



# PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 101

May 2026

No. 5

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

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

\*NEW\* You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

## MEMORIAL DAY

As we come into the month of May, we reflect on those Brothers 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.

### Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

- PGM/PDC Joseph M. Strausser, Sr., U.S. Air Force - November 26<sup>th</sup>
- PGCo William S. Mooney, U.S. Navy & U.S. Army NG - January 29<sup>th</sup>
- GrMus Emeritus Paul L. Miller, U.S. Army - March 17<sup>th</sup>

### Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania

- PGP William S. Mooney, U.S. Navy Desert Storm & U.S. Army NG - January 29<sup>th</sup>

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

- PG John R. Palmer, Jr., U.S. Navy WWII - April 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Hopkins Lodge No. 87, Bristol

- PG Kermit W. Serfass, U.S. Navy Cold War - January 9<sup>th</sup>

### Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125, Shamokin

- PG Arthur P. Martin, U.S. Army WWII - April 19<sup>th</sup>
- PG Robert E. Milbrand, U.S. Army - July 7<sup>th</sup>

### Leesport Lodge No. 141

- PG Wilmer M. Brown, Jr., U.S. Army - December 25<sup>th</sup>
- PGCo William S. Mooney, U.S. Navy & U.S. Army NG - January 29<sup>th</sup>
- GrMus Emeritus Paul L. Miller, U.S. Army - March 17<sup>th</sup>

### Jordan Lodge No. 192, Schnecksville

- PG Kenneth R. Rothrock, U.S. Army - November 17<sup>th</sup>
- PG Lee P. Schleicher, U.S. Army Korea - March 26<sup>th</sup>

### Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge No. 201, Malvern

- PG Glenn H. Cockerham, US Army Vietnam - September 3<sup>rd</sup>

### York Springs Lodge No. 211

- G. Lynn Golden, U.S. Army - February 28<sup>th</sup>

### Paoli Lodge No. 290, Downingtown

- PG Hervey M. Painter, U.S. Army Air Corps WWII - January 26<sup>th</sup>

### Walker Lodge No. 306, Philadelphia

- PGM Joseph M. Strausser, Sr., U.S. Air Force - November 26<sup>th</sup>

### Triune Lodge No. 307, Middletown

- Elwood W. Krodol, Jr., U.S. Air Force - January 6<sup>th</sup>

### Clover Lodge No. 348, Baden

- Robert J. Taylor, U.S. Army - October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Alex T. Frantz, National Guard - December 6<sup>th</sup>

### White Haven Lodge No. 457

- PG Gerald L. Fisher, U.S. Marine Corps - March 31<sup>st</sup>

### Aluta Lodge No. 488, Nazareth

- PG Raymond H. Mackes, Jr., U.S. Navy - May 10<sup>th</sup>

### Latrobe Lodge No. 541

- Jack H. Lentz, U.S. Army - February 27<sup>th</sup>

### Mahanoy Lodge No. 551, Dornsife

- PG Eugene F. Shaffer, U.S. Army - February 4<sup>th</sup>

### Tunkhannock Lodge No. 699, West Nicholson

- PG Donald C. Church, Sr. - U.S. Air Force Vietnam - July 10<sup>th</sup>

### Boyertown Lodge No. 708

- PG Michael H. Gilbert - U.S. Air Force Vietnam - December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Mt. Hor Lodge No. 736, Cassville

- PG Robert G. Werner, Sr., PA National Guard - September 16<sup>th</sup>
- Kenneth L. Groff, U.S. Army Cuban Missile Crisis - January 14<sup>th</sup>

### Waterfall Lodge No. 773, New Grenada

- PG Clair W. Hawkins, U.S. Army - February 18<sup>th</sup>

### Hampton Lodge No. 1004, Allison Park

- PDDGM Robert L. Willison, U.S. Army - October 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Wysox Lodge No. 1152

- PG Robert J. Irvine, U.S. Navy - August 1<sup>st</sup>



@100FPA



# The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

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

**JUSTIN C. BAILEY**

Editor

1001 West Harrisburg Pike  
 Middletown, PA 17057

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

**\*\* Postmaster \*\***

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE**

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

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

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

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

**OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE**

- PAUL E. LAUTENSCHLAGER ..... GRAND MASTER  
 101 Maplewood Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431 570-877-5925 [pelmlh@hotmail.com](mailto:pelmlh@hotmail.com)
- JAMES W FULLER, SR ..... DEPUTY GRAND MASTER  
 577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388 [jim@rodneymsmith.com](mailto:jim@rodneymsmith.com)
- DAVID McHUGH ..... GRAND WARDEN  
 20 Washington Terrace, Hughestown, PA 18640 570-655-8627 [diggiefn@gmail.com](mailto:diggiefn@gmail.com)
- JUSTIN C. BAILEY ..... GRAND SECRETARY  
 1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-7419 [ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net](mailto:ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net)
- JOHN S. CUPP, JR ..... GRAND TREASURER  
 P. O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445 724-437-4629 [jcupp275@gmail.com](mailto:jcupp275@gmail.com)
- J. CARL GEORGE ..... GRAND REPRESENTATIVE  
 225 Sunridge Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 724-601-8098, [quickcarl73@comcast.net](mailto:quickcarl73@comcast.net)
- DAVID A. YOUNG ..... GRAND REPRESENTATIVE  
 20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7550 [iamanoddfellow@comcast.net](mailto:iamanoddfellow@comcast.net)
- ROBERT B. RUFF ..... JUNIOR PAST GRAND MASTER  
 841 California Avenue, Apt 610, Avalon, PA 15202 412-621-0872 [rruff2u@aol.com](mailto:rruff2u@aol.com)
- ANDREW L. KILMER ..... GRAND MARSHAL  
 940 Springhill Road, Sterling, PA 18463
- NICOLE B. INAMA ..... GRAND CONDUCTOR  
 153 Lake Drive, Nesquehoning, PA 18240
- TRACY L. KNIGHT ..... GRAND CHAPLAIN  
 747 Main Street, Duke Center, PA 16729
- BRIAN L. BARR ..... GRAND GUARDIAN  
 188 Peach Bottom Road, Willow Street, PA 17584
- FRANK A. HILT ..... GRAND HERALD  
 1022 Patriots Way, Quakertown, PA 18951
- DEBRA L. YOUNG ..... GRAND MUSICIAN  
 20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022
- MICHAEL D. BETTS ..... GRAND LODGE ATTORNEY  
 887 West Bristol Road, Warminster, PA 18974
- PAUL L. MILLER ..... GRAND MUSICIAN EMERITUS  
 1105 Stinson Drive, Leesport, PA 19533

