



# Pennsylvania Odd Fellow 1776 - 1976

*As shown for the 1976 200th Anniversary of America.*

Vol. 100

May 2025

No. 5

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## MEMORIAL DAY

As we come into the month of May, we reflect on those Brothers and Sisters who have fought for our Freedom and have passed away within the last year. May they rest in peace, and may they never be forgotten.

### **Unified Lodge No. 2, Pittsburgh**

- PG Vito A. Urso, U.S. Army - May 21<sup>st</sup>
- PG Howard C. Forsythe, U.S. Army Korea - August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Robert V. McClelland, U.S. Merchant Marine WWII & Navy Reserves - March 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Variety Lodge No. 37, Philadelphia**

- PG Martin S. Levit, U.S. Army - January 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55, Glasgow**

- PG George P. Fletcher, Sr., U.S. Navy - June 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Mount Zion Lodge No. 74, York**

- PG Paul L. Hildebrand, U.S. Army Vietnam - February 14<sup>th</sup>
- PG Ray E. Byers, U. S. Marine Corps & Air Force Korean War - March 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125, Shamokin**

- Vaughn T. Spotts, U.S. Army - August 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Jordan Lodge No. 192, Schnecksville**

- Ronald R. Roth - May 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Connoquenessing Lodge No. 278, Butler**

- PG William H. Watson, U.S. Army - August 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Mineral Lodge No. 285, St. Clair**

- PG Henry L. Leshner, Sr., U.S. Air Force Vietnam - March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Paoli Lodge No. 290, Downingtown**

- PG Franklin D. Leslie, Sr. - U.S. Navy - January 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Walker Lodge No. 306, Philadelphia**

- PG Robert J. Tucker, Jr., U.S. Navy Seabee - December 26<sup>th</sup>
- PG John A. Roman, U.S. Army - February 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Clover Lodge No. 348, Baden**

- PG C. Ken Knouse, U.S. Army - October 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Alma Lodge No. 523, Johnstown**

- PG Darl R. Murton, U.S. Army Vietnam - December 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Mahanoy Lodge No. 551, Dornsife**

- PG Terry L. Snyder, U.S. Marine Corps - April 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Warfordsburg Lodge No. 601**

- PG William E. Whiteside, U.S. Army Korea - January 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Boyetown Lodge No. 708**

- PG Harold Y. Schoenly, U.S. Air Force - February 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Vincent Lodge No. 762, Spring City**

- PG Theodore J. Quillen, Merchant Marine WWII & US Army Cold War - November 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Charleroi Lodge No. 1030**

- Kenneth J. Wiltz, U.S. Army, Vietnam - August 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Fallowfield Lodge No. 1128, Atlantic**

- PDDGM Paul R. Goodwin, U.S. Army - February 6<sup>th</sup>
- PDDGM John A. Redfoot, U.S. Army - February 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Wysox Lodge No. 1152**

- PG Richard G. Bellows, Sr., U.S. Army - February 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Shillington Lodge No. 1175**

- PG/PCP Richard C. Wagner, Jr., U.S. Navy - August 12<sup>th</sup>



**A. Elaine Weekley**  
Past

President of the Rebekah Assembly Answers final call March 29th (Obituary on page #9)



# We Believe

# The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

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

Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55, Fallentimber  
 Kristopher Cochran – initiated March 10th  
 Benjamin W. O'Donnell  
 John Warwick  
 Brady Lodge No. 116, Muncy  
 Brenda M. Miller – initiated March 8th  
 York Springs Lodge No. 211  
 Paul E. Baer, Jr. – initiated March 6th

Ridgway Lodge No. 969  
 Kevin Eberly – initiated February 7th  
 Travis Zuchowski  
 Louis Bonini  
 Fallowfield Lodge No. 1128, Atlantic  
 James E. Gray – initiated March 10th

## GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Brothers and Sisters, Greetings,

The month of April had its ups and downs with the weather. We had very warm days and then back to some very cold, rainy and snowy days. Hopefully, May will continue to get warmer as we move closer to summer. By the time this is printed in the Odd Fellows and Rebecca's Magazine, I will have placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. It is a great honor and humbling experience to know that I am able to follow in the footsteps of our past Grand Masters. The privilege of participating in this sacred ceremony has been handed down to all Grand Masters and Sovereign Grand Masters since June 17, 1934. Memorial Day is May 26, 2025, and all lodges should take time to honor and remember those who sacrificed their lives, known and unknown, and those Brothers and Sisters who also served to ensure that we have the freedom we now enjoy. It is our duty to remember and honor our veterans. These soldiers took an oath to serve and protect their country and our freedom.

