for her third semester. The Odd Fellows are very supportive of the Practical Nursing Program and continue to give financial assistance to deserving students.

Nelson Silverstrim, Noble Grand of

Wysox Lodge, presented the Odd Fellowship to Sarah Kerr.

The Practical Nursing Program located at Northern Tier Career Center, Towanda, PA is in its 42nd year. It is a one-week program that qualifies graduates to apply for licensure in Practical Nursing. Practical nurses work in nursing homes, doctors' offices, hospitals, and home health care as well as in other areas of health care.

For further information on the Practical Nursing Program, contact 570-265-8113.

VARIETY LODGE HONORS MEMBER

Shown is a picture of PDDGM Lanny Blyweiss giving the annual Robert C. Boswell Service award to PG Barry Steinbrecher. He is seated because he is still rehabbing his ability to stand and walk. Barry served two terms as NG of Variety Lodge, and helped restore stability and growth to the Lodge.

One month prior to the end of his second term, Barry suffered immeasurably from the sudden passing of his beloved wife and a serious continuing illness which kept him hospitalized for almost one year. The presentation of this most deserving award was made at Barry's return to his first Lodge meeting after his ordeal.

Variety Lodge honors Barry for his devotion and efforts on behalf of not only his Lodge; but to the I.O.O.F.

~ Lanny Blyweiss



Places to GO...People to See

JULY

26 / Fun Day, Knoebel's Elysburg

AUGUST

15-21 / SGL, IARA, GMC Session, Charleston WV

SEPTEMBER

27 / Live music to benefit Malvern-Pocahontas #201 / Phoenixville (pg#8)

** 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

CANTON ALLENTOWN HONORS THE DEAD

As we have in the past, Canton Allentown No. 39 of Sellersville, as well as several other Odd Fellows, marched in the Tamaqua Memorial Day Parade, and stood guard at the Odd Fellows Cemetery during the Memorial Service. As we have been battling rain all month, it seemed like the skies opened up and the weather couldn't have cooperated better. From left to right: Commandant CPT Sharon J. Stokes, Dept Commander BG William F. Hanby, III, clerk and Dept Adjutant BG Nicole B. Inama, PG of Harmony Lodge and soldier of the Army National Guard Joshua M. Guscott, Chev Thomas P. Dargis, Jr., Regimental Commander Col Michael J. Wallis and Ensign MG® Justin C. Bailey, PDC.

Passing out American Flags, water and pamphlets up at the IOOF Cemetery were members of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, DDP Ashley R. Guscott, DDP Kate L. Bailey and Sis Jennifer J. Swett. Of note, Kenny



Bailey played the echo to the Taps at the beginning of the parade. He has played the trumpet for several Patriarch Militant

events. Thanks to all who came out and made the event a success.

YORK SPRINGS LODGE PARTICIPATES IN MEMORIAL SERVICE



York Springs Lodge 211 once again participated in the Memorial Day Service at Sunnyside Cemetery in York Springs. PG Yolanda Howe wrote and directed the program for the fifteenth year. The program was focused on the 250th anniversary of the Army, Navy and Marines. NG Robert Otto portrayed John Paul Jones the Father of the US Navy. PG Stephanie Roelker told the story of the songs of the Army, Navy and Marines followed by a rendition of each song by members of the lodge. VG Thomas Gorden placed a wreath to honor Odd Fellow Veterans who have passed away. Pictured are the members who attended.