**OFFICERS OF REBEKAH ASSEMBLY**

- IZETTA A. MCGILL ..... PRESIDENT  
 304 Constantine Road, Smock, PA 15480 724-677-2264
- RUTH A. GOOD ..... VICE PRESIDENT  
 P. O. Box 115, Fairmont City, PA 16224, [granma9295@yahoo.com](mailto:granma9295@yahoo.com) 814-275-4614
- SARAH M. BAER ..... SECRETARY  
 115 North Centre Avenue, Leesport, PA 19533 610-916-1990 [s.baer@baersservice.com](mailto:s.baer@baersservice.com)
- ELLA LEE TRULICK ..... TREASURER  
 161 Stover Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 814-383-4476, [ellietrulick@aol.com](mailto:ellietrulick@aol.com)

**OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT**

- JAMES W FULLER, SR ..... GRAND PATRIARCH  
 577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388 [jim@rodneymsmith.com](mailto:jim@rodneymsmith.com)
- COURTNEY V. FRANKLIN ..... GRAND SENIOR WARDEN  
 163 Upper Village Way, Tannersville, PA 18372 215-275-6258 [cvfranlin@aol.com](mailto:cvfranlin@aol.com)
- SANDRA L. HUCHEL ..... GRAND SCRIBE  
 1809 White Oak Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608, [shuchel@hotmail.com](mailto:shuchel@hotmail.com), 484-794-6781
- JAMES W. SELLERS ..... GRAND TREASURER  
 2453 Tower Road, Mohrsville, PA 19541 610-926-7023 [gramboppy@aol.com](mailto:gramboppy@aol.com)

**OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT COUNCIL, PATRIARCHS MILITANT**

- LTG WILLIAM F. HANBY, III ..... DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
 16 Lark Drive, Holland, PA 18966 215-704-5973 [williamfhanby@yahoo.com](mailto:williamfhanby@yahoo.com)
- COL MICHAEL J. WALLIS ..... DEPUTY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
 1080 Ridge Road, Montgomery, PA 17752 570-419-6507 [mmm7wallis@gmail.com](mailto:mmm7wallis@gmail.com)
- BG NICOLE B. INAMA ..... DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
 1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 570-778-6211 [inamanicole@gmail.com](mailto:inamanicole@gmail.com)
- COL® JOHN J. DZYAK ..... DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER  
 126 Hilltop Drive, Scottdale, PA 15683 412-558-3350 [jjdzyak@aol.com](mailto:jjdzyak@aol.com)

## GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

In Friendship, Love and Truth Greetings  
Brothers and Sisters,

It has been an exciting year so far. The April Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine had an article on the membership growth in Odd Fellows. What an achievement. It is nice to read how Pennsylvania compares to other Jurisdictions. We can be proud of our Odd Fellow, Rebekah, Encampment and Cantons. On April 11, 2026 at Aluta Lodge No. 488, Nazareth, PA, a Degree Rally was held, and Pennsylvania once again increased our membership. I am sure that there will be pictures and an article in the next magazine. Look for exciting news about the Rally.

I am looking for another milestone for our Lodges. This Month all of the Lodges should have sent in their semi-annual (March) report. How are we doing? Will we have 100% of the Lodges sending in their report before or by the due date? I hope so. With the accomplishment in membership we have had this past year, each Lodge member needs to look at the achievements of their Lodge in membership, meeting attendance, and what you have accomplished in your community.

Have you reached out to your brother lodges that need help? The Independent Order of Odd Fellows will not grow and continue for another 200 years if each Lodge is not accountable to its duty. As I have said in the past, it is work that we need to continue to do. Imagine where we would be today if Thomas Wiley said "Oh this is such a hard job, so I will leave it up to someone else to seek out new areas to open a Lodge or keep my home Lodge moving forward." Every member needs to remember that we belong to the greatest Fraternal Order in the world. Odd fellows are famous for their loyalty, patriotism, community and national service and humanitarianism to make this world a better place for mankind. We can continue our mission and duty if we all work together. I have touched on two things: First, congratulations on our achievement of growth in membership. Second, our duty as Odd Fellow Lodges to get our reports done on time, to continue to keep our Lodges alive, and to continue to meet. I believe all members will be the Anchor of their Lodge and community. Keep up the good work.