Our fraternal order has a creed. I ask that each brother and sister take some quiet time to sit and open their ritual to page V, and read Our Creed. There is the original Creed and an alternate one. It (alternate) starts with "Genuine Friendship, which hears all things, believes all things, is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment..." Read the words and take time to reflect on them. This is our mission as Odd Fellows. Slow down from your busy life and understand the words. With those words, we, as Brothers and Sisters of the I.O.O.F., shall strive to make the world a better place for mankind and achieve universal Brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. As we honor and remember those who served to preserve our freedom, let us also honor and remember our Creed. Our Creed is one part of the anchor to Friendship, Love and Truth.

Fraternally,  
Paul E. Lautenschlager  
Grand Master

### *Places to GO...People to See*

#### MAY

2 - 4 / Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA  
30 - Jun 1 / Canadian War Memorial Weekend, Ontario

#### JUNE

21 - 25 / Unified Session, Red Lion Harrisburg

#### JULY

26 / Fun Day, Knoebel's Elysburg+

\*\* 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](mailto:ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net) or 717-944-7419

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

### **25 YEARS**

Arthur W. Valentine, #86

### **35 YEARS**

Russell S. Very, #471

### **50 YEARS**

Richard E. Tomko, #285

### **55 YEARS**

Eugene W. Reynolds, #211

### **70 YEARS**

Dennis W. Dendler, #74

Sherman M. Grove, #74

### **80 YEARS**

Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge No. 202, Nazareth

### **140 YEARS**

Warfordsburg Lodge No. 601

### **150 YEARS**

Rush Lodge No. 471, Lawton

### **155 YEARS**

Osage Lodge No. 712, Lehman

### **165 YEARS**

Newburg Lodge No. 562



# BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Members of Vienna lodge #847 of Allentown, Bushkill Encampment #55 and Canton Allentown #39 of Sellersville took part in the Annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley "Bowl for Kids Sake" at Jordon lanes in Allentown. A big thank you to all the above for raising \$500.00 for this great cause and coming together for great day of fellowship.



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

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania is presently accepting applications for consideration in the awarding of a maximum of six (6) \$4,000 scholarships. This marks the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Distrct, 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.glpaiiof.org](http://www.glpaiiof.org)" during the April through June time period. Again, an applicaton 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 11<sup>th</sup>. NO EXCEPTIONS!

# FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88 ROAD CLEANUP



Pictured from left to right. Noble Grand Doug Buchinski, VIP Volunteer Sue Kinzinger, Brother Connor Buchinski, Past Grand Bert Terysen, Past Grand Mike Kinzinger, Vice Grand Dennis Buchinski and Max. Picture taken by Past Grand Todd Kinzinger. ~ NG Doug Bushinski

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY – NATURAL HARMONY AND IT'S RESULTS

Another Article from September 1925. It's just a good read. No soap boxing here this month; just read and learn! ~ Justin Bailey

The natural world is one of harmony. Flowers bloom to prove there is a harmonious power in the lowly dirt and its earthly decay, when combined with rain and the flooding of the bright sunshine over its surface. It needs these things to bring into view these God-like perfections.

Why does the tree withdraw its sap from the trunk and branches? Why does the sap return when the warm sun and rains of spring coaxingly entice it to action? Why do men band together as an organization to promulgate the principles of good?

We know the tree withdraws that sap to protect its tiny cells from the bitter cold. We know the sap returns to enliven the buds and form leaves and grow. We know the seed develops to bud and blossom to give beauty to the world and aid inspiration in the minds and hearts of man. We know the seeds of humans develop into living images of ourselves, and that these children, when matured, form various organizations. The real question is, "What causes these things to be done?"

Is it merely happening, luck or fate? No. It is the working of an All-wise Intelligence that, with its wand of magic, inspires the seed below the earth to flourish and bloom; that keeps its watchful eye on the little Godlike image of ourselves, entwining its little self around our hearts, gives it growth and understanding to combat the earthly struggles. It is this Intelligence, or God, that inspires you and I to band together for a common good.

Let us then be jealous of the things God has so generously extended to us. As an organization, let us work hand in hand to do our bit toward making this world of people better;

to lift the fallen instead of kicking him; to educate the ignorant instead of adding to his burden; to do as nearly as possible all the things God has placed us here to do. As one of the earthly rewards for doing a kindly deed you feel a flush of good, radiantly warm in your hearts, and how much better it makes us feel.

Let us "make hay while the sun shines," for as the flowers and trees, our time here is limited. All too soon God's Intelligence will be taken from us, and our bodies will become cold, lifeless masses of cells which will soon decay and revert back to the elements.

Our souls will then reap the benefit of what we sowed on earth. Our seats in God's great mansion will be according to the price we pay for our tickets of endeavor on earth.