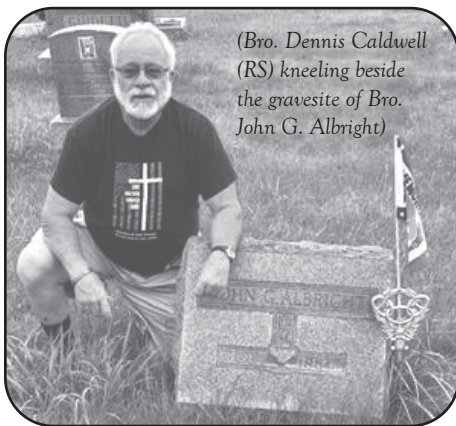


CHARLEROI LODGE #1030

MEMORIAL DAY 2025 GRAVE-SITE VISITATIONS

Memorial Day Tribute: Brothers Dennis Caldwell and Bob Grant, members of the I.O.O.F., Charleroi Lodge #1030, were out and about on an overcast weekday evening preceding Memorial Day 2025, proudly and honorably performing their annual grave-site visitations. This is one of the more gratifying services done by the Lodge because it not only pays tribute to many of their departed brothers but also honors those who faithfully served our country, allowing us to enjoy the freedoms we all enjoy today. The lodge members continued the following day to complete the visitations of approximately 45 grave sites in six surrounding cemeteries: Charleroi, Monongahela, Maple Creek, Sacred Heart, Belle Vernon, and LaFayette. The recognizable "F.L.T." stake was topped at each gravesite with the commemorative red, white, and blue "In Memoriam - I.O.O.F." flag. Upon completion of the grave-site visitations, each of the brothers sincerely expressed how honored they were to have performed this duty once again.

Submitted by Bob Grant, secy



(Bro. Dennis Caldwell
(RS) kneeling beside
the gravesite of Bro.
John G. Albright)

WARREN LODGE PLACES OVER 600 FLAGS



On Saturday May 10th, several members of Warren Lodge 339 assisted a Cub Scout Pack with placing American Flags on Veterans graves sites in the Oakland Cemetery in Warren. In the picture Al Webster, Noble Grand, Jim Tellman, Chaplain (Cub Pack Leader) and Troy Winkles, Right Supporter (Asst Cub Master) were among the group that placed over 1600 flags. The other picture shows the Warren Odd Fellows monument with flags on member veterans grave sites. Warren Odd Fellows Lodge 339

YORK SPRINGS & MACKINAW LODGES FEED THE NEEDY

York Springs Lodge #211 volunteered at My Brother's Table over the weekend. For those not familiar, My Brother's Table is a service the Salvation Army provides in Carlisle, PA to provide meals to anyone who needs them. Our Lodge provided the food, served to the participants and cleaned up after the event. We had 7 members from York Springs and Mackinaw Lodge #380 of Landisburg there to serve. Additionally, some of our members helped earlier in the day to prepare food. We served 90 meals to help feed those in need. This event and others show how we Odd Fellows come together to serve the needs of our community.

~ PG Brett Otto



MALVERN LODGE TAKES TO THE STREETS

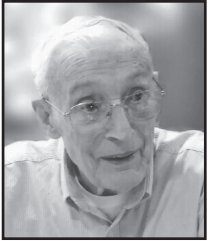
Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge #201 along with members of Vincent Lodge #762, were proud to represent Odd Fellows in the Malvern Memorial Day Parade one of the oldest Memorial Day parades in the country.

Members from both lodges had a great day celebrating our fallen hero's and spreading the word of Odd Fellowship.



JULY OBITUARIES

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



Arthur P. Martin
Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125
April 19, 2025

Brother Arthur P. Martin, 100, of Shamokin, PA, was initiated into Mt. Tabor Lodge #125, Shamokin, PA, on November 4, 1946, where he became a Past Grand. He was recently presented with a 75-year pin.

He served as President of the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association for many years. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest member, by age and tenure.

He was a U.S. Army WWII Veteran and a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Shamokin.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Mary Jane Payne.

Burial was held in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Coal Township, PA.