Fraternally,  
Paul E. Lautenschlager, Grand Master

## COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Lautenschlager has scheduled the following visits for May.

I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

- 1-3 - Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA
- 5 - Triune #307 OV - 7:30PM
- 18 - East Brunswick #802 OV - 7:30AM
- 21 - Lady Hall Rebekah #202 OV w/ RA

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

### 25 YEARS

- Lori R. St. George, #290
- Raymond B. St. George, #290

### 40 YEARS

- Todd M. Wood, #457
- Richard L. Bender, #562
- Roger L. Coleman, #562
- Larry D. Singer, #562

### 50 YEARS

- Dennis N. Rotz, #773
- Nathan Lewis-Ft Necessity Lodge #254, New Salem

### 55 YEARS

- E. James Stutler, #74
- James C. Bilger, #116

### 100 YEARS

- Red Rose Rebekah Lodge #586, Middletown

### 135 YEARS

- Kingwood Lodge #1010, Markleton

### 140 YEARS

- Canton Ridgely #8, P.M., New Columbia

### 155 YEARS

- Vincent Lodge #762, Spring City
- Waterfall Lodge #773, New Grenada

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

Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge No. 201  
Steven Collier - initiated March 13<sup>th</sup>

Mackinaw Lodge No. 380, Landisburg  
Jessica L. Grindle - initiated March 26  
Malinda Anderson

Osage Lodge No. 712, Lehman  
Steve Lavin - initiated February 25<sup>th</sup>

Vincent Lodge No. 762, Spring City  
Joan Wilson - initiated March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Timothy Robertson

## ITEM OF NOTE

One of the items to note this month, is we have a first on the list - Lori R. St. George, PDDGM and Secretary of Paoli Lodge No. 290 is the first woman on this list. Having been proposed by the late George Hanna, Lori was initiated in Malvern Lodge and became very active in the Order. She joined the Patriarchal branch in Delaware and served as Grand Patriarch. One of her most memorable and humbling experiences was to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington twice. As many of our female members seen, she had some skeptical Brothers at one time, but we hope this is a long gone sentiment. We've had female Grand Masters and Grand Patriarchs and I am not sure where are Lodges would be without these dedicated Sisters now belonging to the Order. Lori spearheads a movement that has shot Pennsylvania to the forefront of Odd Fellowship!

# NEW SIGNAGE FOR CHARLEROI LODGE #1030

Charleroi Lodge #1030 has completed a year-long project to replace its roadside identification sign. The original sign was old and hard to read, having faded significantly over time.

Last year, the lodge explored options for a new sign similar to the original. They contacted a local sign company, Camut LLC, and, after inspecting the site of the original sign, confirmed that a replacement could be made at a reasonable price.

Ted Camut, the owner of the company, provided the lodge with a drawing of the new sign and explained that he could produce an aluminum sign with high-quality reflective tape featuring colored letters and numbers, making it more visible at night. The lodge's website will also be displayed on the sign.

The lodge members were so pleased with the "new" design that they decided to order three signs for installation near the three main entrances to Charleroi. The lodge is currently awaiting approval from the North Charleroi council to proceed with the third sign, demonstrating their commitment to community collaboration and transparency. (and it's even spelled right!)

~ Submitted by Bob Grant, secy



# ODD FELLOWS & REBEKAHS ASSOC. OF W. PA 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The *Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania* is accepting applications for consideration in the awarding of a maximum of six (6) \$4,000 scholarships. This will mark the 21st consecutive year the Association has offered these Awards and has awarded an undergraduate total of \$252,000 since its inception in 2006. The application deadline for the 2026 Scholarship Awards will be Saturday, June 27, 2026. A copy of the "Rules," along with an "Application," was sent to all the lodges representing the Western District on April 1, 2026. 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 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 Scholarship Chairman Robert Grant at "robag@comcast.net," or
- 3) downloading from our website: "www.glpaiiof.org" beginning April 1, 2026. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 27, 2026.

## Places to GO... People to See

+ denotes details to follow

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

**JUNE**  
5-7 / Canadian War Memorial, Ottawa  
20 - 24 / Unified Session, Harrisburg (pg #)

**JULY**  
25 / IOOF Fun Day, Knoebel's, Elysburg+

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

# SGL CODE CHANGE

To all Odd Fellow, Rebekah Lodges, Past and Present Officers:

Please be informed the 2025 changes to the Sovereign Grand Lodge are now available. All Odd Fellow Lodges will be sent one directly at no charge. For those individuals interested for their personal Codes, the cost is \$ 3.50 per set, aordering one, please contact the Grand Lodge Office.

3.50 code change
.21 tax
<u>4.00 shipping</u>
7.71

## TREASURER'S TALES - MAY 2026

This month we will follow Barney's exploits for the month of May 1931. The world of 2026 is different from any other and every day we see events that are difficult to compare to others in history. On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building was first occupied. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Austria's largest bank failed, starting the collapse of central Europe's financial system. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, the B & O railroad launched its first air conditioned rail cars.

On May 6, Willie Mays, American baseball star was born. On May 13, Jim Jones, cult leader was born.

