



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



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No. 6

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO HARRISBURG FOR UNIFIED SESSION JUNE 20TH – 25TH COME ON OUT!!

On Saturday, April 12th, Aluta Lodge #488 of Bushkill Center, Nazareth, hosted Pennsylvania's spring rally. We had about 75 people there. We were proud to initiate four members into Mt. Zion lodge #74 of York, Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge #201 of Malvern, Aluta Lodge #488 and Shenandoah Lodge #591. We took 14 candidates through the three degrees, with degree teams from Luzerne, Wayne, Schuylkill and Chester Counties. We also brought four Past Grands into the Grand Lodge Degree.

Thanks to all who came out and made the day a special one! Welcome to the new members!!



Grand Master Lautenschlager presented Bruce N. Torrence with a 55 year jewel. He initially joined Coopersburg Lodge #390 in 1970 and transferred to Victory Lodge #658 of Sellersville



Grand Master Lautenschlager presented Special Recognition Certificates to Grand Marshal Andrew L. Kilmer (left) for leading the initiatory degree and to NG Steve Boyko of Vincent Lodge #762 for leading the second degree team.



@100FPA

The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

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this will be done accordingly.

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

Mount Zion Lodge No. 74, York

Travis Z. Veseth - initiated April 12th

Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge No. 201,

Malvern

Dmytro Panchenko - initiated April 12th

Aluta Lodge No. 488, Nazareth

Emily R. Snyder - initiated April 12th

Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573

Madison A. Dougherty - initiated April 7th

Heather Dreshner

Shenandoah Lodge No. 591

April A. Rote - initiated April 12th

Askam Lodge No. 899, Sugar Notch

Nick Shegda - initiated May 5th

GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

To all Brothers and Sisters,

Summer Greetings. June has arrived, and we are all looking forward to warm sunny days.

School is out for the summer, graduations have taken place, and everyone is planning vacation time. This is also an important month for all Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Encampment and the Patriarch Militants. Our annual Unified Session is June 23, 24 and 25. By June 1, 2025, our lodges should have registered their Delegate and Alternate Representative for the Session, as well as all hotel reservations, meal reservations, along with any other events planned. All the Delegates or Alternates should have received the Advance Report and reviewed that material. Each lodge should be advising his Delegate on the items that will be voted on at Session. This annual meeting gives each member a voice and the opportunity to share his concerns to the Grand Lodge Officers. This is where one has the opportunity to work in harmony, friendship, love and truth and to be the anchor for Odd Fellowship.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the 200th Annual Session, which is the 53rd Unified Session of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Fraternally,

Paul E. Lautenschlager
Grand Master

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

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

25 YEARS

Derick D. Erwin, #736
Canton York No. 14, P.M.

40 YEARS

Donald L. Wendt, #551

65 YEARS

Walter K. Reeher, #573

180 YEARS

Brady Lodge No. 116

Places to GO...People to See

JUNE

21 - 25 / Unified Session, Red Lion Harrisburg

JULY

26 / Fun Day, Knoebel's Elysburg (pg #4)

AUGUST

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

** 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

THE GRAND LODGE WELCOMES IT'S NEWEST MEMBERS

The newest members of the Grand Lodge. From left to right Grand Conductor Nicole Inama, PG Don Shaner of Vincent Lodge #762, Spring City, PG Randy Morrell of Boyertown Lodge #708, GM Paul Lautenschlager, PG Ellen Graham of Mt. Zion lodge #74, York, PG Walter Adams of Leesport Lodge #141 and Grand Marshall Andy Kilmer



PRESIDENT WALTERS OFFICIAL VISIT

President Kate Walters Official Visit to Lady Sellers Rebekah Lodge No. 558 of Sellersville. Wonderful time, cousins together, with their mothers, Kate's staff that showed, and all dignitaries present.

