



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE

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February - the season of Friendship, LOVE, and Truth! Let's live it!



REBEKAHS END THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE

For the first time in many years, the Rebekahs held a Rally to initiate new members. Seated left to right is Ellen Graham - Salome Rebekah Lodge #30 of York, Thomas Dargis - Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 of Tamaqua, and Jonathan Paules - Salome Rebekah Lodge #30. The meeting was open and conducted by the Rebekah Assembly and there were 20 members present.

Places to Go... People to See

+ denotes details to follow

FEBRUARY

13 & 14 / Pilgrimage to honor all Unknowns of the Civil War, Biloxi, MS

MARCH

27 - 29 / Mid-Atlantic States Conclave, Roanoke, VA

MAY

1 - 3 / Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA+

JUNE

5-7 / Canadian War Memorial, Ottawa
20 - 24 / Unified Session, Harrisburg+

AUGUST

14 - 20 / SGL/GMC/IARA Session, Frisco, TX+

SEPTEMBER

19 / PGM Lautenschlager Testimonial, Dunmore+

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



@IIOFFPA



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

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GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Fraternal greetings to all Brothers and Sisters,

October has been a very busy month, visiting lodges and also helping with installation of officers. When you read this article, I hope all the lodges will have had their officers installed in due form. I am relying on all my District Deputy Grand Masters to make sure all lodges in their district are installed, and the new term password has been given to each lodge. The reason I say this is because, when I made visits in September, the last month of our Odd Fellow year, I was greatly surprised and disappointed that some of the lodges did not even know the password for the current term. Now we are in a new term, and my concern is if your lodge has received the new password. This is such a simple task and does not require much time. All District Deputy Grand Masters take an oath "to sincerely promise and declare that they will faithfully perform the duties of the office of District Deputy Grand Master to the end of the term for which they have been commissioned...That they shall at all times when requested make such reports as may be required... To the performance of all which they pledge their sacred honor as an Odd Fellow." The entire oath has not been written here, but I feel that each DDGM should remember their Oath and read their commission.

Odd Fellows is a fraternal order that does require commitment. This commitment was renewed on September 27, 2025, when Grand Lodge held a Degree Rally at Warren Lodge No. 339. The Degree Master and team did a wonderful job with each degree. They were able to bestow the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degree on 9 new Brothers and Sisters, and the Grand Lodge Degree on 2 Brothers and Sisters. What a wonderful day for Odd Fellowship. There was a tremendous amount of commitment from all the Brothers and Sisters who participated in the degree work. I thank each and everyone who helped make this rally a huge success. The growth of our order depends on everyone who makes a commitment: our District Deputy Grand Masters, new members and current members who work with each other in harmony to be the anchor of our lodges and communities. Enjoy our fall season, and have a spooky Halloween.

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

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH STRAUSSER

An Empty Chair

Joe has been called to Heaven. I think of Heaven as perpetual springtime, everything bright and sunny and sky blue and brand new where we are restored and the cares and struggle of this life have fallen away.

Joe is being restored and renewed in spirit and his good deeds are like jewels in a crown, gleaming now in eternal light.

In time, you will wipe away the horror and tears of loss and turn your heart to the gifts of memories of this amazing man.

What a blessing to have Joe in our Lodges and in our life. Let his deeds ring throughout the halls of your Lodge when you speak of him.

Joe was loved and respected by All Who Knew Him. Joe had a sense of humor too. At a Rebekah meeting 2024 we were discussing consolation with another ??? Lodge. Joe stated, "He was the oldest long-time member 35 years (really 37 years) of Letita Penn. After the meeting, I said "I do not have that many years with Letita Penn. Does consolation count?" He said "What Lodge and When?" I said, "Lady Mystic #141 since 1983". Joe let out a hearty laugh and said, "You Got Me Beat!"