The last day of the school year was anticipated by all the students at Grover's Mill High School. Barney was anxious to start his spring planting and had been working every Saturday, getting his fields in order. There were rallies of some sort every Saturday in May, making things all the more difficult for Barney. He had mounted headlights on his tractor to help after dark. On Saturday, May 9, he attended an Encampment Rally in far away Allentown, PA, came home and ploughed into the evening hours and got up the next day to take Elizabeth to church to celebrate Mother's Day on May 10. He was glad to get back to school to teach on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>. The students were ready for the summer vacation and so was Barney.

Our column today shall touch on the many ways to celebrate Mother's Day. Elizabeth had three children, with another on the way. Barney tried to do all he could to help her, but he was so involved with so many things, he had to rely on his mother-in-law, Alice, for support around the house. Alice had six children, but the youngest, Virginia, was already 14 and did not require a lot of supervision. Barney was grateful for Alice and Vic and communicated with them daily.

Our Mother's Day column does not center around Elizabeth or Alice. Melchizedek's mother was Rebekah, but she had passed several years ago. As you recall from last month, Melchizedek surrendered his leadership position among the raccoons to his nephew, Saul. Today we are honoring Melchizedek's older sister and Saul's mother, Esther. Esther was one of the prettiest raccoons in the forest and had cared for Melchizedek when he was injured as an infant. She had given birth to Saul and several siblings in 1926. Both Melchizedek and Saul wanted this Mother's Day to be special for her.

Saul spent two weeks searching the highways and byways to find trinkets and valuables to present as a gift. He found an old clock, some shoes, a hood ornament, a girl's straw hat and various other auto parts that he fashioned into a sculpture. He knew his mother prized gifts

of food over other things. Clancy had a smoke house in his back yard, with a loose latch and no lock. Melchizedek and Saul traveled to this smokehouse late on the night of May 9 and removed a side of bacon that had been curing for several weeks. This would be the main gift for Esther.

Before going to see Esther, Melchizedek and Saul took the straw hat and put it on the grave of Rebekah. Rebekah had been Melchizedek's mother and Saul's grandmother.

As the sun rose on May 10, Esther's whole family greeted her near the hollow tree in which she lived. The gifts were spread on the ground and displayed for all to see. Melchizedek spoke first, reminiscing about Esther's care for him when he fell out of a tree at a young age. He became tearful when he spoke of Esther's kindness and tender care. Saul then went on at length about how good his mother had been, how he was raised to be an upstanding member of the raccoon community. He went into great detail on how his mother introduced him to his first garbage can. He was especially proud that his mother had taught him how to open doors.

After the speeches, Saul presented the side of bacon. He had a sharp piece of auto fender he had found along the road, and used it to slice the bacon. As is the practice with raccoons, Saul had washed the side of bacon in the neighboring creek, so it was ready to eat. The first and biggest piece went to Esther. She was overwhelmed with emotion. She had few words, but was able to gobble the bacon faster than Melchizedek, even though she had a bigger piece.

There was a luncheon for mothers at the Odd Fellows hall, and Melchizedek and Saul watched at a distance. Barney and Vic had brought in an abundance of food so that the mothers wouldn't need to cook that day. This was always a good spot for dessert. After all the Odd Fellows left, the garbage cans were inventoried by Saul and the raccoons came in for dessert. Partially eaten pieces of cake, melted ice cream and cookies that had fallen on the floor were consumed in less than a half hour.

I hope you have someone to celebrate Mother's Day with. If you run out of people, look to your pets and your neighbors. Feeding wild animals may seem like a good idea, but you must be careful not to create a problem for yourself and the animals.

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.

## KORMAN #55 INITIATES 3 NEW MEMBERS

NG Wes Lovell welcomes three new members into Korman Lodge #55.

A great evening with food and Odd Fellowship was enjoyed by all.



### LEHIGH VALLEY ODD FELLOWS HELP CHILDREN



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 \$1000 for this great cause and coming together for a great day of fellowship.  
~Rory J. King

### VICTORY LODGE MEMBER RECEIVES PIN

On Thursday, April 2nd, I Frank Hilt, DDGM presented to my Grandson, Patrick Weeber Jr. his 10yr pin as a Victory Lodge #658 member. Shown left to right is Patrick Weeber Senior Father, Patrick Weeber Jr, Frank Hilt, DDGM, & Jennifer Weeber, mother.



### ELDER HINDERLITER ACHIEVES HONOR



Happy Diamond Anniversary to Robert C. Hinderliter on earning your Eagle Scout!! 75 years ago, Pop passed his Board of Review for Eagle Scout. As it is understood, at that time he was the youngest Scout in Valley Forge Council to attain Eagle at 13 years old. Bob is full of a lifetime of Scouting history. In Native American culture. Elders are respected. Elders are knowledge, history and traditions. This is why as younger scouts we need to talk and recognize our elders in scouting while they are in the present. He is the Chaplain, and a 15 year member of Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #57 and the High Priest of Norristown Encampment #37.



### WARREN LODGE CONTINUES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN

Warren Lodge #339 continues to support the Chief Cornplanter Boy Scout Council by providing the facilities for use of the various Troops. During the month of March Troop 9, with Lodge members Danielle English and Wendi Donachy as Troop leaders, held their Monday weekly meetings at the Warren Lodge. This is a newly formed Troop and their permanent facilities are still to be determined. Also, in March Troop 31 from Youngville held an overnight lock-in at the Lodge where the members enjoyed the pool tables, pinball machine, air hockey, chess tables and more, with very little sleeping. Troop 9 also spent a two-night stay, Friday through Sunday, where the Troop worked on merit badges including the Cooking Merit badge, utilizing the Lodges recently remodeled kitchen facilities. The Troop then cleaned the dining room and kitchen and set the tables for the Lodge's Spring Fling Spaghetti dinner. It was not all work though as there was time for games. Like Troop 31, not much sleeping. ~Lou Dussia

## MID-ATLANTIC STATES CONCLAVE IN VIRGINIA



Ten Odd Fellows from Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge #201 and Vincent Lodge #762 attended the Middle Atlantic States Conclave in Roanoke, VA from March 27 to March 29.