Nancy R. Rebuck
Past District Deputy President
Idella Rebekah Lodge No. 58
May 10, 2025

Sister Nancy R. (Carl) Rebuck, 90, of Herndon, PA, was initiated into Idella Rebekah Lodge #58, Dornsife, PA, on May 26, 1982, where she became a Past Noble

Grand in October 1995 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree on June 24, 1996. She served as Representative to Unified Session and received the Decoration of Chivalry in 1999. She served as District Deputy President from 2007 - 2009. She served many offices and committees in Idella Rebekah Lodge and was also on the degree team.

She was a member of Trinity County Line Church, Dalmatia.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, one infant son and one granddaughter. Surviving are two daughters, one son, 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Himmel's Church Cemetery.

Raymond H. Mackes, Jr.
Aluta Lodge No. 488
May 10, 2025

Brother Raymond H. "Ray" Mackes, Jr., 82, of Tatamy, PA, was initiated into Aluta Lodge #488, Nazareth, PA, on November 13, 1992, where he became a Past Grand on September 16, 2005, and received his Grand Lodge Degree on April 12, 2014. He served several years as Chaplain and at the time of his death, he was the current Left Supporter to the Vice Grand. He also served as a director at the Home for Orphans of Odd Fellows.

He was a U.S. Navy Veteran and a member of St. Peter's U.C.C. in Tatamy.

Hew as preceded in death by his wife, the former Carol Evans. Surviving are two sons and one grandson.

Burial was held in Richmond United Methodist Church Cemetery, Bangor, PA.

LIVE MUSIC

Featuring:



Bringing good vibes to your evening with classic rock hits and dance music from the 50's to the 00's. justaddwaterband.com

WHEN
Saturday, Sept. 27

WHERE
Polish American Citizens Club
328 High Street, Phoenixville, PA

Ticket purchases or donations from fellow IOOF Lodges are appreciated.

ALL WELCOME
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ADVANCE TICKETS
\$20

AT THE DOOR
\$25

CONCESSIONS
FOOD FOR PURCHASE
CASH BAR

FOR TICKETS CONTACT
Suzanne at
609.760.0163
-or-
Jaimee at
610.333.7712

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), Malvern Lodge #201. The IOOF is a non-profit fraternal organization that supports local and national charities including the Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Alzheimer's Association, Arthritis Foundation, Suicide Prevention, and more.

To learn more about the IOOF, or to inquire about membership and a lodge near you, contact Steve Boyko at 610.908.4720. You can also visit us online at <https://glpaioof.org>

Citizenship Award

Odd Fellows "Home" Board of Northwestern PA
PO Box 1290
Meadville, PA 16335

GRAND LODGE PRESS RELEASE

The Odd Fellows Home of Northwestern Pennsylvania in Meadville, PA continues to support students in the thirteen Northwest Pennsylvania counties by providing Citizenship Awards through Vocational Technical Career Centers and individual High Schools.

Recipients of the 2025 Continuing Education Citizenship Awards for \$700 each are as follows:

Mackenzie Green, Cole Fox, Raymond Covert, Makenna Moore, Aubrey Wagner, Marcus Graham, Regann McClain, Olivia Pineo, Derek Smail, Emily Courson, Zoey Adiutori, Angel King, Falyn Williams, Gregg Marsteller Jr., Logan Corner, and Avery Metz.

Recipients of 2025 School to Work Citizenship Awards for \$600 each are as follows:

Tia Wilson, John Mills, Lucas Geyer, James Maynard, Brittany Fry, Tristan Trace, Cameron Boozer, Noah Northway, Wyatt Junkins, Dekan Gray, Ashley Harian, Gino Gilberto, Logan Gaydek, Aaron Shartle, Kyle Phipps, and Taylor Biggs.

The Citizenship Awards Committee selected the following students to also receive the **2025 Continuing Education Board Memorial Award in the amount of \$1,000 each.** Aubrey Wagner from Warren Co. Career Center, and Mackenzie Green from Jefferson Technology Center.

2025 School to Work Board Memorial in the amount of \$1,000 each went to Brittany Fry from Warren Co. Career Center, John Mills from Clarion Co. Career Center, and Logan Gaydek from Sharpsville High School.