~ Pat Faustner



FINAL REMINDER

ODD FELLOWS & REBEKAHS ASSOC. OF W. PA 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania will be winding up, by month's end, accepting applications for consideration in the awarding of a maximum of six (6) \$4,000 scholarships. This marks the 20th consecutive year that the Association has offered these Awards, having awarded an undergraduate total, thus far, of \$224,000. An application for the 2025 Scholarship Awards must be postmarked on or before **Saturday, June 28, 2025**. A copy of the "Rules," along with an "Application," was sent to all the lodges representing the Western District on April 1, 2025. All areas of concentration will be considered. An important reminder regarding three of the requirements for the Awards: 1) The applicant or a living family relative must be a member of the I.O.O.F or Rebekahs of Western Pennsylvania (formerly know as the Western District, 2) The applicant must have completed at least one year at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school, and 3) The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school.

If interested in obtaining a copy of the "Rules" and an "Application," this can be done by: 1) contacting your Lodge secretary, 2) emailing Chairman Robert Grant at "robag@comcast.net," or 3) downloading from our website: "www.glpaioof.org" during the April through June time period.

Again, a completed application will be only be accepted if received with a postmark date on or before **June 28, 2025**.



IOOF Knoebels Picnic

July 26, 2025

Pavilion "S" Lunch at Noon

There will be gifts for all kids 12 and under!

Lodge Name: _____ # _____

Note: The following person will be responsible to pick up meal tickets and pre-ordered ride tickets at our Pavilion for distribution to their lodge members. This person **MUST** be present no later than Noon to get your group's tickets!

Lodge Rep: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Adult Meal: Choice of: Chicken Tenders, Hamburger (cheese), or hotdog. Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit Salad & drink. \$15.00

Kid's Meal: Choice of: Chicken Tenders, Hamburger (cheese) or hotdog. Mac & Cheese, Apple Sauce and drink. \$7.00

Number of Adult Meals:

Meal Choice: Chicken Tenders Meal # _____ Hamburger (cheese) Meal # _____ Hotdog Meal# _____

Drink Choice: Lemonade # _____ Iced Tea # _____ Water # _____ Soda # _____

Total # of meals ordered _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Number of Kids Meals:

Meal Choice: Chicken Tenders Meal # _____ Hamburger (cheese) Meal # _____ Hotdog Meal# _____

Drink Choice: Lemonade # _____ Iced Tea # _____ Water # _____ Soda # _____

Total # of meals ordered _____ x \$7.00 = \$ _____

Discounted Books of Ride Tickets # _____ x \$4.50 =

\$ _____

Total

Due.....\$ _____

Make Payment to: IOOF PA Jurisdictional Youth Committee

Mail to: Mary Giebel

JYC Secretary

PO Box 49

Cassville, PA 16623

Please call if you have any questions: 1-814-305-2011

Since we are now required to pay prior to the picnic...

Order and Payment must be received no later than July 11th. NO EXCEPTIONS!

LITITZ LODGE HOSTS TRIVIA NIGHT

Lititz Lodge #1050 hosted their first Trivia Night at the Lititz Inn and Spa Saturday, April 12, 2025. In an effort to raise money for our Warwick Scholarship Fund and build our membership, we hosted 68 guests. Guests could arrive at 6:00 p.m. to get food and drink before playing Trivia which was 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Opening the evening, our Noble Grand talked about Odd Fellowship and our

Secretary and Treasurer answered questions closing our evening. Our members and guests had a great time and it was fun to spend time together. We had two guests attend from Earl Lodge as well.

We offered door prizes and had a cash raffle. We raised approximately \$1,100 for our Warwick Scholarship Fund. Fun was had by all guests and we hope to host another Trivia night in the Fall.



FREEDOM LODGE #88 BENCH DONATIONS:

Freedom Lodge #88 Trex Bench Donation April 14th to Western Wayne High School.

Connor Buchinski is a Junior at Western Wayne High School and saw the need for a bench for students to utilize at lunch in one of the High School courtyards. Connor has been a part of this organization for about a year now. Membership in The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is somewhat of a legacy in his family with his grandfather Dennis Buchinski being a member along with his father Doug Buchinski and other family members.