Our Virginia Brothers and Sisters truly rolled out the red carpet of hospitality and did a fantastic job hosting the annual event. The program featured engaging meetings and skits, delicious meals, live entertainment, and - most importantly - great camaraderie among Odd Fellows from eight states.

An added bonus to our wonderful weekend was a stop at Buc-ee's - a first (but certainly not the last) for many of us! We are already looking forward to West Virginia in 2027.



President Izetta McGill and Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager present the Pennsylvania flag



Vincent Lodge #762 was well represented at the Mid-Atlantic States Conclave. They had a fun time seeing the sights of Roanoke along with connecting with other lodge members from several states.

## GRAND MASTER HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE!



At Freedom Lodge #88 meeting on April 1, 2026, Noble Grand Bert Terysen and District Deputy Grand Master Andrew Kilmer presented Brother Paul Lautenschlager his 50-year jewel. Paul was initiated on March 22, 1976. Congratulations to our brother and Grand Master on 50 years! Photo taken by Jessica Kilmer



## MAY OBITUARIES

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



**Paul L. Miller**  
**Past Sovereign Grand Musician/Grand Musician Emeritus**  
 Leesport Lodge No. 141  
 Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge No. 182  
 Earl R. Leiby Encampment No. 106  
 Canton Leesport No. 2, P.M.  
 March 17, 2026

Brother Paul L. Miller, 95, of Leesport, PA, was initiated into Neversink Lodge #514, Birdsboro, PA, on December 12, 1954, where he became a Past Grand in 1960 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on June 13, 1966. He immediately became active in the Grand Lodge and served five terms as Grand Musician, for PGM Muschlitz 1966 - 67, PGM Nelson 88-89, PGM Love 89-90, PGM Kirkwood 90-91 and PGM Morningstar from 93-94. In 1969 he served as Pennsylvania's Pilgrimage for Youth Chairman. He served as District Deputy Grand Musician for over 60 years. He served many years as Assistant Grand Secretary for PGS Robinson at Unified Session. On March 7, 1995, he transferred his membership to Leesport Lodge #141. On June 21, 2001, he received the title of Grand Musician Emeritus. He was then appointed to serve as Sovereign Grand Musician from 2002 - 2003. At the time of his death, he was the Lodges oldest tenured member, and the last surviving member of Neversink Lodge #514 still affiliated with the Order.

He joined Barbara Fritchie Rebekah Lodge #138, Shillington, in 1966, and became a member of Clementine Rebekah Lodge #571, Hamburg, PA, through consolidation on October 3, 1990 and finally Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge #182, Leesport, through consolidation on October 7, 1996. He served as Rebekah Assembly Musician from 2011 - 12 for PPRA Baer, and 2017-18 for PPRA Trulick. He was the Rebekah Lodge's oldest living member. At the time of his death, he served as musician for his Lodge, Encampment and Rebekah Lodge.

He was the oldest living Patriarch of Earl R. Leiby Encampment #106, of Leesport, by age and tenure. He joined Hamburg Encampment #106 on September 1, 1961 and became a Past Chief Patriarch on September 25, 1968 and received his Grand Encampment Degree on May 19, 1969. He was Pennsylvania's oldest tenured Chevalier, having been mustered in to Canton Reading (now Leesport) No. 2, in 1960. He served as Chief of Staff for MG John Kunkleman from 1968 - 1970 and held the rank of LTC®. He was also a longtime member of the AMOS, having joined in 1962.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church in Leesport.

Surviving is his wife, the former Beverly Henn, also of Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge, two daughters, five children and seven great-grandchildren.



**Michael Oliveira**  
 Triune Lodge No. 307  
 March 17, 2026

Brother Michael Oliveira, 42, of Lemon Grove, CA, was initiated into Triune Lodge #307, Middletown, PA, on April 18, 2015, and received his three degrees. He left the Lodge in 2022 and reinstated June of 2024.

Surviving is his father, step-mother, and grandmother.



**Lee P. Schleicher**  
 Jordan Lodge No. 192  
 March 26, 2026

Brother Lee P. Schleicher, 92, of Catasauqua, PA, was initiated into Catasauqua Lodge #269, where he became a Past Grand on October 20, 1960. He left the Lodge and later reinstated into Jordan Lodge #192, Schnecksville, PA, on March 15, 1988. He received the Grand Lodge Degree on November 17, 2001. He served many years as Inside Guardian and served as the Venerable Warden in the Jordan Lodge Degree Team. He was a former Rebekah of Lady Lillie Best Rebekah Lodge #222 of Schnecksville, where he joined November 6, 2006, and resigned on April 19, 2018. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest living member.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran and a member of Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, Catasauqua.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Carolyn Snyder, and one granddaughter. Surviving are three children, three grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in Fairview Cemetery, West Catasauqua.