Since 2012 the Board of Directors has awarded \$180,300.00 to students through participating schools within thirteen N.W. counties.

TREASURER'S TALES - JULY 2025

Session at Middletown will be over by the time you read this. If you were there, I probably ran into you. Hopefully you enjoyed your session and are planning on going to Sovereign Grand Lodge in Charleston, West Virginia in August. It was a bit closer in Pittsburgh last year, but it will be farther away in the future.

This is the month we celebrate our country's birth. July 4, 1776 was a long time ago, but we commemorate it to this day. I hope all of your celebrations are safe.

Many things happened in July 1930. On July 2, Chicago White Sox outfielder Carl Reynolds becomes only the 2nd player in Major League Baseball history to hit home runs in 3 consecutive innings in 15-4 victory at Yankee Stadium. On July 7, construction began on the Boulder Dam (later Hoover Dam). On July 19, Richard E. Byrd, Laurence McKinley Gould, and their polar expedition team return to the United States following the first exploration of the interior of Antarctica. For global warming fans, on July 21, the thermometer hit 110°F in Millsboro, Delaware, setting the state record. On July 23, Pittsburgh Pirates 3rd baseman Pie Traynor ends both games of a double header with HRs (1st in 9th, 2nd in 13th). On July 25, not to be outdone by their cross-state rivals, the Philadelphia Athletics triple steal in 1st and 4th innings versus Cleveland. On July 29, the thermometer hit 115°F in Holly Springs, Mississippi (state record). This was a hot month all around. On July 31, NY Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig drives in 8 runs with a grand slam and 2 doubles in a 14-13 win over the rival Boston Red Sox.

There were births too. On July 3, Pete Fountain, American jazz clarinetist (Lawrence Welk), was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (d. 2016). American Businessman and baseball team owner, (New York Yankees), George Steinbrenner, was born in Rocky River, Ohio. On July 14, Polly Bergen [Nellie Burgin], American actress, singer, television host, and writer (Winds of War; The Helen Morgan Story), was born in Knoxville, Tennessee (died 2014). On July 20, Sally Ann Howes, British-American stage and screen actress and singer (Brigadoon; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - "Truly Scrumptious"), was born in London, England. On July 22, Sonny Liston, American boxer (world heavyweight champion 1962-64), was born in Johnson Township, Arkansas.

Just as the famous are born, so must they die. On July 7, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, chronicler of Sherlock Holmes died.

The biggest July event in Grover's Mill was the Fourth of July picnic. I have written several times about this picnic in years gone by. I am going to ignore the picnic to cover another important event.

Barney spent his summers farming. Farming is a hard job that can be made harder by unfortunate circumstances. Barney was being invaded by groundhogs. These pesky critters will go after corn and other crops, dig holes in the fields obstructing tractor use and generally irritate farmers. Barney was accustomed to such animals but 1930 seemed to bring out a large herd from southern Jersey. The so-called straw that broke the camel's (farmer's) back occurred when Barney hit a groundhog hole and broke the axle of his tractor. This called for a declaration of war.

Barney had several guns, including a 1903 Springfield, like the one he carried in France in 1918. This was too big, so Barney bought a .22 rifle and a couple boxes of shells. Every time he sat on his back porch, the groundhogs seemed to leave. He went over a week and hadn't taken a single shot. Barney remembered the snipers in France had spotters to help them locate targets. Barney needed a spotter. As luck would have it, raccoons like corn even better than groundhogs. Training a raccoon to be a spotter was an arduous task. If your father-in-law is a veterinarian and an expert on animal

behavior, it helps.