Connor with the help of his brothers/sisters and Mr Paul B. Gregorski Western Wayne High School Principal collected 1,000 lbs of soft plastic. Recycled through the Trex Bench program and donated a bench to Western Wayne High School. "I thought students would enjoy it during their lunch periods," Connor said. "I really like working with this organization because of the new people I get to meet and the members of the community that I get to help."

Connor also had donated one of the history books of the Pennsylvania Independent Order of Odd Fellows to stay in the High School Library.

~ Doug Buchinski

Pictured from left standing: Sarah Rickert High School Teacher, Dennis Hiller Past Grand, Mr Paul B. Gregorski High School Principal, Brother Dennis Buchinski, Maria Phillips High School Teacher.

From left seated Doug Buchinski Noble Grand, Brother Connor Buchinski.



April 18th Freedom Lodge #88 Donated a Trex Bench to Pleasant Mount Public Library which just happens to be three buildings down from an old Odd Fellows Lodge that has closed. Library Director Jenny Snyder and Library Board President Macy Compton were very grateful for donation.



Standing lt to rt. Noble Grand Doug Buchinski, Public Library Board President Macy Compton, Library Director of Pleasant Mount Public Library Jenny Snyder, Brother Connor Buchinski, Past Grand Mike Kinzinger, Grand

Master Paul Lautenschlager.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES CONCLAVE

This represents some of the Pennsylvania contingent at the Mid-Atlantic Conclave. Left to right: Dave Young GR, Debbie Young GMu, J Carl George PGM, Frank Hilt DGM, Paul E. Lautenschlager GM, Andrew Kilmer GMa, Jess Kilmer PG



Honesdale, Jim Dimpter PG Norristown, Jim Manton Strasburg, & John J. Dzyak PDC. In the background is a canvas painted by inmates at the Eastern State Correctional Institution.
~ Frank Hilt

PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH HEADS HONOR THE FALLEN



From left to right: MG* Justin Bailey & BG* Nicole B. Inama (not pictured) laying the wreaths at the steps of the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. Presenting the wreath on behalf of Pennsylvania: Grand Patriarch Michael J. Serverson, President of the Rebekah Assembly Kate Walters, Grand Master Paul E. Lautenschlager and Department Commander BG William F. Hanby, III.

For the last several years, the Patriarchs Militant branch has marched in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester, VA. This has been done under the command and guidance of GC* Jack Roberts, an associate Chevalier to Canton Pittsburgh No. 5. This is one of the largest parades in the country. The Honor Guard actually headed the second division. Other PA chevaliers who marched were BG William F. Hanby, PDC MG* Justin C. Bailey, and Col Michael J. Wallis.



FIRST REGIMENTAL INSPECTIONS HELD



Two Battalion inspections were held in April, along with Department Commander Hanby's official visits. The first battalion cantonment was held at the hall of Canton Leesport No. 2, comprising of the First Regiment, 2nd Battalion – Canton Leesport No. 2 and Canton Northeast No. 9 of Honesdale. From Leesport No. 2 was LTC Paul L. Miller, CPT Paul E. Miller, LT Robert Jackson, ESN John F. Leshner, LT® James Blatt, and Chaplain MG® Justin C. Bailey. Present from Canton Northeast was Battalion Commander LTC Paul E. Lautenschlager, CPT Andrew L. Kilmer, LT Jessica Kilmer, ESN Robert Schumacher and Regimental Commander Col Michael Wallis. Also present was Dept Commander BG William Hanby, VP and 2nd Regt Commander Col J. Carl George and Dept Adjutant BG® Nicole B. Inama.



The second cantonment was held at the hall of Canton Philadelphia No. 1, comprising of the First Regiment, 1st Battalion – Canton Philadelphia No. 1 and Canton Allentown No. 39 of Sellersville. From Canton Philadelphia No. 1 was Commandant CPT Charles E. Danihel, GC® Joseph M. Strausser, LT Joseph Y. Miczak, Chaplain CPT® Dorothea Oertel and LT® Robert Smedley. Present from Canton Allentown No. 39 was CPT Sharon J. Stokes, BG® Bruce N. Torrence ESN MG® Justin C. Bailey, clerk BG® Nicole B. Inama and Dept Commander BG William F. Hanby.