**Gerald L. Fisher**  
 White Haven Lodge No. 457  
 March 31, 2026

Brother Gerald L. Fisher, 85, of White Haven, PA, was initiated into White Haven Lodge #457 in June of 1979. He left the Lodge in 1986 and reinstated October 14, 2009, where he became a Past Grand on October 25, 2023.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and a member of the White Haven United Methodist Church.

Surviving is his wife, Patricia, three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge.

## PILGRIMAGE TO BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI



In February members of the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant participated in the annual Beauvoir Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Biloxi, Mississippi. Chief of Staff to the General Commanding Lieutenant General Hanby and Chaplain General Brigadier General Inama joined Odd Fellows from across the country to honor all of our nation's heroes, with an emphasis at this event on those from the southern states who lost their lives

during some of the most difficult times in our nation's history.

Beautiful warm weather greeted us at the hotel located right on the Gulf Coast beach. The first day consisted of various meetings and an excellent school of instruction. That evening, following a fantastic banquet of home cooked southern foods, we were entertained by a gospel singer who is a friend of Benny and Mitzy Rayborn, long time organizers of this event. The next day was the ceremony at the Tomb itself, located not far from the hotel. This was a solemn, moving event with speeches by our Sovereign Grand Master, Rebekah President and the General Commanding. Other interesting guest speakers were featured along with cemetery guards in period uniform stationed at and near the Tomb and civil war cannon fire sounding throughout the day. The whole service, in this historic setting, was interesting to witness. As it came time to place our Odd Fellows wreaths an honor guard was formed by Officers of the General Military Council. Chaplain General Inama led us in prayer as she

did throughout the weekend. Lieutenant General Hanby had the honor of escorting General Commanding Owens as he reverently placed the General Military Council wreath at the Tomb. The Pennsylvania wreath was placed by Brigadier General Dodd of Florida as LTG Hanby and BG Inama were occupied with their duties as General Military Council Officers.

The Beauvoir Pilgrimage weekend is an interesting and moving experience. It is a memorial service for all, but because of its historic location it is oriented toward southern soldiers lost during civil war. Many of our Brothers and Sisters in Odd Fellowship are from the southern states and can trace their families back to those times. This memorial is in part a recognition of the loss of some of their ancestors. Pennsylvania has a rich Civil War history and many from our state are interested in it. The visit to Biloxi is Odd Fellowship engaging directly with that history in an important ceremony. This is a worthwhile trip for all Odd Fellows, both for the solemn purpose of remembrance and as an enjoyable gulf coast winter getaway.



~ LTG William F. Hanby, Dept Commander

## KORMAN HOSTS VALENTINE'S DINNER

A great evening of fun and fellowship was hosted by the members of Korman #55 for their family and friends. A delicious meal was prepared by NG Wes Lovell and his brother Jeff. A special thank you to Denise Oshall for her festive decorations. A great evening of Odd Fellowship was enjoyed by all.



## NORRISTOWN LODGE OFFICIAL VISIT



Grand Master Paul E. Lautenschlager and staff paid a visit to Montgomery-Curtis-Norris Lodge #57 in Norristown. A productive and great meeting was held and we hope the Lodge can build off of it.

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER... HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL LEON STAMM, PDC

In late March a group of Odd Fellows visited Forest Hills Memorial park in Reading to honor our twenty-first Department Commander, Brigadier General Leon S. Stamm, who led the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant from 2005 to 2008.

Leon Stewart Stamm was born 1929 at Gouglersville to Howard and Clara Wilson Stamm. The family moved to Shillington where he attended high school and then graduated from the Reading Business Institute. He later moved to Reading after his marriage to Laudine Rager in 1958. Mr. Stamm had an interesting career, working his way up in clerical positions and on to increasingly responsible assignments at Reading area financial institutions. His career was highlighted by his work on the development of the original ATM/MAC banking system. His contributions to the modernization of financial data processing were highly respected. Faith was central to Leon's life, committing himself fully to the First United Church of Christ in Reading. Music was also very important to him, being active with the Berks Grand Opera and Chorale. Singing at these and other venues was one of the great joys in Leon's life.

Brother Stamm joined our Order in 1948 at Shillington Lodge #1175 and as an Associate with Leesport Lodge #141. He was a DDGM in the early 1960's and served on many Grand Lodge committees. Patriarch Stamm was exalted to Royal Purple at Hamburg Encampment #106 (later Earl R. Leiby #106). He served as Grand Scribe for 15 years (1997-2012). He is remembered as being outstanding in degree work and installation staffs at all levels of Odd Fellowship, specializing as a soloist for the degrees. His singing ability was recognized by our Rebekah Sisters who chose him as their Assembly Soloist for 2011-2012.

Patriarch Stamm advanced to the Chevalier Degree as a member of Patriarchs Militant Canton Reading #2 (later Leesport #2) in the late 1950s, serving as Commandant for 14 years (1999-2013). Chevalier Stamm was also an Associate at Cantons Pottstown #6 and Allentown #39, serving as Commandant in both. In 2005 he was elected our twenty-first Department Commander, serving until 2008. Note that this was an unusual three year term in office, which followed the three year term served by Brigadier General Adams. This was a difficult time in filling leadership roles in the Department Council. By serving extended terms in office, both Brigadier Generals Adams and Stamm helped insure stable leadership for a six year period. Brigadier General Stamm was later appointed Chaplain General of the General Military Council by General Commanding Joseph Strausser (2009-2010).