Friends, let me suggest that we, as an organization and as individuals do our utmost, so when we do pass on we can show a ticket which will entitle us to a front row in God's reserved section.

- Rolland H. Staggemeier

*This quick blurb was right below it -*

### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

We know of at least one Lodge that has a special committee, owners of autos, whose duty it is to give the shut-ins and convalescents an outing every so often as their condition will permit. This service to their afflicted Brothers has lost the sense of duty and has become a real pleasure. A good thing to try in your Lodge.

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

### Interesting Facts:

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

How many Rebekah Lodges were in YOUR County??  
Did you ever wonder if your town had a Rebekah Lodge?

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

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

As you seen by last month's lengthy article with Allegheny County, Philadelphia is going to be worse. I will try and break it down into smaller listings. Unfortunately, this being the last county, no one had given any pictures or stories to share with the Rebekah Lodges. This month, we will focus on Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge, and the Lodges that made them up.

**NEXT MONTH – We will start with  
Rebekah Lodges in the city of Philadelphia!**

### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Penn Township – Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 – instituted 11/20/1888  
– consolidated 3/22/2025

Letitia Penn had four consolidations:

- 1 Germantown - Maida Rebekah Lodge #69 – consolidated 1900
- 2 Germantown - Mildred Rebekah Lodge #199 – consolidated 1950
- 3 Philadelphia - Lady Meade Rebekah Lodge #88 – consolidated 1985
- Phila - Elizabeth A. Carr Rebekah Lodge #595 – consolidated 1961 w/ #88
- Phila - Lizette Rowe Rebekah Lodge #167 – consolidated 1953 w/ #595
- 4 Holmesburg - Lady Mystic Rebekah Lodge #141 – consolidated 2000
- Bridesburg - Bridesburg Rebekah Lodge #320 – consolidated 1991 w/ #141
- Bristol - Lily Rebekah Lodge #366 – consolidated 1978 w/ #141
- Corydon - Evening Star Rebekah Lodge #224 – consolidated 1967 w/ #366
- Bustleton - Joan Rebekah Lodge #406 – consolidated 1953 w/ #141
- Phila - Marion Rebekah Lodge #47 – consolidated 1944 w/ #406
- Hulmeville - Wild Rose Rebekah Lodge #254 – consolidated 1954 w/ #141
- Tacony - Genevieve Rebekah Lodge #195 – consolidated 1945 w/ #141
- Phila - Lady Oxford Rebekah Lodge #241 – consolidated 1987 w/ #141
- Phila - Elizabeth J. Burt Rebekah Lodge #17 - consolidated 1969 w/ #241
- Phila - Myra Rebekah Lodge #200 – consolidated 1934 w/ #17
- Roxboro - Mary N. Ring Rebekah Lodge #467 – cons 1928 w/ #200
- Phila - Lady Revere Rebekah Lodge #276 – consolidated 1937 w/ #17

19 Rebekah Lodges total

## SCOTT ENCAMPMENT ON THE MOVE

As it is taught, Patriarchal Odd Fellowship is the “higher learning” of the Odd Fellows. While many lodges have property and much more activity to be part of, the Encampment is where you can take more time to learn about Odd Fellowship. Many of our Patriarchs went to the rallies in the past, or watched the DVD’s. It doesn’t give us much of a chance to learn the more obscure degrees, such as delving into the Encampment degrees. Earlier this year, we requested a dispensation to do the lecture form for two new Patriarchs. From there, once the snow and ice stopped, we conferred the Patriarchal Degree in full on Patriarch Tom Dargis of Scott Encampment. This April, we conferred the Golden Rule Degree on Patriarch Jim Manton of Ridgely Encampment #217, Strasburg. We’re taking a break in May due to the Tomb of the Unknowns, but June we are gearing up for the Royal Purple Degree on Michael Warmkessel. What a great way to learn about the degrees by being part of them!

In March, we had 11 Patriarchs out for the Patriarchal Degree.



In April, we had a dozen Patriarchs out for the Golden Rule Degree. This is just some of our Patriarchs who do a great job in this degree!