MT. TABOR LODGE EASTER EGG HUNT

Mt. Tabor Lodge No. 125 of Coal Township/Shamokin participated in an Easter Egg Hunt. Age Groups were 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12. Over 40 people attended! Mt. Tabor Lodge was instituted August of 1845 and is the last of many Lodges that were in and around Shamokin.

Left to right James M. DiOrio Vice Grand, Shirley DiOrio Inside Guardian, Kyle DiOrio Noble Grand, Calista DiOrio Warden and Dora (a retired explosive detection dog from Baghdad)



JUNE OBITUARIES

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



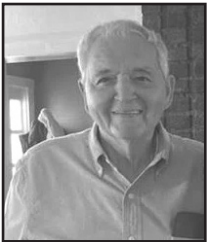
Jack H. Lentz
Latrobe Lodge No. 541
February 27, 2025

Brother Jack H. Lentz, 86, of Clarksburg, PA, was initiated into Saltsburg Lodge #646 on October 7, 1968. He became a member of Latrobe Lodge #541 through consolidation on November 1, 1990. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest member, by age and tenure, and the last surviving member of Saltsburg Lodge #646 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Donna Christy, and one son. Surviving are three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in West View Cemetery, Avonmore, PA.

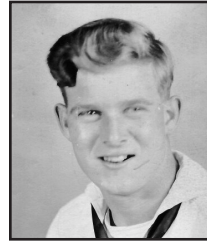


Terry L. Snyder
Mahanoy Lodge No. 551
April 10, 2025

Brother Terry L. Snyder, 87, of Herndon, PA, was initiated into Mahanoy Lodge #551, Dornsife, PA, on January 5, 1961, where he became a Past Grand on October 5, 1989 and received his Grand Lodge Degree June 21, 2004. He was very active in his Lodge, serving several years as Chaplain, and was Vice Grand at the time of his death. He also served several years as Representative to Grand Lodge.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hunter Station.

Surviving is his wife, the former Dawn Lenig, of Idella Rebekah Lodge #58, Dornsife, three children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and his sister, Doris Kehler, also of Idella Rebekah Lodge #58.



John R. Palmer, Jr.
Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55
April 23, 2025

Brother John R. Palmer, Jr., 98, of Coalport, PA, reinstated into Clearfield Lodge #198 in 1977 where he became a Past Grand. He became a charter member of Fred R. Korman Lodge #55, Glasgow, PA, through consolidation on August 23, 1997. He received his Grand Lodge Degree on April 23, 2010 and served later another term as Noble Grand for Fred R. Korman Lodge. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living member, by age and tenure.

He was a WWII U.S. Navy Veteran, entering the Navy before he finished school, and after the war, returned home to earn his high school diploma.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Anna Reilly, and one granddaughter. Surviving are eight children, 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in St. Basil Cemetery, Irvona, PA.

TREASURER'S TALES - JUNE 2025

June is the month in which we celebrate Flag Day and Father's Day. Father's Day is usually near the time of our annual Grand Lodge session. The weather is usually beautiful in June, the cold is gone and summer sunshine pervades. Listen to Dottie West to set the mood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXRmipp6af0>.

June 1930 held a few more interesting events that we should note before going on to our story. On June 7, Gallant Fox won the Belmont Stakes. June 9, Chicago Tribune reporter and closet racketeer Jake Lingle is shot at close range and killed. On June 12, German boxer Max Schmeling defeated Jack Sharkey by disqualification in 4 rounds in NYC for vacant NBA, NYSAC, The Ring and lineal heavyweight titles; first time the title was won on a foul. On June 22, New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig smashes 3 HRs in 20-13 win over Philadelphia A's at Shibe Park.

