



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



Vol. 101

September 2026

No. 9

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

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

NEW You can also follow us on Instagram at @paoddfellows

2027 UNIFIED SESSION UPDATES

I want to make sure all our members have saved the dates for Unified Session. The PA Session will be held at the Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona PA.

Thursday, June 10, 2027.

Afternoon - Odd Fellow and Rebekah Board Meetings. Evening, Decoration of Chivalry.

Friday, June 11, 2027. Morning

- Grand Encampment Session. Afternoon - Department Council Session. Evening - Fun Night.

Saturday, June 12, 2027. Morning

- Grand Lodge Session ending at noon. Afternoon Rebekah Assembly Session. Evening at 6:00 pm Banquet followed by installation ceremony.

Sunday, June 13, 2027. Morning

Rebekah Assembly Session closing by noon. Memorial service at 1:00am. Afternoon Grand Lodge meets after the memorial service and closes sine die by 5:00pm.



Thanks to DGM Dave McHugh for the wonderful 250th logo

There will be more details to follow. The hotel includes breakfast at no charge for people staying there. There will be a lunch package that will cover Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For dinners other than the banquet, the hotel has a restaurant and there are about 20 restaurants within a 15 minute drive.

I will be giving out more details and have registration forms to go out in a mailer in January.

~ John S. Cupp, Jr.

Places to GO... People to See

SEPTEMBER

12 / Wings N' Wheels - GP
Franklin, Blue Bell, PA
19 / PGM Lautenschlager
Testimonial, Dunmore

OCTOBER

10 / IOOF Rally, York, PA (pg#12)

NOVEMBER

14 / Grand Lodge board mtg,
Middletown - 10:00am

+ denotes details to follow

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



@IOOFPA



The Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine

(USPS 426-500)

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

JUSTIN C. BAILEY

Editor

1001 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

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

** Postmaster **

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

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

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

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

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

OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE

JAMES W FULLER, SR..... GRAND MASTER
577 Ridge View Lane, McConnellsburg, PA 17233 717-729-1388 jim@rodneysmith.com
DAVID McHUGH.....DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
20 Washington Terrace, Hughesstown, PA 18640 570-655-8627 diggienf@gmail.com
DEBRA B. YOUNG GRAND WARDEN
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7047 choirdirector2022@gmail.com
JUSTIN C. BAILEY GRAND SECRETARY
1001 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-7419 ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net
JOHN S. CUPP, JR GRAND TREASURER
P. O. Box 275, Hopwood, PA 15445 724-437-4629 jcupp275@gmail.com
DAVID A. YOUNG GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
20 Truman Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 724-344-7550 iamanoddfellow@comcast.net
ANDREW L. KILMER GRAND REPRESENTATIVE
940 Springhill Road, Sterling, PA 18463
PAUL E. LAUTENSCHLAGER..... JUNIOR PAST GRAND MASTER
101 Maplewood Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431 570-877-5925 pelmhl@hotmail.com
WARREN C. GOLDEN GRAND MARSHAL
601 Joes Run Lane, Needmore, PA 17238-9016
DAVID R. GALLAHAR, JR.....GRAND CONDUCTOR
1326 West Tremont Street, Allentown, PA 18102
LAUREL M. VOSS GRAND CHAPLAIN
383 Cedar Flats Road, Warfordsburg, PA 17267
YVONNE M. CALHOON GRAND GUARDIAN
105 Old Farm Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036
PATRICIA A. FAUSTNER GRAND HERALD
366 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064-2805
MICHAEL D. BETTS GRAND LODGE ATTORNEY
887 West Bristol Road, Warminster, PA 18974

OFFICERS OF REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

RUTH A. GOODPRESIDENT
P. O. Box 115, Fairmont City, PA 16224, granma9295@yahoo.com 814-275-4614
DAWN M. FASSL VICE PRESIDENT
115 Constitution Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064 484-725-3187 koala3296@hotmail.com
JUDITH A. WERTSECRETARY
379 Kindt Corner Road, Leesport, PA 19533 610-926-1513 secretary@parebekahassembly.org
ELLA LEE TRULICK TREASURER
161 Stove Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 814-383-4476 elliétrulick@aol.com

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

COURTNEY V. FRANKLIN GRAND PATRIARCH
163 Upper Village Way, Tannersville, PA 18372 215-275-6258 cvfranklin@aol.com
ROBERT B. RUFF GRAND SENIOR WARDEN
841 California Avenue, Apt 610, Avalon, PA 15202 412-621-0872 rruff2u@aol.com
.....GRAND SCRIBE
JAMES W. SELLERS GRAND TREASURER
2453 Tower Road, Mohrsville, PA 19541 610-926-7023 gramboppy@aol.com