So on July 6, the Tuesday after the holiday weekend, Barney and Vic enticed Melchizedek onto the back porch of Vic's animal hospital. Summer apples proved the downfall of the wily raccoon. It took a week just to teach him to point. After a while, he was climbing a small peach tree near the corn field and watching for groundhogs. Raccoons naturally hate groundhogs because they compete for food and groundhogs have a nasty disposition. On day too of his patrol, Melchizedek spotted a groundhog and signaled to Barney, who proved as good a shot as he had been in France over a decade earlier. Within a few weeks the groundhog problem was solved. But it cost Barney most of his summer apples.

Last year we wrote a about a fair. It was then agreed that the fair should be an annual project of the lodge. It was. The fair took place before the attack on the groundhogs. Barney had his right ankle bandaged for the fair because he fell off the tractor when the axle broke. He sprained his left ankle. I mention this now because we know that the garbage cans at the concession stands were always being pilfered by raccoons. Melchizedek now helped Barney sit on his porch and shoot groundhogs. He also knew Barney would shoot him and he couldn't chase him either. All garbage cans in Grovers Mill became fair game for several weeks.

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.

At Lower Dauphin ... Andy Does the Right Thing

Andy Cusick, a third grade student at East Hanover Elementary School, was recently named as the "Do the Right Thing" winner for April.

Andy was nominated by his teacher, Stephanie Landis, who noted that he often goes unnoticed due to his reserved nature, but his commitment to doing the right thing is evident in every aspect of his school life. Specifically, Andy has shown patience with his classmates, especially those who might present more challenges. He listens attentively to make sure that everyone feels heard and consistently goes above and beyond in his work, always submitting assignments on time and exceeding expectations.

Landis added that Cusick's calm demeanor and thoughtful approach to his peers creates a positive atmosphere in the classroom. His ability to support and encourage his fellow students, even in difficult situations, sets him apart as a role model.

For his efforts, Andy was recognized with a \$25 gift

card, t-shirt and framed certificate. This month's sponsor was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The Do the Right Thing program is modeled after a successful national program. Now in its 18th year, the program recognizes students in the Lower Dauphin community who have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments, attitude or outstanding efforts. This program provides a way to recognize good deeds and reinforce exemplary behavior. The residents of the Lower Dauphin School District can see the many "good things" the young people of their community are doing, and that "good kids" are newsworthy, too. This program allows the community to thank its children for 'doing the right thing.'

School staff members and police officers typically nominate students whose positive actions come to their attention, but any adult over the age of 18 can nominate a child. A volunteer committee reviews the student nominations on a monthly basis and selects a winner for each month.



From left, East Hanover principal Bryan MacLeod, Angie Durantine of Lower Dauphin Communities That Care, Andy Cusick and Roger Calhoun of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Photo: Submitted.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...

HONORING COLONEL STEWART L. BRENNEMAN, PDC

My May cemetery visit to honor a Past Department Commander was planned for the 21st and I was therefore committed to that date, rain or shine. I woke on that day to heavy rain and drove from my home in Bucks County to the beautiful and sacred grounds of Mount Rose Cemetery in York through constant rain on the turnpike, this to honor and remember our twentieth Department Commander, Colonel Stewart L. Brenneman. He was an Odd Fellow that was very special to our history in the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, leading the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant as Department Commander from 2010 to 2011. I was prepared with foul weather gear and assumed that our customary graveside ceremony would be cut short. But as if we were being watched over from above the rain came to a complete stop - just in time - and resumed falling just after we concluded our solemn ceremony. We were able to perform our full ceremony and I believe that this was more than just luck.



Stewart LeRoy Brenneman was born in York on November 19, 1933, the son of Lloyd E. and Catharine W. (Sonnerman) Brenneman. Mr. Brenneman was a 1952 graduate of William Penn High School, where he met his future wife, Catherine "Sis". They married just after her graduation in 1953. At that time, he worked for Redco Tool in Red Lion.