A number of important people were born, in June. Pete Conrad, American US Navy pilot and NASA astronaut (Gemini 5, Gemini 11, Apollo 12, Skylab 2), was born on the second in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (d. 1999). On June 9, Marvin Kalb, American broadcast journalist (CBS; NBC - Meet the Press), educator (Harvard), and writer. On June 12, Barbara Harris, 1st US Episcopal female bishop, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (d. 2020). On June 19, Gena Rowlands, American actress (The Notebook; Night on Earth; The Betty Ford Story; Peyton Place), was born in Cambria, Wisconsin (d. 2024). On June 27, American businessman (Electronic Data Systems, Perot Systems), billionaire and presidential candidate (1992, 1996), Ross Perot, was born in Texarkana, Texas.

We have done stories on Father's Day and Flag Day. There have been many stories on picnics and the antics of one Melchizedek, raccoon of fame. School usually ended in May and final exam stories have been told many times. Let's do a degree rally.

The Odd Fellows in Grovers Mill decided to put on their own degree rally. To start, degrees are conferred, NOT put on. Rallies are usually by district, so this was more than one lodge. Vic was the district rally chair and always relied on his son-in-law to help him. Barney had long ago learned that all events requiring work and time would eventually require his help.

Vic suggested a practice before the conferral. After much quibbling, a date to practice was set. There were enough members to set up the hall and fill all the parts. The initial practice was a read through. Memorization was not a practiced virtue. Most of the participants were able to read and a few put some feeling into their parts. There was a second rehearsal, and it went even better. There was no dress rehearsal.

Alice was asked to organize the Rebekah's to provide lunch. She asked PNG Barbara Allen to help. Barbara's daughter, Lucy, had just returned from France, where she had studied at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. This would be the grandest luncheon ever fed to Odd Fellows.

The rally was set for Saturday, June 28, 1930. The initiatory degree was to begin at 11:30 am. All the cast members arrived by 11:00 am and began robing. The first great error was quickly discovered. The degrees had not been conferred at Grovers Mill for fifteen years. The costumes were old and dirty. The people who were assigned various roles were not the same people who had those roles 15 years ago. Vic had been vice grand

when the degrees were conferred 15 years prior. Clancy was the vice grand for the rally. Vic is 5'3" tall and weighs 145 pounds. Clancy is 5'11" tall and weighs 225 pounds. Vic was assigned to be outside guardian, the spot Clancy held 15 years ago. Clancy looked like a buffoon trying to fit in the vice grand costume and Vic kept tripping over the hem of the guard's outfit.

It took a whole box of safety pins and a lot of imagination to get everyone robed. Once the cast was in costume, it became obvious there weren't enough rituals for the bit part players. The regular cast members could recall much of their parts but the small parts were picked up from members who showed up and had not been to any rehearsal. The dialogue did not go smoothly.

Lucy had planned a grand luncheon. There was to be peach bellini as a side course. This is a wonderful French dish that requires white peaches. They were ordered from a market in Trenton, to be delivered on the morning of the rally. The cooks were to arrive at 9:00 am to start the peaches. The market delivered the peaches on the porch of the lodge hall at 7:30 am and the raccoons arrived at 8:15 am. There weren't enough peaches left by 9:00 am for the bellini. There were several large beef roasts that went in the oven at 9:15 am. You can never tell whether a beef roast is going to be tough, these were. The cooks had made cherry pies the night before and they were the hit of the luncheon. The potatoes had too many eyes and the beans were stringy. Lucy had ordered escargot for an appetizer. None of the other Rebekahs knew what escargot was. This was more than a surprise when they found out, and it did not go over well.

The lodge room was hot. They left the windows open for fresh air. When the initiatory degree was over, they found Melchizedek trying on the costumes for the first degree, and his paws were covered with sticky peach juice. After he was chased out the window, the cast robed for the first degree and by 12:30 pm, the first degree was over and they all went downstairs for lunch.