One of Department Commander Stamm's greatest contributions to our Order and to the people of Pennsylvania was serving as president of the Middletown Home for 18 years. He was also a trustee for the Philadelphia Orphan's Home. Brother Leon he did everything an Odd Fellow should do - he gave of his time, resources and talents to our Order and to the community. He was a good Odd Fellow for 70 years, generously and



faithfully carrying out the principles of our Order and for this Brother Stamm was awarded the Meritorious Service Jewel.

We also took time to remember Brigadier General Stamm's wife, Laudine. She was a member of Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge #182 and an Odd Fellow of Shillington Lodge #1175. She was active with her husband as a director of the Middletown Home. Sister Laudine was also an accomplished singer and used this talent in our ceremonies. We respect the many years of her life that she dedicated to our Order and the faithful assistance that she gave to Brigadier General Stamm in the carrying out of his duties as a Chevalier in the Patriarchs Militant.

Brigadier General Leon Stewart Stamm, PDC died in 2022 at 93, joining his beloved Laudine, who had died in 2017. Both resided at the Middletown Home in their final years. They left behind a son, a daughter and grandchildren. Leon's obituary speaks of his witty sense of humor, his problem solving business-like outside and his heart of gold inside. He had poor eyesight for much of his life but it never slowed him down. One of his favorite sayings was "I don't know if I will make it to 100, but I know today is the closest I have come so far".

I was joined at this memorial by friends of the Stamms - dedicated Brothers from Leesport Lodge # 141 and Canton Leesport #2. This group has joined me for memorial ceremonies many times and I appreciate their support in my two year project to visit the graves of our Past Department Commanders. Captain Miller of Canton Leesport led us in solemn prayer and Grand Encampment Treasurer Sellers reverently placed a memorial flag at the grave. Also joining us were Brothers Blatt and Adams. It was a cold day and I do thank these Brothers for the dedication to our Order that they have shown. We visited the final resting place of Brigadier General Leon and Sister Laudine Stamm on behalf of all Odd Fellows to affirm our commitment to carry on their good work. Many of their fraternal family are still part of Pennsylvania Odd Fellowship today. They miss Leon and Laudine and we all must make sure that their contributions to our great fraternal Order will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant General William F. Hanby  
Department Commander

# PENNSYLVANIA PATRIARCHS ON THE MOVE



On Saturday, March 14th, a degree team assembled by the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania conferred the three Encampment degrees upon eight candidates from across New England during a special Degree Rally hosted by Friendship Lodge #20 of Massachusetts.

The event proved to be quite a test for the Pennsylvania Patriarchs, as it was a full ritual and required extensive planning and logistics. This time, most of the planning and organization was handled by PGP Laura Huchel, who did a remarkable job. The work included the usual tasks - recruiting the team, assigning roles, gathering props, conducting a rehearsal, and arranging accommodations - but also introduced some new challenges.

One such task was ordering new costumes: some of the old ones were gone, beyond repair, or available only in very small sizes. While today's budgets cannot compare to those of 1926, modern times offer new opportunities - if you need a Middle Eastern-style robe, you can order it directly from the Middle East. Finding suitable helmets is more difficult, but with some creativity, affordable solutions can still be found.

Another task involved reviewing the ritual and adjusting anything that might be considered inappropriate by today's candidates or audience. The ritual books were printed in 1996, and expectations have evolved since then. A third task - one that could hardly have been imagined even three years ago - was generating songs for the degree work using AI. Two members of the team took on this challenge. Though not musicians, they worked to guide the neural network toward producing music that resembled early 20th-century fraternal lodge songs rather than a modern multi-voice vocal ensemble.

Transportation was provided by Grand Patriarch James Fuller himself. It required a large van and a trailer to carry the team, costumes, and props across several states. GP Fuller handled the journey smoothly, with only a couple of stops along the way.



The degree team was an amalgam of seasoned Grand Encampment officers and new members exalted less than a year ago. Participants came from across Pennsylvania - from the Pittsburgh area to the Philadelphia region, with Middletown right in the middle. Patriarchs of all ages demonstrated remarkable dedication and discipline: when breakfast was scheduled for 6:00 AM, everyone was in the breakfast area on time - no tardiness.

Upon arrival, the team held another rehearsal and prepared the props. Nothing was overlooked, and even the smallest details were considered: sackcloth, bread, materials to construct a pool of water on site, a basin to remove the water afterward, a Bluetooth speaker, name tags on the robe covers - everything was accounted for.

Friendship Lodge #20 did an excellent job hosting the event. The Lodge was in very good condition, and meals and refreshments were provided. Several local Patriarchs attended the rally, and some joined the degree team to fill minor roles.

The degree work went well. With only one full rehearsal, a few minor quirks were inevitable, but they were more than compensated for by the passion and dedication of the team. During the Royal Purple degree, there were a few moments of welcome humor as the exemplary candidate passed through the trials.

After the degrees were conferred, participants were invited to speak. The Patriarchs agreed that this was an important step in revitalizing Encampment work in New England, and that the Pennsylvania team had demonstrated exceptional dedication. Any minor imperfections did not diminish the overall success. A clear indication of that success came when Patriarchs from Vermont announced the upcoming Conclave NEOFA, to be held May 15-18, and invited the team to perform the degrees there as well.

One degree team member, who had delivered his part entirely from memory, had a particularly rewarding experience: two elderly Patriarchs called him over afterward to thank him for performing his role "properly." It reminded them of earlier times, when all degree team members memorized their work.