In FLT
Dorothea Oertel PGP

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

35 YEARS

Danny A. Crawford, #307
Marc T. Lokesak, #523
Mark R. Mathews, #523

40 YEARS

Daniel G. Vieth, Jr., #278

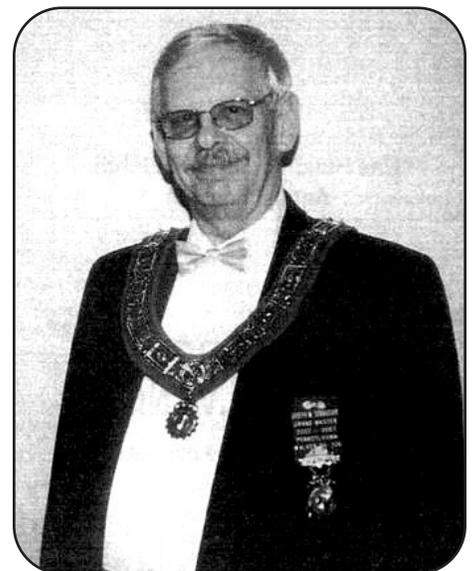
50 YEARS

Wayne S. Fulmer, #306
Evan R. Burr, #523

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

Lititz Lodge No. 1050
Kip L. McConnell - initiated November 18th
Velma M. McConnell
Carolyn A. Blalock

Wysox Lodge No. 1152
Joseph R. Clary - initiated December 20th
Wendy Antalek



Joseph M. Strausser
Grand Master June 2002-2003

HARMONY LODGE HONORS MEMBERS

At the Tamaqua Christmas Party, several members were honored for their efforts to Harmony Lodge. Present along with Noble Grand Jennifer Swett were DDGM Nicole B. Inama and Grand Master Paul E. Lautenschlager, who all addressed the audience. Brandon Mooney was presented with his Past Grand Jewel, Ashley Guscott was presented with a 5 year pin and Justin Bailey was presented with a 25 year jewel. Following the presentations was the ever notorious white elephant gift exchange, which unfortunately no pictures can be found of the gifts. Harmony Lodge has been incredibly active in their community this year. They have taken responsibility of the two town festivals, and help out for many other events in the Tamaqua area. It was nice to take some time out to celebrate Friendship, Love and Truth as friends and family



MALVERN CELEBRATES THE SEASON

On Monday, December 8th, Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge No. 201 of Malvern kicked off the holiday season with a dinner at the New West Chester Diner. The evening featured hearty meals, good company, and a “Year in Review” presentation delivered by Brother Dmitry with support from Brother Steve. The diner staff went above and beyond to help us: they even took down a large picture from the wall so we could project the slides, and they provided an extension cord and Wi-Fi. The presentation opened with an AI-enhanced image of our Lodge building, which got a good laugh - but the rest of the slides were the real highlights. They showed our members in action throughout the year: volunteering at events, participating in ceremonies, caring for the Lodge, meeting people, celebrating, and simply enjoying time together. Seeing those moments reminded us just how much we accomplished in 2025. Every member appeared in at least one photo.

We wrapped up the evening in great spirits, grateful for the busy, meaningful year behind us.

Fraternally,
Dmitry Panchenko, Warden
Malvern Pocahontas Lodge #201, IOOF



THISTLE LODGE NO. 512 OF PITTSTON CELEBRATES



Thistle Lodge was fortunate to be able to celebrate another successful year filled with health and prosperity. The Grand Warden of Pennsylvania also had the pleasure of presenting Past Grand Master Tom McHugh his 45 year pin.

KINGWOOD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kingwood Lodge #1010 had their annual Christmas party for their members and families. Three members certificates and one non-member certificate was handed out. The member's certificates were given to members that go above and beyond the duties of being an odd fellow and the non-member certificate was for going above and beyond to help the lodge in any way they can. Everett Sechler was presented with a certificate and a 50-year pin for 50 years of service in the lodge.