## NEW MEMBERS THROUGHOUT OUR ORDER



Fred R. Korman Lodge #55 of Glasgow/Fallentimber welcomed three new members in to their lodge after dinner and doing the initiatory degree



Brady Lodge #116 confirmed the Initiatory, 1st,2nd, and 3rd Degrees for Brenda Mary Miller ( center front row) on Saturday Mach 8th, and then celebrated with a spaghetti dinner afterwards. ~ PDDGM Arthur Danley



Congratulations to Michele, Nathan, Taylor, Peggy and John Paul for receiving all three degrees. They are members of Latrobe Lodge No. 541. ~ DDGM Bob Ruff

## ON THE ROAD WITH THE GRAND MASTER



Grand Masters visitation to Leesport 141, with East Brunswick 802 attending. ~ DDGM Robert Jackson

## PHILADELPHIA'S REBEKAH LODGE CONSOLIDATES

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Rebekah Assembly came down to Walker Hall in Philadelphia to consolidate Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 with Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86. Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge, named after William Penn's daughter, was chartered in 1888 in Penn Township. This was the Rebekah Lodge to Penn Township Lodge #319, who consolidated with Walker Lodge on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1955. Over the years, as you will see in the monthly Rebekah Lodge listing article, there were many Rebekah Lodges that consolidated with Letitia Penn. There were many Past Grand Masters, and even a Past Sovereign Grand Master affiliated with this Lodge. Over the years, this Rebekah Lodge changed locations several times, meeting a lot at the old Home for Orphans of Odd Fellows in Philadelphia. When that got torn down, Letitia Penn eventually ended up in Walker Hall.

Though they had a secure location, membership started to dwindle. Several Rebekahs joined to try and help get Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge meeting regularly, which was a success. They

moved their meeting night to coincide with Canton Philadelphia No. 1, P.M., who all joined the Rebekahs to help them out. The Odd Fellow Lodges in the area were contacted in hopes to get a few more members, but there was no interest from that. Over the past year, only five regular members were able to come out to meet, and the membership dwindled to less than 10. Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge determined the best idea was to reach out to Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 of Tamaqua, for consolidation.

Lady Harmony is honored and proud to carry on the traditions of Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge No. 173. Six members came down on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to welcome them into Lady Harmony, and PNG Julie Stokes prepared a wonderful lunch for the ceremony. President Kate Walters presided over the consolidation, along with RA Sec Sarah Baer and acting Chaplain Mary D. Delong. We thank all who attended and look forward to a bright future with these two Rebekah Lodges working as one.



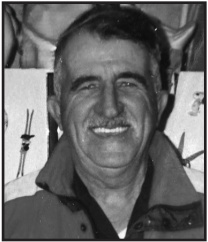
Members of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 and Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 all now part of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, with members of the Rebekah Assembly and Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge #182 of Leesport present.



The members of Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 signing the members' register of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, as Grand Secretary Justin Bailey and Rebekah Assembly Secretary Sarah Baer look on. From left to right: Inside Guardian Robert Smedley, Vice Grand PNG Charles Danihel, Treasurer PNG William Hanby, Warden PNG Joe Strausser and Chaplain PNG Dorothea Oertel.

## MAY OBITUARIES

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



**Paul R. Goodwin**  
Past District Deputy Grand Master  
Fallowfield Lodge No. 1128  
February 6, 2025

Brother Paul R. "Duke" Goodwin, 86, of Lake City, PA, was initiated into Nickel Plate Lodge #1125, Girard, PA, on March 17, 1966, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree. He was a regular attendee to Unified Session and served many times as District Deputy Grand Master: 1979 - 81, 1989 - 93 and 2002 - 04. He became a member of Edinboro Lodge #510 through consolidation on July 26, 2012 and finally Fallowfield Lodge #1128, Atlantic, through consolidation on January 11, 2021.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Debra Beerbower.

Burial was in Girard Cemetery.

**Ruth A. Turowski**  
Unified Lodge No. 2  
February 27, 2025

Sister Ruth A. (Andrezejewski) Turowski, 94, of Pittsburgh, PA, was initiated into Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, on February 9, 2012.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew, and one son. Surviving is one son, and several grandchildren.

Burial was held in Saint Stanislaus and Saint Anthony Cemetery, Shaler Twp, PA.

**Harold Y. Schoenly**  
Boyertown Lodge No. 708  
February 28, 2025

Brother Harold Y. Schoenly, 93, of Boyertown, PA, was initiated into Boyertown Lodge #708 on March 14, 1962, where he became a Past Grand and held active membership in his Lodge. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest living member.

He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Niantic.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Mary Schrupp. Surviving are two daughters, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were private.



**Robert V. McClelland**  
Unified Lodge No. 2  
March 1, 2025

Brother Robert V. McClelland, 99, of Irwin, PA, was initiated into Monongahela Valley Lodge #147, Glassport, PA, on April 5, 1945. He became a member of Old Monongahela Lodge #209, Elizabeth, PA, through consolidation on October 9, 1971 and finally a member of Unified Lodge #2, Pittsburgh, PA, through consolidation on June 30, 2011. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest member, by age and tenure, as well as the last surviving member of Monongahela Valley Lodge #147 still affiliated with the Order.

He was a U.S. WWII Merchant Marine.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Belinda Ingel. Surviving are two children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Burial was private.