Stewart Brenneman enlisted in the U.S. Army a short time later. His basic training was at Camp Breckenridge, KY with the 516th Airborne Division, U.S. Army Security Agency (this was the signals intelligence branch of the Army at the time). He also trained with the 26th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Dix, NJ. Mr. Brenneman served much of his time in the Army overseas, serving our country during the Korean Conflict, from 1953 to 1956.

After discharge from the Army Mr. Brenneman settled in Dover and went to work for the U.S. Postal Service. He worked for thirty-seven years as a mail handler in Dover Township and served as President of Local 31, National Association of Post Office Mail Handlers, AFL-CIO in the mid-1960s. He was an active member of the York Bible Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He and Catherine had one child, Stewart L. Brenneman Jr.

Brother Brenneman became one of us with his initiation into Mt. Zion Lodge #74, York, in August, 1998 where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree in 2001. He was Secretary of Mt. Zion Lodge #74 for several years. He immediately became active in the Grand Lodge serving as Grand Guardian for Grand Master Joseph M. Strausser from 2002-2003. After that, he served as District Deputy Grand Master from 2003-2006 and Grand Master from 2007-2008. He was also elected as Alternate Sovereign Grand Representative for several years, a position which he held at the time of his death, along with being a Representative to the Middletown Home as a Director. He held active roles in Salome Rebekah Lodge #30 of York, where he was initiated a Rebekah in 2002. He received his Rebekah Assembly Degree in 2008. He was also a Patriarch of Mount Vernon Encampment #14 of York where he joined in 1999 and, after serving as Chief Patriarch, held the position of Scribe for several years. Patriarch Brenneman served under Grand Patriarch William S. Mooney as his Grand Outside Sentinel from 2009-2010. He also held an Associate Membership in Triune Lodge #307. He served on many committees in all branches of the Order and still did so at the time of his death.

In July of 2000 he became a Chevalier of Canton Philadelphia #1 and then transferred membership as a charter member of Canton York #14 when

they were reinstituted. He became a Past Commandant and held the office of Clerk for several years. He later rose to the rank of Colonel when he was installed as the twentieth Department Commander of the Patriarchs Militant of Pennsylvania in June of 2010. Note that by the time that Colonel Brenneman became Department Commander our department had dropped to less than 8 Cantons, thus the lowering of rank for a Department Commander from Brigadier General to Colonel. Sadly, Colonel Brenneman passed away in July of 2011 at the age of 77 while faithfully serving the Chevaliers of Pennsylvania as Department Commander of Pennsylvania, Patriarchs Militant, I.O.O.F.

Unfortunately, the threat of poor weather kept attendance to this visit low. I was pleased to be joined by Department Chaplain Major Ellen Graham who delivered a prayer taken from the Department of Pennsylvania Memorial Service. She also furnished a Three Links flag holder donated by Mt. Zion Lodge to mark Colonel Brenneman's grave.

Major Graham is currently Captain of Canton York #14 and Noble Grand at Mt. Zion Lodge #74, both of which were where Colonel Brenneman at one time presided. We took time during the ceremony to reflect on how "Brother Stew" was a big part of very successful charitable programs at Mt. Zion. The Lodge sponsored a mini-Grand Prix race car for a number of years, an activity which focused on engaging young people and raising money for the Arthritis Foundation. Brother Bob Raffensberger, an associate member of my home Lodge, Victory #658, and an old friend of Stew Brenneman, still talks about this successful program and has shown me pictures of the race cars and the events. I found a good article in the June 21, 2004 York Dispatch on the mini-Grand Prix and all of the successful charitable work that Mt. Zion Lodge was doing under the direction of Brother Brenneman. He really did do a good job in carrying out the charitable ideals of Odd Fellowship. This inclination toward creative and generous charitable endeavors may well be the most enduring legacy of Past Department Commander Brenneman. In fact, Department Chaplain Major Graham, as current Noble Grand of Brother Brenneman's former Lodge, Mt. Zion #74, expressed renewed inspiration to continue with her charitable efforts at Mt. Zion as a result of our discussion of Colonel Brenneman's success as a Jurisdictional leader in Odd Fellows charitable work.