Brother Everett Sechler receiving a certificate for 50 years of service, also shown NG Doug Close and PDDGM Shawn E. Miller

SCOTT ENCAMPMENT HONORS MEMBERS

At the Tamaqua Christmas party, held on December 13th, we had 16 of our Patriarchs in attendance. With friends and family present, we were able to present Paul Lautenschlager with his Past Chief Patriarch Jewel. PCP Justin C. Bailey was also presented a 25-year jewel, having been initiated in to Scott Encampment November of 2000. CP Kilmer also recognized DDGP Jim Sellers, who brought remarks of his District. A great time was had by all.



The Officers and Patriarchs of Scott Encampment



CP Kilmer Presents HP Lautenschlager with his PCP Jewel

Lodges show their true heart during the Season

MALVERN PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PROGRAM

Some time ago, the members of Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge noticed a Facebook post inviting volunteers to help with the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Paoli Battlefield on Saturday, December 13. Brothers Rod and Dmitry answered the call. They helped with set-up and tear-down; Brother Rod also took part in the ceremony, while Dmitry took photos during the event. It was their first time attending, and they were impressed by the size of the ceremony and how well it was organized.

Before the ceremony, the Brothers met Nicole Roper from Historic Sugartown, who spoke about the Odd Fellows Lodge room on the third floor of the General Store building in Sugartown and plans to create a museum there. She also mentioned that they know relatively little about the Odd Fellows. Rod and Dmitry were glad to share some background, including the fact that the Sugartown Lodge was consolidated with the Malvern Lodge in 1923 and that we may still have their records. Dmitry then made a quick trip to the Lodge and returned with a Sugartown Lodge ribbon, which the Brothers donated to Historic Sugartown. After helping with the tear-down, the Brothers headed home in high spirits and with plenty of new impressions.

Dmitry Panchenko, Warden
Malvern Pocahontas Lodge #201, IOOF



SPRING CITY SPREADS SOME CHEER



Vincent Lodge #762 spread our holiday cheer to the Whitehall Apartments, a low-income veterans housing community in Spring City.

During their holiday party each resident received a gift bag prepared by our lodge with all the ingredients for a great dinner plus extra goodies for the holidays.

We had fun meeting the veterans and helping them out with a small token of our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. ~ Sue Grumblatt, Secretary



BOYERTOWN GETS TOGETHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Brothers and families enjoy the holidays at their favorite local restaurant: The world famous Spunktown Tavern. Happy New Year Everyone!



Boyertown Lodge at work in the community by sponsoring a tree for the 19 Annual Festival of Trees. All proceeds were donated to the Boyertown Multi-Service. Special thanks to Brother Ditter for his decorating expertise

Lodges show their true heart during the Season

LEWISBURG LODGE SPREADS SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

On December 18th, Lewisburg Lodge #96 visited Country Comfort Nursing Home close to the lodge. We brought cookies to the residents, sang Christmas songs with them, and Santa (Bro Scott Robinson) had a good time with them. Fraternally, Peggy Diehl, Secretary



Bro Gary Hallock with Bro Scott (Santa) Robinson. Poor Gary is sitting down after he found out he made the naughty list yet again.



ASKAM LODGE CONTINUES TO BE THE ANCHOR OF THEIR COMMUNITY



Active in the community, Askam Lodge No. 899 of Sugar Notch always provides for children at local event events. The Halloween parade, held jointly with the fire department Bicycles were raffled off, Christmas party held jointly with the lion's club, other community donations include feed a friend at Thanksgiving, Christmas gifts, such as warm blankets for nursing home patients, toys for local children in need & Pet supplies for local sheltered animals.