**Susan M. Rodgers**  
Sandy Lake Lodge No. 573  
March 8, 2025

Sister Susan M. (Bukouski) Rodgers, 75, of Jackson Center, PA, was initiated into Sandy Lake Lodge #573 on September 30, 2017, where she became a Past Grand on October 3, 2022. She was a former Rebekah of Lady Worth Rebekah Lodge #328, Sandy Lake, having joined September 14, 2019 and recently withdrawing. She was also on the Meadville Home Board. At the time of her death, she was the Lodge's Chaplain.

She was a member of Lakeview Area Community Church.

Surviving is her husband, Raymond, also of Sandy Lake Lodge, five children, fifteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren with one on the way.

Services were conducted by the members of her Lodge.



**Ray E. Byers**  
Mount Zion Lodge No. 74  
March 11, 2025

Brother Ray E. Byers, 92, of Leesburg, FL, was initiated into South Mountain Lodge #1200, Dillsburg, PA, on May 4, 1955, where he became a Past Grand. He became a member of Mount Zion Lodge #74, York, PA, through consolidation on December 5, 1994. He is one of two oldest tenured members of Mount Zion Lodge #74.

He was a US Marine Corps and Air Force Veteran of the Korean War.

Surviving is his wife, Edie, three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial will be held in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.



## MAY OBITUARIES

### Elaine Weekley

Past President, Past IARA Representative

Called home

March 29, 2025

Sister A. Elaine (Love Hollerich) Weekley, 83, of Finleyville, PA, was initiated a Rebekah into Philathea Rebekah Lodge No. 527, Gastonville, PA, on the twenty-first day of April, 1966. She became a Past Noble Grand on October 15, 1975 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree April 2, 1976. She held the position of District Deputy President for several years, 1980 - 1983 and 2008 - 2009. She became the Charter Noble Grand of Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge #82, Finleyville, through consolidation on May 1, 1982. On May 7, 1991, she transferred membership to Lady Hogue Rebekah Lodge #102, Washington, PA, where she served as Treasurer and later, Secretary. She became a member of Gladys Rebekah Lodge #103, Brownfield, PA, through consolidation on September 12, 2014, and finally back to Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge #82, Finleyville, through consolidation on November 15, 2023. She served several appointed offices of the Rebekah Assembly: Marshall from 2003 - 2004 and Parliamentarian. She then went through the chairs to serve our Jurisdiction as President from 2006 - 2008. Following this, she served as Delegate to the IARA from 2008 - 2009 and 2011 - 2013. She was a regular attendee to Unified Session.

She was incredibly active in West Virginia, also being a Past President of the Rebekah Assembly, serving from 1994 - 1995. She was a member of Delphia Rebekah Lodge #62 from June 25, 1990 - May 7, 1991, and holding associate membership in Wheeling Rebekah Lodge #45 since August 21, 2002. She was a Matriarch of William Ewing LEA #55 from January 18, 1995 until April 14, 2007 and a Matriarch of Star LEA #104 until May 12, 2016. She was a member of Clarksburg LAMP #9 from April 21, 1989 until the LAMP merged. She also held Associate membership in Friendly LAMP #11 and Roanoke LAMP. She served as President of the Department Association, LAMP of West Virginia from 1997 - 1998 and again from 2006 - 2008. She served as Department Secretary from 2016 - 2018; she was also a recipient of the Decoration of Chivalry. On October of 2018, the Rebekah Assembly of West Virginia honored her with the Meritorious Service Jewel.

She was preceded in death by four step-children and her brother, PGM Robert Love. Surviving is her husband, Dicky Joe, one daughter, six step-children, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, many step-grandchildren and her brother, Harold Love, of Nucleus Lodge #377.

Services were conducted by Mon Valley Rebekah Lodge #82.

Past President Weekley's program was "Stick your neck out and climb the ladder for Rebekah-Odd Fellowship." And pushed for the renewal of our Order.

## TREASURER'S TALES -MAY 2025

May is the month in which we celebrate Memorial Day. In years gone by, Memorial Day was always celebrated on May 30, regardless of the day of the week. In 1930, it was on Friday. The school year ended Thursday, May 29.

On May 5, Amy Johnson took off from England and became the first woman to fly from England to Australia. On May 14, Congress designated Carlsbad Caverns as a national park. May 21 Yankees' slugger Babe Ruth hits 3 home runs as NY blows 6-0 lead in 4th against Philadelphia A's at Shibe Park; and go on to lose, 15-7. On May 26, the Supreme Court ruled buying liquor does not violate the Constitution. On May 27, Richard Drew invented masking tape. On May 27, the 1,046-foot Chrysler Building in New York City, the tallest man-made structure at the time, opened to the public. On May 31, Philadelphia Athletics's Max Bishop draws 8 walks in a doubleheader to set major league baseball record.