The Odd Fellows walked past the escargot with few takers. There were small plates with three slices of peaches on each. Alice was carving the beef and having a hard time of it. The whole luncheon was a bust, till the pies came out. The cherry pies were well received. A fair amount of food was scraped off the plates into the garbage. From a tree on the edge of the woods, the garbage was being closely observed. The food did not go to waste. Melchizedek was surprised how well he liked snails.

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.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IOOF HOME BOARD OF WESTERN PA

New Phone Number - 814-439-2161

Mailing Address - PO Box 1290, Meadville, PA 16335

Shirley Phelps, Administrator -

Cell Phone Number - 814-282-0693

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. KUNKLEMAN, PDC

In April I was joined by a group of Chevaliers, Brothers and Sisters at Leesport Cemetery to remember our eleventh Department Commander Major General John A. Kunkleman.

John Alfred Kunkleman was born in West Leesport on June 21, 1923. He was valedictorian of the class of 1941 at the former Ontelaunee Vocational School. John was a musician and played in the Centerport Band and later the Metropolitan Band of Laureldale. He entered the United States Army in February 1943 where he continued with his musical talent as a Bandsman. He served in the Base General Depot Band, San Bernardino, California, and the 768th Army Air Force Band in Spokane, Washington.

His profession was as a newspaper editor and reporter, with many years of highly regarded service to the Reading Eagle newspaper. Starting as a copy boy in 1941, he moved up to be associate editor, retiring in 1985 with forty-four years at the Reading Eagle. He married Reta A. Naftzinger in December 1943, while stationed at the Army Desert Training Center, California.

John Kunkleman was active in his community, most notably in matters of veterans affairs and the defense of our country. He was the military editor of the Reading Eagle and was elected Vice President of the Blue Mountain Chapter of the Association of the US Army. He served as a member of the Reading Armory Board where he was a leader in the drive to have a new armory built. He also served on the Berks County Armed Forces Advisory Committee, helped plan Armed Forces Day events in Reading and was active in the American Legion. He was a bugler at funerals and memorial services with both the American Legion and for military units who did not have buglers assigned to them. Mr. Kunkleman was a former West Leesport Borough Secretary. He was a true patriot that cared deeply for his country, community and fellow veterans.

John Kunkleman became an Odd Fellow by being initiated into Leesport Lodge #141 in 1942. After serving as Noble Grand he took the Grand Lodge Degree in 1947. He was Grand Marshal to Grand Master Kistler in 1956-57. In 1948 Brother Kunkleman became a Patriarch in Earl R. Leiby Encampment #106, Leesport. He served as Grand Marshal for Grand Patriarch Leiby in 1963-64, DDGP 1994-97, Representative to the Grand Encampment and was a part of the Royal Purple Degree team.

Patriarch Kunkleman became a Chevalier of Canton Reading #2 (now Canton Leesport #2) in 1950, and was elected Captain in 1965. He rose to Brigadier General and Deputy Department Commander for 1968-69. He then became acting Department Commander upon the death of Department Commander Major General Reese in 1969 and was elected to the office for 1970-72. Major General Kunkleman was Representative to the General Military Council in 1970. He was awarded the Grand Decoration of Chivalry in 1971, thus becoming officially titled Department Commander Major General Sir John Alfred Kunkleman, GDC, a combination of rank and honor that put him at the highest levels of Pennsylvania Chevaliers. He went on to serve as Chief of Staff, Adjutant and countless other committees.



We also took time on this day to remember and honor Mrs. Kunkleman, for she too was an Odd Fellow. Reta was well known in her community as the Leesport Postmaster for 35 years. Sister Reta was a member of Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge #182, Leesport, as was her husband. She was a member of the Rebekah Assembly of Pennsylvania and held many other offices in her more than 55 years of Odd Fellowship. Mrs. Kunkleman was also a charter member of Leesport Auxiliary #2, L.A.P.M. She died in May 2011, in the Odd Fellows Home, Middletown. I have been told that Major General Kunkleman travelled daily to lovingly care for Reta during her final years.