ALLENTOWN RELIEVES THE DISTRESSED

Vienna Lodge #847, of Allentown, partnered with the Emmaus lions club to visit families in the East Penn area who have personal tragedies and struggles in their lives and how difficult it would be to provide for a nice Christmas. Vienna lodge helped families this year by having a Christmas visit. The visit provides a meal for the family to enjoy on Christmas day, as well as a few presents for their young children, including a visit from Santa and elves. Also, with this year's gifts we delivered to children patients at the Reilly children's hospital at Lehigh valley. Vienna lodge takes much pride in this yearly Christmas visit and all their community involvement. - Rory J. King



FEBRUARY OBITUARIES

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



Edna M. Martinella
Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity Lodge No. 254
November 20, 2025

Sister Edna M. (Saylor) Steele-Martinella, 103, of Forest, VA, was initiated into Jeanette Lodge #701 on August 17, 2006. She became a member of Nathan Lewis-Fort Necessity Lodge #254, New Salem, PA, through consolidation on April 12, 2008. At the time of her death, she was the Lodge's oldest living member and the last full member of Jeanette Lodge #701 still affiliated with the Order.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Bob Steele and Gene Martinella, and one daughter. Surviving are four children, one step-son, 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Hills Church Cemetery, Export, PA.



Norma S. Fields
Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 86
November 26, 2025

Sister Norma (Kathleen) S. Fields, 95, of Philadelphia, PA, was initiated into White Dove Rebekah Lodge #538, Leroy, PA, in 1963. She transferred to Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173, Philadelphia, PA, on December 8, 1965 where she became a Past Noble Grand on October 22, 1969. She then became a member of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86, Tamaqua, PA, by consolidation on March 22, 2025. At the time of her death, she was Lady Harmony's oldest member, by age and tenure, and the last surviving member of White Dove Rebekah Lodge #538 still affiliated with the Order.

She was a member of Mt. Carmel UMC.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alton, and one son. Surviving is one daughter, one granddaughter and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Rosedale Memorial Park, Bensalem, PA.



Terry Fritz
Past RA Flag Bearer
Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge No. 202
December 9, 2025

Sister Terry Fritz, 63, of Dearing, GA, was initiated into Lady Lillie Best Rebekah Lodge #222, Schnecksville, PA, on June 20, 1979, where she became a Past Noble Grand on October 4, 2002 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree April 17, 2004. She held active membership in her Lodge, serving as Financial Secretary. She served the Rebekah Assembly as Pennsylvania Flag Bearer for PPRA Newman from 2008 to 2009. She became a member of Lady Hall Rebekah Lodge #202, Nazareth, PA, through consolidation on April 19, 2018.

She was a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ft. Pierce, FL.

Surviving are her parents, her mother, Charlotte, also being a member of Lady Hall, one stepdaughter, many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.



Joyce A. Paul
Idella Rebekah Lodge No. 58
December 16, 2025

Sister Joyce A. (Dunkelberger) Paul, 90, of Herndon, PA, was initiated into Idella Rebekah Lodge #58, Dornsife, PA, on April 11, 1959.

She was preceded in death by one son and one daughter. Surviving is her husband, William, three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Jacobs Cemetery, Pitman, PA.



Michael H. Gilbert
Boyertown Lodge No. 708
December 23, 2025

Brother Michael H. Gilbert, 78, of Boyertown, PA, was initiated into Boyertown Lodge #708 on April 13, 1976, where he became a Past Grand. He served many years as Secretary and was a dedicated member of his Lodge.

He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge. Burial will be private.



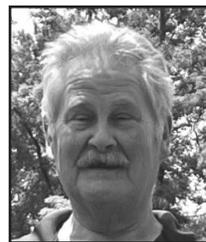
Wilmer M. Brown, Jr.
Leesport Lodge No. 141
December 25, 2025

Brother Wilmer M. Brown, Jr., 91, of Shoemakersville, PA, was initiated in to Leesport Lodge #141 on November 3, 1992, where he became a Past Grand on October 20, 1998 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on March 30, 1999. He served as Treasurer to Leesport Lodge for 20 years.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter. Surviving are two sons, one grandson and one great-grandson.

Services were conducted by the Members of his Lodge and burial was held in Pricetown Cemetery, Fleetwood, PA.