On May 5, Will Hutchins [Marshall Hutchason], American actor (Sugarfoot; Spinout; Clambake), was born in Atwater, California. On May 31, Clint Eastwood was born in San Francisco, California.

Although signs of economic turmoil were evident in Europe, the United States was still doing fairly well. The wages held fairly steady, but prices for goods began a steady decline. The reasons for the Great Depression and mistakes in planning are a subject for some other time or column. The beginnings of the depression were seen everywhere in 1930.

In a previous column, I wrote about our own precious raccoon, Melchizedek and went through a zoology lesson on raccoons. This month I am going to give you a lesson on the historical character, Melchizedek.

Melchizedek appears in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. Genesis 14:18-20: Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, offers Abraham bread and wine after his victory in battle, blesses him, and receives a tithe (a tenth) of the spoils. If you received the degree of Patriarch Militant, you should recall this story. We see his name again in Psalm 110, verse 4, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'" I will not offer an interpretation of the Psalmist meaning. Chapter 7 of Hebrews in the New Testament recounts the place of Melchizedek and relates Jesus to him. If you go to Bible Ask

on the internet, you will get this story: [https://bibleask.org/who-was-melchizedek/?utm\\_term=&utm\\_source=adwords&utm\\_medium=ppc&utm\\_campaign=Search+Network+Campaign+2&h\\_sa\\_net=adwords&h\\_sa\\_grp=174874341579&h\\_sa\\_mt=&h\\_sa\\_tgt=dsa-61724785219&h\\_sa\\_kw=&h\\_sa\\_src=g&h\\_sa\\_acc=3754317194&h\\_sa\\_cam=8123479597&h\\_sa\\_ver=3&h\\_sa\\_ad=732315748205&gad\\_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwkZm\\_BhDrARIsAAEbX1EEJoN5eZ58PQUHlIoFeLbC4LgBRQe3V7Om-MppT5mPP95pNjpaI4fh8aAvCWALw\\_wcB](https://bibleask.org/who-was-melchizedek/?utm_term=&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=Search+Network+Campaign+2&h_sa_net=adwords&h_sa_grp=174874341579&h_sa_mt=&h_sa_tgt=dsa-61724785219&h_sa_kw=&h_sa_src=g&h_sa_acc=3754317194&h_sa_cam=8123479597&h_sa_ver=3&h_sa_ad=732315748205&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwkZm_BhDrARIsAAEbX1EEJoN5eZ58PQUHlIoFeLbC4LgBRQe3V7Om-MppT5mPP95pNjpaI4fh8aAvCWALw_wcB).

There have been many videos on YouTube about Melchizedek. This video is a good start: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj3lIxpNPIY>. It refers to the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as scripture. This is a shorter version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKPkNgCl5F4>. The next video is long, but is preceded by a commercial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFpNK3fKAG0>. It will probably prove more interesting to Odd Fellows because it speaks more about the events we use to inculcate our lessons during the degree conferral process.

Continuing on a serious note, we should take some time to delve into the scholarship that surrounds the lessons of Odd Fellowship. The degree structure did not exist when Thomas Wildey founded the Order in North America. It developed and changed over time. A serious student of our Order should research all the lessons in the various degrees and discover for himself or herself what the lessons really mean. Our degrees give you brief reference to lessons in the Holy Bible, it is for you to follow up on them. We do not tell you what to believe. That is a matter of your own conscience. That being said, let me commend the lessons from the degree work to be prompts for your own research.

Read the ritual, encourage your lodge to practice the Opening, Closing and Degrees. The more you recite the work and ponder it, the more meaning it will have for you.

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](mailto:jcupp275@gmail.com) or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopewood PA 15445.

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER... HONORING MAJOR GENERAL EDMUND H. SPANGLER, PDC

On a beautiful March afternoon I gathered with Chevaliers and family at the sacred grounds of Burns Hill Cemetery in Waynesboro to honor and remember our sixth Department Commander, Major General Sir Edmund H. Spangler, GDC and his wife Mary Spangler. Major General Spangler led the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant from 1941 to 1947. We took time on this day to visit his final resting place and recount his many contributions to our Order.



Edmund Hafer Spangler was born on August 20, 1881 in Chambersburg to Noah and Alice (Hafer) Spangler. He was one of seven children, three brothers and four sisters. At the age of eighteen he moved to Waynesboro and lived there for the rest of his life. The record indicates that Mr. Spangler was a hard working and industrious man for his entire adult life, consistently working his way up in the business community of Waynesboro, engaged in sales and supervisory positions. In 1930 he married Mary Kay (Mutz) Spangler and with her had one child who, when married, became Mrs. Thomas Kelly III, part of a prominent Philadelphia area family. Active in the Lutheran Church, Mr. Spangler was particularly involved in the Bible School aspect of his church and was for many years the president of the Sunday School program.