The aspect of Major General Kunkleman's life as an Odd Fellow that particularly stands out is the incredible longevity of his service to our Order. He was a 75 year member in the same Lodge. At the time of his death, Major General Kunkleman was the oldest living Past Grand Lodge Officer, the oldest living Past Department Commander and the only living Pennsylvania Grand Decoration of Chivalry recipient. Many generations of Pennsylvania Odd Fellows joined and advanced in our Order with Brother Kunkleman as a guiding presence in their fraternal life. He was an Odd Fellow for a longer time than many spend on this earth, a living legend whose name is still regularly spoken in our Lodges.



I was honored to be joined at this memorial service by Rebekah Assembly Past Presidents Baier and Wert, who knew the Kunkleman family. A group of Chevaliers from Canton Leesport #2 attended - Lt. Colonel P. Miller, Chief of Staff to Major General Kunkleman and Grand Musician Emeritus; current Captain P. Miller; Lt. Jackson, Capt.(R) Leshner and Lt.(R) Blatt. Department Council Officers Major General Bailey sounded taps, Brigadier General Inama respectfully placed Odd Fellows and Rebekah flags at the graves, and Colonel George offered the Prayer.

Past Department Commander Major General Sir John A. Kunkleman died in 2017, joining Reta at the Kunkleman plot at Leesport Cemetery. I have listened to members of our Order tell of memories of Major General Kunkleman, or Kunk as he was affectionately known, bringing a smile to their face, much like the smile that I am told he always wore. He was a popular man - witty and knowledgeable, avoiding petty disagreements. He was with us for a long time and he is missed in our Order. It pleases us that as John and Reta rest together in eternal peace, they know that we remember them with great fondness. We thank them for their incredible cumulative service to Odd Fellowship of almost 115 years.

BG William F. Hanby
Department Commander

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

Greetings; first off, as you see throughout the magazine, we had a very active several weeks. Between Conclave, the Rally, and the Tomb of the Unknowns, we have been busy! Now, we're gearing up for Unified Session. Your Grand Master sent a letter to each Lodge. Many of the events throughout session are for third degree members, or even open to the public. Please come on down, even if it's for a day or two.

I thought I'd write a quick note focusing in Father's Day. There is a Lodge who has almost doubled their membership in the last few years. Not only are they doing their duty as Odd Fellows in their community, they are doing what we should be doing as Odd Fellows in burying the dead. Because of this, they have actively recruited sons, grandsons, and other family members of deceased members, by attending their viewings and doing the Odd Fellow services. I truly commend them for this, and think, first, why are all Lodges not doing this, and second, why are these Brothers waiting to die before their Lodge asks their family to join?

I had a Past Grand Master come to the GL Office years ago. His son-in-law brought him. While the PGM was wondering around, looking at everything, I asked the son-in-law why he never joined. His answer: "I was never asked. XX was always trying to get his son in, but he wasn't interested in me joining." Brothers and Sisters, ASK YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN. Do not answer for them that they

aren't interested. Give them the chance.

In my almost 25 years as an Odd Fellow, some of my favorite memories were my travels as Grand Master with my dad and then Grand Secretary, Charles Bailey. Rallies, installations, visits, even funerals, it not only gave me a chance to learn from him what Odd Fellowship is really about, but it was great to get to spend that time with him, not only as a father and son, but as a friend and Brother. As July is my son Kenny's 16th birthday, I hope he also decides to join this great world-wide fraternity. When I decided to go through the chairs as Grand Master, in my speech, Kenny was the reason I did it; so he had something worthwhile to belong to when he became a young adult. I still mean this today. As my dad taught me, it's something great to belong to; something worthwhile. To all, please do the same with your family. Have them understand the necessity of Odd Fellowship. If you aren't sure of what that may be, give the office a call and I'll be more than glad to talk to you about it.

Until then, Happy Father's Day, Dad. Thank you for everything you have taught me.