Findlay C. Wylie, III
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Hampton Lodge No. 1004
January 2, 2026

Brother Findlay C. Wylie, III, 73, of Penn Hills, PA, was initiated into Brushton-Swissvale Lodge #1107, Pittsburgh, PA, on May 27, 1971, where he became a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree on June 21, 1977. He then served as District Deputy Grand Master from 1984 - 1986. He became a member of Hampton Lodge #1004, Allison Park, PA, through consolidation on September 27, 2016. He was a former Rebekah of Mary Magdalene Rebekah Lodge #365, Pittsburgh, having joined November 3, 1977 until they went defunct on June 25, 2025.

He was a member of Kerr Presbyterian Church, Verona, PA.

He was preceded in death by his daughter. Surviving is his wife, the former Jody Ferguson, one son, and several siblings, one being William, also of Hampton Lodge.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held at Plum Creek Cemetery, Pittsburgh.

THE TREASURER'S TALES - FEBRUARY 2026

We have been following Barney's exploits on a month by month basis and we are now at February 1931. The month was arranged just like 2026, with the first being a Sunday. The big thing in February is St. Valentine's Day on the 14th, followed closely by Groundhog Day on the second.

February 1931 marked a few interesting events, on February 3, the Hawke's Bay earthquake in New Zealand killed 256. On February 4, the National Baseball League adopted the dead ball, a less resilient ball. February 10, Rodgers and Hart's musical, "An American Sweetheart" premiered on Broadway. On February 14, Dracula starring Bela Lugosi was released. February 17, the Hershey Bears played their first hockey game. February 21, Alka Seltzer was introduced. February 21, the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants played the first exhibition night baseball game. February had the following notable births: February 1, Boris Yeltsin, the 6th Rip Torn, the 8th actor James Dean, the 18th author Toni Morrison, the 25th actor Christopher George and on the 28th, actor Gavin MacLeod.

We are going to discuss the adventures of our furry friends in the woods this month. Specifically we are going to talk about the famous Melchizedek, raccoon hero. Melchizedek held an honored position among Odd Fellows and raccoons as well. He was regarded as the leader of the local gaze of raccoons. The group gave him the honorific title of professor and he taught young raccoons life skills. His formal lectures attracted raccoons from all over northern New Jersey and his name appeared in the yellow snow around Grovers Mills. He was special.

On February 11, 1931, he was called to lecture on the subject in which he was most knowledgeable, garbology. The lecture was in the field behind the Odd Fellows Hall. Ever since he was weaned, he had an inquisitive nature and a desire to discover what was in those sweet-smelling metal cans. He first told his students that care must be taken. Some particularly evil humans placed traps near their garbage cans. These traps could kill or maim the unwary raccoon. Since raccoons were able to grasp small tools, he suggested that they poke around the base of the can with a stick that was at least two feet in length. This way they would spring traps and avoid injury.

Melchizedek suggested they do their exploring at night when humans were asleep. He also noted that there was a great temptation to jump on the can to pull on the lid. He told his pupils that they would be pulling against their own weight and might fall and hurt themselves. He suggested they take the stick and push up on the edge of the lid, jarring it loose and perhaps knocking it off altogether. Once the lid was off, pull on the handle till the can was horizontal. Once the lid was off and the can was horizontal, the fun begins.

Before you eat anything, pull the treasure out of the can. Spread it on the ground so you can see what is there. Smell it first, if the smell makes you sick, don't try to eat it. If you are not put off by the smell, and few raccoons are put off by the smell, try sampling a small bite. Some human foods were bitter, but most tasted fine. If there were bottles in the trash with small amounts of liquid, be careful. Humans drink a substance called alcohol that can make you do strange things. Melchizedek told them the story of his uncle. A large and friendly raccoon who had the misfortune of drinking a third of a bottle of Scotch he found in a garbage can. After he was done drinking the Scotch, he wandered into the woods and tried to get a date for Valentine's Day with a bobcat. She did not like his amorous advances and made him aware of the impropriety of his actions. He was known as split nose for the remainder of his life.