Colonel Brenneman's wife, Catherine A. (Naylor) Brenneman followed her beloved husband into the glorious presence of our Lord and Savior in 2019 at the age of 83. At this cemetery visitation Department Chaplain Graham and I prayed that Colonel and Mrs. Brenneman may continue to rest in eternal peace, and that past Department Commander Colonel Stewart LeRoy Brenneman knows that we remember and respect his time as our leader. His name does live on, spoken by his many friends in our Order, as if he were still with us today.



BG William F. Hanby
Department Commander

CANTON ALLENTOWN WELCOMES NEW CHEVALIER



Canton Allentown No. 39, Patriarchs Militant, would like to welcome our newest Chevalier, Thomas P. Dargis, Jr., Chev Dargis hails from Shenandoah Lodge No. 591 and Scott Encampment No. 132. Welcome!!

FREEDOM LODGE #88 SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, many members of the Freedom Lodge #88 gathered at Honesdale Central Park to present three scholarship applicants from three different school districts, each for \$500. The winners shown from left to right are as follows: Lily Buchinski of North Pocono (Wilson College), David Grimm, Canaan Christian Academy (Purdue) and Grace Ronacher, Wayne Highlands (Misericordia). We are so proud of these local students and the hard work and effort they have each put in to their essays, studies and community. We are sure they will be fine Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of the future. Congratulations to our 2025 scholarships winners!



SPRING CITY SHOWS COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Members of Vincent Lodge #762, Spring City, recently assisted the Borough of Spring City's Park and Recreation department with their annual 5K race. Along with helping with various tasks associated with the event, their presence in the community spread the word of who we are and what being an Odd Fellow means.

~ Sue Grumblatt, Secretary

Vincent Lodge #762 kicked off the summer by participating in Spring City's annual community day. We gave out soft pretzels and water to those attending. We met a lot of people interested in what we do along with collecting for the Grand Master's campaign on suicide prevention.

~ Sue Grumblatt, Secretary



Periodicals

MAY DONATIONS

May is Visual Month

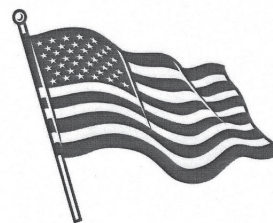
VISUAL RESEARCH		GM LAUTENSCHLAGER PROJECT	
361 Strasburg	150.00	712 Osage	296.00
957 Falls Creek	75.00	Deborah & Edward Harsch	<u>100.00</u>
86 Harmony	50.00		396.00
377 Nucleus	50.00		
2 Unified	25.00	ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION	
658 Victory	25.00	2 Unified	50.00
847 Vienna	<u>25.00</u>	ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE	
	400.00	8 Henry Disston CAMP JRA	1,000.00
PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE		PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND	
270 Mystic	750.00		
254 Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity	200.00	88 Freedom	25.00
762 Vincent	200.00		
361 Strasburg	150.00	EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
55 Fred R. Korman	100.00		
86 Harmony	100.00	2 Unified	50.00
278 Connoquenessing	100.00		
471 Rush	100.00		
377 Nucleus	50.00		
658 Victory	50.00		
1030 Charleroi	50.00		
2 Unified	25.00		
847 Vienna	<u>25.00</u>		
	1,900.00		

MAY 2025



The Odd Fellow Flag currently being flown is presented in loving memory of Past Grand Anson I. Lautenschlager of Freedom Lodge No. 88, Honesdale, by Grand Master Paul E. Lautenschlager

The Rebekah Flag currently being flown is presented in loving memory of PPRA A. Elaine Weekley by Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge No. 82, I.O.O.F.



The American Flag currently being flown is presented in Honor of Past Grand Earl Ruff, Jr., of Unified Lodge No. 2, by JrPGM Robert B. Ruff