The trip home was quick and safe, thanks again to GP Fuller. The team returned in good spirits, and PGP Laura Huchel has already begun recruiting members for the Conclave NEOFA.

Our photos include both official images and a few candid shots taken quietly during rehearsal.

## KNOEBELS PICNIC

### IOOF Day at Knoebels – July 25, 2026

The Pennsylvania Joint Youth Committee works to encourage youth involvement and create opportunities for Odd Fellow families to gather, connect, and grow together. Through events and activities across the state, the committee helps introduce younger generations to the values of Friendship, Love, and Truth while strengthening the bonds between our lodges.

One of our favorite traditions each year is the **IOOF Knoebels Picnic**, and we are excited to invite all members, their families, and friends to join us again this summer.

We will gather at **Pavilion "S" at noon** for a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and family time at **Knoebels Amusement Resort**.

One of the best parts of Knoebels is that **admission and parking are completely free**, making it an easy and affordable day for everyone.

#### Adult Meal – \$12

Includes:

- Hamburger and Hot Dog
- Baked Beans      • Macaroni Salad      • Cookie
- **1 FREE book of ride tickets** (\$5 value)

#### Kids Meal – \$6

Includes:

- Choice of Chicken Tenders, Hamburger, or Hot Dog
- Mac & Cheese      • Applesauce      • Chips      • Cookie

In addition, **all registered children age 15 and under will receive THREE FREE books of ride tickets** (a \$15 value) from the Joint Youth Committee.

Water, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided. Guests are welcome to bring additional drinks or snacks if they wish.

Additional ride ticket books may also be purchased at the **discounted rate of \$4.50 per book**.

Even if you choose not to participate in the meal, we still encourage everyone to join us at Knoebels. Bring your own picnic or enjoy one of the many delicious food stands throughout the park and spend the day enjoying rides, games, and fellowship with fellow members.

This event is **rain or shine**, and unfortunately refunds cannot be given due to park reservation requirements.

#### Lodges Are Encouraged to Participate

We hope lodges across Pennsylvania will encourage members and their families to attend. Events like this help strengthen our Order by bringing generations together in fellowship.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Knoebels for a wonderful day of Odd Fellow fellowship and family fun!  
~Joint Youth Committee

**Registration forms are included in this mailing. Please remember that orders and payment must be received by July 1st.**



**IOOF Knoebels Picnic**  
**July 25, 2026**  
**Pavilion "S" Lunch at Noon**

Name / Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Meal includes:** Hamburger & hot dog, baked beans, macaroni salad, cookie  
**\$12.00** also includes a book of ride tickets.

**Kid's meal includes:** Chicken Tenders \_\_\_\_\_ or Hamburger \_\_\_\_\_ or hot dog \_\_\_\_\_  
Mac & Cheese, Apple Sauce, chips and cookie **\$6.00** Check what entrée you would prefer

Kids 15 & under receive 3 ride ticket booklets

Water, iced tea, lemonade will be provided free of charge. If you would like soda, please feel free to bring it.

Adult meals: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kids meals: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kids tickets (no meal) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total Due** .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Payment to:** IOOF PA Jurisdictional Youth Committee

**Mail to:** Kathy Barber  
5503 Buffalo Road  
Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Please call if you have any questions: (570) 765-0629

Since we are now required to pay prior to the picnic...  
**Order and Payment must be received no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS! NO REFUNDS.**  
Event held rain or shine

---



---

 Periodicals
 

---

## MARCH DONATIONS - MARCH IS ARTHRITIS MONTH

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION		
1030	Charleroi	100.00
2	Unified	50.00
591	Shenandoah	50.00
847	Vienna	50.00
1004	Hampton	50.00
148	Pine Grove	<u>25.00</u>
		325.00

ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE		
E135	Perseverance *Camp JRA	10,000.00
DefR110/	Community Fdn *Camp JRA	2,097.28
270	Mystic *Camp JRA	700.00
762	Vincent	500.00
361	Strasburg	350.00
116	Brady	250.00
55	Fred R. Korman	100.00
278	Connoquenessing	100.00
957	Falls Creek	100.00
847	Vienna	50.00
74	Robert E. Raffensberger *Camp JRA	50.00
R182	Lady Colfax	35.00
96	Lewisburg	<u>25.00</u>
		14,357.28

PA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND		
708	Boyetown	100.00
658	Victory	50.00
148	Pine Grove	<u>25.00</u>
		175.00

PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
DefR110/	Community Fdn	2,097.28
254	Nathan Lewis Fort Necessity	200.00
1030	Charleroi	100.00
2	Unified	50.00
658	Victory	50.00
1004	Hampton	50.00
C1	Philadelphia	<u>50.00</u>
		2,597.28

GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT - SUICIDE PREVENTION		
97	Lewistown	1,000.00
2	Unified	500.00
57	Montgomery-Curtis-Norris	<u>500.00</u>
		2,000.00

PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE		
2	Unified	25.00
148	Pine Grove	<u>25.00</u>
		50.00

VISUAL RESEARCH		
In memory of Mildred & Willis Lough		291.63
488	Aluta	100.00
R182	Lady Colfax	35.00
E132	Scott	30.00
2	Unified	25.00
148	Pine Grove	25.00
R82	Mon Valley	25.00
R558	Lady Sellers	25.00
E37	Norristown	25.00
R123	Phoebe	<u>7.00</u>
		588.63