He told them of the glory of pies, cakes, cookies and rotten ham bones. He wanted them not to be too dependent on garbage cans, because they may not be available. He also told them that if they made

much noise, they should run as quickly as they could because some humans would come out and shoot at them. He suggested running in a zig-zag pattern. He suggested that it was considered rude to defecate where they ate and that they should wait until they reached the woods. He then opened it up for questions.

One young raccoon asked if there were any rules of etiquette when it came to attacking garbage cans. He told the youth that they should follow their mother's lead. She would know if there was a pecking order and would settle disputes among siblings.

Another youth asked how to tip the can if there was no handle. Melchizedek told him this was tricky. He would have to grab the rim of the can and pull it over. Sometimes this would result in a back injury. Melchizedek told them that the closest raccoon chiropractor was in Trenton and he charged for his services, so they should be careful tipping a can from the rim.

One youngster asked how to tell if there were poisons in the garbage. This was a hard one, said Melchizedek. Smell usually indicated poisons. Bad taste was another indicator. He suggested taking small bites and waiting a while before taking the next bite.

On Saturday the fourteenth, the Odd Fellows were holding a dance with refreshments. He told his class that they should meet him in the parking lot of the Odd Fellow hall at 3:00am of the 15th and he would conduct a laboratory exercise with demonstrations. He then wished them well and dismissed the class.

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.

WYSOX LODGE ADDS TO THEIR RANKS



On Saturday December 20th members of District #9 traveled to Wysox lodge #1152 to confer the Initiatory Degree for 2 new members - Andrew Kilmer, DDGM#10

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER... HONORING MAJOR GENERAL J. BLAIR ANDREWS, PDC



I recently visited Rose Hill Cemetery in Altoona to honor our second Department Commander, Major General Sir J. Blair Andrews, GDC, who led the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant from 1903 to 1920. Last month I wrote about my visit to the grave of our first Department

Commander, Major General Deans. Together these two men led our Department for its first 26 years! As a pair they held office for 20% of our existence and therefore hold a tremendous influence over who we are today.

James Blair Andrews was born 1860 in Duncansville, Blair County to Augustus and Elizabeth McPike Andrews. He later moved to Juniata and Altoona where he spent the rest of his life. Mr. Andrews worked as a machinist. He was also President of the Altoona Building and Loan Association, President of the Altoona Public Works Board, served as an Altoona Councilman and ran for mayor of Altoona. He married Mollie Anderson and together they were members of the First Methodist Church of Juniata.

Brother Andrews joined our Order in 1885 as a member of Hollidaysburg Lodge #119, transferring to Logan Lodge #1059 of Altoona in 1894 (consolidating eventually with Claysburg #713, defunct 1991). He was a DDGM for many years. Patriarch Andrews was Exalted to the Royal Purple Degree in 1886 as a member Apalachian Encampment #69, transferring 1899 to Alti Encampment #89 (consolidated with Altoona #129 in 1952, defunct 1982). He was the founder of Alti which by 1910 was the largest of the fifteen IOOF Lodges in Altoona. He also served as a DDGP.

Patriarch Andrews then received his Chevalier Degree and became a member of Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant Canton Altoona #24. Chevalier Andrews steadily rose through our ranks until 1903 when he was appointed Major General and Department Commander of Pennsylvania - our second Commander. He was appointed by the SGL to replace Department Commander Major General Deans who was embroiled in a legal dispute. Major General Andrews took office at a difficult time for our Department, brought calm and order and served as Department Commander until 1920 - an incredible 17 years, making him the second longest serving Department Commander in our state history. He was awarded our highest honor, the Grand Decoration of Chivalry.