In 1917 Edmund Spangler entered the printing business with his brother William. Named the Caslon Press, the business flourished and the ownership and management of it by the Spangler brothers allowed their families to be successful and well respected community members. While business, church and service organization involvement were hallmarks of Edmund Spangler's gifts to the community of Waynesboro, it was in Odd Fellowship that he achieved significant state wide recognition.

Edmund Spangler first joined Odd Fellows in 1912 by becoming a Brother of Waynesboro Lodge #219 (now consolidated with Newburg Lodge #562). He was Exalted to the Royal Purple Degree as a member of Widow's Friend Encampment #71 of Waynesboro (now with Valley Encampment #34) where he became Past Chief Patriarch by 1926 and then took the Grand Encampment Degree in 1931. He was serving as President of the Past Grands Association of Franklin County by the late 1920's as well as holding the office of DDGM for the region. By 1941 he was a Grand Encampment Officer under Grand Patriarch J.B. Mentzer. Brother Spangler also spent considerable effort in proficiently conducting degree work. An example of his skill in this regard can be found in the May 14, 1919 edition of the Waynesboro Record newspaper which gives an account of a degree offered by Waynesboro Lodge #219 in which over two hundred brothers watched 70 candidates receive the Second Degree under the direction of Degree Master Spangler. The article goes on to state that the Lodge was well known in the Jurisdiction for conducting an impressive Second Degree thanks to Brother Spangler.

Patriarch Spangler then chose to enter the highest degree of our Order by becoming a Chevalier of Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant Canton Chambersburg #51, where by 1931 he was serving as Captain. He was instrumental in the institution of Canton Waynesboro #57 in 1941 and this became Brigadier General Spangler's home Canton (this Canton went defunct 1968). Brigadier General Spangler steadily rose through the ranks until late 1941 when our Jurisdiction got news of the appointment

of Pennsylvania Department Commander Major General Russell K. Patterson to be General Commanding of the World. Brigadier General Spangler was promoted to Major General and assumed the office of Department Commander of Pennsylvania, Patriarchs Militant - our sixth such Commander. He was formally elected into office in 1942 and was installed by his predecessor General Commanding Russel K. Patterson at Canton Waynesboro #57. The term of office in those days was three years, unlike today's two year term, and Major General Spangler was elected for a second three year term in 1944. Among many honors bestowed upon him for his service to the community and our Order, Major General Spangler received our highest award, the Grand Decoration of Chivalry. The award is based on service to country, community and the I.O.O.F. and entitles him to forever use the prefix "Sir" within our Order. A number of notable events occurred during Department Commander Major General Sir Edmund H. Spangler's long term in office. For example, the Department of Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant celebrated its 50th Anniversary with numerous events, including Major General Spangler's personal institution of Canton Lincoln #58 in Elizabethtown in 1946. For this event the Chevalier Degree was conferred by Chevaliers of Major General Spangler's home Canton Waynesboro #57.

We also took time on this day to remember Mrs. Mary Spangler, for she too was an Odd Fellow and dedicated many years to the good work of the Rebekah branch of our Order. She was a long time member of Lady Wayne Rebekah Lodge #585 of Waynesboro (as was her husband) where she was the charter Nobel Grand and was the first President of the Past Grand Association in that region. She was also a member of the L.A.P.M. We respect the many years of her life that she dedicated to our Order and the faithful assistance that she gave to Major General Spangler in the carrying out of his duties as a Chevalier in the Department of Pennsylvania, Patriarchs Militant.



Our Sister Mary Spangler died in May of 1946, aged 67 years, less than one year before her beloved husband. Major General Spangler sadly died at the relatively young age of 65, in Waynesboro hospital, on February 4, 1947. While he had become weak about a month before his death, newspaper accounts indicate that Major General Spangler did not

fully relinquish his duties as Department Commander until a short ten days before his death. Thus we see that to the end, our departed Past Department Commander held close to the Order that was central to his life for thirty-five years. He surrendered his responsibilities reluctantly and carried out his duty to our Army until the end. The Chevaliers of Pennsylvania lost their leader before his term in office was completed, but they knew that he left our ranks strong due to his popular and effective leadership.