See you on the Road to Odd Fellowship.

Fraternally, Justin C. Bailey, PGM Grand Secretary

Thanks to those who have donated to the Visual Eye Bank! Your donations are being put to good use!



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840 Walnut Street | Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-440-3154 | giving@wills-eye.org
www.wills-eye.org

April 11, 2025

Mr. Justin C. Bailey
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
Office Of The Grand Secretary
Independent Order Of Odd Fellows
1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Thank you for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Pennsylvania for gifts in support of Wills Eye Hospital in the amount of \$792.14 and \$146.01, received on April 3, 2025. As you requested, your gift will support our General Research Fund in memory of Mildred Lough and Willis Lough. We are grateful for this meaningful tribute and commitment to Wills Eye, advancing our mission to preserve and restore sight.

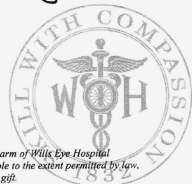
People fear losing their sight more than any of the other senses. At Wills Eye, we provide unsurpassed care for more than 300,000 patients each year. In addition to our superior patient care, we are known for our pioneering research, our world-renowned education for residents and fellows, and our innovative community outreach initiatives. As a non-profit organization, we rely on philanthropy and are grateful to have benefactors like you who support our work.

With your gift, you are our partner in saving the vision of so many patients who turn to Wills Eye each year for outstanding care. Thank you again for your generosity and thoughtfulness. If you have any further questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at sbeers@wills-eye.org or (215) 440-3153.

Sincerely,

Suzanne E. Beers
Suzanne E. Beers, MS, CAP®, CFRE
Chief Development Officer

Thank you!



Please retain this letter for tax purposes. Wills Eye Foundation is the sole fundraising arm of Wills Eye Hospital and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (EIN 59-3794523). Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, and no goods or services were provided to you as a result of this gift.



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April 3, 2025

Mr. Justin Bailey, Grand Secretary
Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Pennsylvania
1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Bailey:

On behalf of the individuals we serve at VisAbility, formerly Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, I thank the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Pennsylvania for their generous gift. Donations like this enable us to provide much needed programs and services to individuals who are blind, vision impaired, or have other disabilities. We are truly grateful for your support.

This \$792.15 donation was received on April 3, 2025. It is 100% tax-deductible. Please keep this letter as a receipt for tax records, verifying that no goods or services were provided in consideration of this contribution.

VisAbility serves over 1,500 adults and teenagers annually through nationally accredited comprehensive rehabilitation, vocational and community services. In addition, we serve 14,000 children throughout southwestern Pennsylvania with our free Children's Vision Screening Program.

As we move into an exciting new era as VisAbility we continue to provide programs and services that provide confidence, independence, and safety to those we serve. We are also working on new and innovative ways to engage the community and provide the best services available, many of which you will be hearing about very soon.

Thank you again members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Pennsylvania for your donation. Your support of our programs and services is very much appreciated by all the individuals who are blind, vision impaired or who have other disabilities that we serve.

Sincerely,

Erika
Erika Petach
President

Thank you for your continued support.

Come See All That's Possible

Periodicals

APRIL DONATIONS

GM LAUTENSCHLAGER PROJECT

88	Freedom	500.00
37	Variety	500.00
457	White Haven	100.00
658	Victory	<u>50.00</u>

1,150.00

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

1128	Fallowfield	67.15
2	Unified	<u>50.00</u>
		117.15

ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE

254	Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity	50.00
1004	Hampton	50.00
471	Rush	<u>25.00</u>
		125.00

PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

1128	Fallowfield	167.88
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EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

254	Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity	200.00
2	Unified	50.00
471	Rush	<u>25.00</u>
		275.00

PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW & REBEKAH MAGAZINE

254	Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity	50.00
211	York Springs	<u>20.00</u>
		70.00

VISUAL RESEARCH

306	Walker	800.00
116	Brady	116.00
1128	Fallowfield	67.15
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>

1,008.15

PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE

207	Canawacta	75.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		100.00