During Major General Andrews' term we were a large and growing Department. He oversaw the formation of many new Cantons, bringing the

number to about 60. For some perspective of the size of the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant consider that in 1911 the Blair County Battalion alone had 4 Cantons with a total of 170 Chevaliers - compared to our entire state today where we have 8 Cantons and less than 100 Chevaliers. He was part of our mounted cavalry and led massive parades on horseback. The Harrisburg Telegraph reported in 1914 that "headed by J. Blair Andrews of Altoona, Department Commander, nearly 2000 officers and Chevaliers of the Patriarchs Militant paraded here yesterday afternoon with a dozen bands and drum corps". In 1911 we had a large group to draw from - there were 150,000 Odd Fellows in the state with 1,200 Lodges! But Major General Andrews still hoped for more, frequently using the slogan in his speeches, "200,000 members in Pennsylvania, at least one Canton in every county".

Major General Andrews began experiencing serious health issues in 1914, when at the age of 54 he suffered a stroke. He recovered remarkably well, was able to resume his duties, but by 1920 had to resign due to ill health, sadly dying in 1923 at the age of 63. It was said of him in an obituary at the time of his death,

"Assuming the position of Department Commander in 1903, at a time when a strong hand was needed, and with a desire to see the Department advance, he proved himself both capable and worthy. He was of a most kindly disposition and lived a true Christian life in connection with his great responsibilities, for he was devoted to his love for the Order and his influence will be felt for years to come".

Major General Andrews' beloved wife Mollie died in 1941. I have found no reference to her as a member of our Order, but we took time to honor her and remember the tremendous support that she gave to her husband as he carried out his demanding duties in the Patriarchs Militant. She is with him, resting eternally, at Rose Hill.

I was joined on this day by a great group of Brothers from Korman Lodge #55: Brothers Henry, Gabrielson, Heiner, Maul and Miller. They were moved by our Department's efforts to pay tribute to our past leaders. At these various cemetery visits I have often felt the true meaning of F, L & T washing over us as the spirit of our lost Brothers and Sisters join with us. So it was on this day. I had been saddened to see that the marker for Mrs. Andrews did not have a date of death - the space was left uncarved. The Andrews had no children, she long outlived her husband, her stone was set up at the time of his burial and when her time came the death date was left incomplete. During our ceremony, as I remarked on this, a spontaneous loving generosity arose among this group of Odd Fellows - funding was given forth and a plan set up by the good Brothers of Korman Lodge to have the date finished on Mrs. Andrews' stone. It made me think of Department Commander Major General Andrews looking down upon us, satisfied in knowing that our Order endures and that we are still Fraternal Brothers looking after one another - honoring, helping and respecting each other - even after all these years.

Lieutenant General William F. Hanby
Department Commander



SHENANDOAH CELEBRATES THE SEASON



Shenandoah Lodge No. 591 met for their Annual Christmas party at Cracker Barrel in Frackville. As always, the members had a good time and enjoyed great food!

SAVE THE DATE
PGM Paul E. Lautenschlager
Testimonial
September 19, 2026

Holiday Inn
Dunmore 200 Tigue St.
Dunmore, Pa 18512

LADY HARMONY REBEKAH LODGE CELEBRATES 15 YEARS



At the Tamaqua Christmas party, Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge #86 had a lot to celebrate. Lady Harmony has been incredibly busy throughout the year, and have a lot to be thankful for. Thanks to PNG Pat Rarick, a beautiful cake was made commemorating the 15th anniversary of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge, being chartered June 12, 2010. PDDP Ashley Guscott was presented with her 10-year pin, and PNG Nicole Inama was presented with her 15-year jewel. Nicole is one of the charter members of Lady Harmony that joined when the Lodge instituted. Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager presented Noble Grand Gene Blaukowitch with a 2% Honor Roll Award Certificate for showing a gain in membership.



Periodicals

DECEMBER DONATIONS

GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT – SUICIDE PREVENTION				PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE	
74	Mount Zion	500.00	2	Unified	25.00
E135	Perseverance	500.00			
	Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania	<u>100.00</u>	488	Aluta	50.00
		1,150.00	2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
					75.00
PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND				VISUAL RESEARCH	
	Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania	20,000.00			
2	Unified	<u>50.00</u>			
		20,050.00			
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION					
2	Unified	50.00			
488	Aluta	<u>50.00</u>			
		100.00			