Reflections and comments on the Spanglers were offered by two very special guests at our ceremony - Mr. David Etter and Mr. Todd Dorsett - descendants of the Spangler family. They offered interesting family insights into the lives and times of Major General and Mrs Spangler. I also spoke with a great-grandson in Florida who was fascinated by our interest and was kind enough to send pictures of the Spanglers. Also participating were past Department Commander Major General Sir Justin Bailey, GDC, who sounded taps, and Deputy Department Commander Colonel J. Carl George, who provided a prayer taken from our Department of Pennsylvania Memorial Service. Mr. Etter and Mr. Dorsett reverently placed Odd Fellow and Rebekah flags at their ancestors' graves.

We concluded this solemn visit to the final resting place of Major General and Mrs. Spangler by assuring them, on behalf of the Department of Pennsylvania, Patriarchs Militant, I.O.O.F., and all of Odd Fellowship, that we continue to both carry on the ancient principles of our Order and affirm our commitment to carry on their good work. The great Fraternal Order that the Spanglers selflessly committed much of their lives to will always cherish their memory as they continue to rest in peace together as they have for over 75 years.

BG William F. Hanby  
Department Commander

# Thank You!

*"Thank You" for all the cards, messages, calls and prayers of support for Linda & I as I recently navigated through surgery for pancreatic cancer. My surgeon is optimistically hopeful that we caught it in an early enough stage while still contained that chemo may not be necessary in the future.*

*I am 3 weeks into a 2-3-month recovery that I fully expect to take that long. Building back stamina is a day-by-day chore.*

*My visiting nurse tells me that I am doing well and, for now, I will accept her at her word.*

*I hope to be able to attend the Unified Session in June and thank you all in person.*

*Again, Linda & I appreciate all the support you have given us.*

*Dale Binkley, PGM, PGR*

## FREEDOM LODGE #88 ATTENDS LADORE LODGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

On Thursday, March 27, 2025, Brothers from Freedom Lodge #88 were blessed to be a part of the Salvation Army Ladore Lodge 50th Anniversary Luncheon. This all came about by an idea from Noble Grand Doug Buchinski suggesting to the Freedom Lodge to make this Conference Center one of our next destinations for a Trex Bench donation. It turns out they were so delighted with this generous donation, they insisted we attend their luncheon

and present in front of a crowd of 100+ people including PA Senators and Representatives. It was a great platform to present what we do for the community and how we encourage others to become involved with us. The Salvation Army Ladore Lodge and Conference Center is located on 398 South Street, Waymart, PA 18472 and is an affordable getaway destination for relaxation to adults over the age of 50 years old!



*Pictured left is Freedom Lodge Brothers Buchinski and Goodenough with PA Senator Rosemary Brown, also in attendance. She was very complimentary for all we do for the community.*



*Pictured from right to left next to Trex Bench Donation are as follows: Forrest C Goodenough, Freedom #88, Jason Cooper, Ladore Site Resource Manager, Mike Kinginger, Freedom Lodge #88 and Doug Buchinski, Freedom Lodge #88 Noble Grand.*

*It was an honor to be here on this most special day and we hope all Odd Fellows Lodges across the state of Pa and beyond get a chance like this to let the public know who we are and what we do. FLT Forever!*

Periodicals

**MARCH DONATIONS**

**MARCH IS ARTHRITIS MONTH**

**ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION**

306	Walker	500.00
125	Mount Tabor	100.00
899	Askam	100.00
2	Unified	50.00
278	Connoquenessing	50.00
1030	Charleroi	50.00
1050	Lititz	<u>50.00</u>
		900.00

**ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE**

E135	Perseverance	CAMP JRA	10,000.00
RA/R#110	Sharpsburg	deft CAMP JRA	2,104.69
74	Mount Zion		1,000.00
270	Mystic	CAMP JRA	700.00
306	Walker		500.00
361	Strasburg		300.00
762	Vincent		200.00
899	Askam		100.00
847	Vienna		50.00
957	Falls Creek Hall Ass'n		50.00
R182	Lady Colfax	In memory of Arlene Miller	
		CAMP JRA	25.00
R182	Lady Colfax		<u>25.00</u>
			15,054.69

**GM LAUTENSCHLAGER PROJECT**

2	Unified	500.00
8	Henry Disston	500.00
2	James & Earlene McMahon	100.00
88	Freedom	<u>25.00</u>
		1,125.00

**PA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

37	Variety	250.00
1050	Lititz	250.00
591	Shenandoah	50.00
969	Ridgway	50.00
88	Freedom	<u>25.00</u>
		625.00

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

RA/R#110	Sharpsburg	deft	2,104.70
37	Variety		250.00
377	Nucleus		100.00
2	Unified		50.00
211	York Springs		<u>50.00</u>
			2,554.70

**PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW & REBEKAH MAGAZINE**

348	Clover	250.00
591	Shenandoah	<u>50.00</u>
		300.00

**VISUAL RESEARCH**

2	Unified	25.00
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**PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE**

2	Unified	25.00
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