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT COUNCIL, PATRIARCHS MILITANT

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

GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Greeting Brothers and Sisters,

With summer in our rear view mirror, let's get ready for fall. Lodges should be holding elections this month and start working on their annual report. Yes, it's that time of year again. As painful as it may be, just get the report filled out and sent back in. Many of you might have heard next year our annual session will be held in Altoona at the Altoona Grand. I know it's a change and for some change; and for some, change is a hard thing. That is part of life. I assure you that all be fine. The plus side if you are staying at the hotel, breakfast is free. We are also trying a new format. We will start on Thursday and finish on Sunday. You will be able to attend all sessions that you are a member of and not miss out because nobody will be meeting at the same time. If the Grand Lodge is meeting, then the Rebekah's won't be meeting. More information will be sent out as we get things all worked out. Last month we instituted a new lodge #26 in Butler. It has been well over 20 years since we brought in a new lodge. We should be very proud of the hard work it took to put this all together and make it happen. Thank you very much to DDGM Shawne Balash and Sandy Lake lodge for all the work you put in. Welcome new members of lodge #26! Great to see so many new faces. As fall rolls in, keep working to spread the word of Odd Fellowship. I know some of you have fall events, get out and let everyone know about the Odd Fellows. Hang up a sign at you soup sell or hang it up on your parade float. Anything to spread the word helps. This year I challenge every lodge this year to bring in one new member. If your lodge accomplishes this, I will see to it that you get something special in return. Just think, if every lodge could complete this task, that would be more than 70 new members! This shouldn't be hard to accomplish with a bit of hard work. As I make my rounds of visiting lodges, it shocks me to find out that some lodges don't visit any other lodges. You need to get out and visit your fellow lodges. This helps bond us more as a larger group. You will be surprised at how much more in common you have than you thought. If your lodge wants me to come on a set date and time, please let me know. I'm now working on my November schedule. If I don't hear from you, I'll be out to see you soon. Until then, keep safe and enjoy Odd Fellowship.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,
Jim Fuller Sr. Grand Master

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

It's great for travelling Odd Fellows to get to see buildings all around the country! Here are two that have been received:

From Roger Calhoon, Triune #307: Pictured is the Odd Fellows Building in Cass, WV. Cass was a company town built by the West Pulp and Paper Company. It's now a state park and the restored houses can be rented out. The ground floor housed Kanes Grocery Store. It's now the Parks Laundry. Cass Lodge #368 consolidated with Winterburn Lodge #319 in 1955. Winterburn Lodge then went defunct in 2003.



Brother Jimmy Dimpter, Montgomery-Curtis-Norris #57, is riding his bike out west with some other people. He noticed the Mad River Lodge #243, located in Fairb, Ohio.

COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Fuller has scheduled the following visits for September. I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

- 10 - Alert #936 OV - 7:30PM
- 14 - Strasburg #361 OV - 7:30PM
- 15 - Falls Creek #957 OV - 7:30PM
- 17 - Mahanoy #551 OV - 7:00PM
- 21 - Nathan Lewis Fort Necessity #254 OV - 7:00PM
- 23 - Osage #712 OV - 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

25 YEARS

Gordon L. Bonini, #969

30 YEARS

Roger L. Brady, #254
A. Lyman Palmer, #699

35 YEARS

Alvin W. Walters, #278
Gary A. Gastemire, #1128

40 YEARS

Keith W. Ehmann, #1004

55 YEARS

Malcom C. Farrow, IV, #125

60 YEARS

Robert G. Rahn, #141
Anthony F. Visco, Jr., #306

70 YEARS

Harold W. Love, #377

FROM THE GRAND PATRIARCH

What I Learned During My First Visitations

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Tradition holds that a newly installed Grand Patriarch's first official visitation should be to his home Encampment. On Thursday, July 16, I had the pleasure of beginning my official travels at Perseverance Encampment No. 135.

Someone recently asked whether it felt different entering Perseverance as Grand Patriarch rather than simply as one of its members. Honestly, it did not—and I mean that in the best possible way. It felt like going home.

The familiar banter, fun, and fellowship were all there. Bruce Paynter presided over the meeting, which was attended by members of Perseverance and several Past Grand Patriarchs. I spoke briefly about Angel Flight East, my charity for the year, and about the ambitious visitation schedule we are undertaking.

Perseverance holds a special place in my Odd Fellows journey. It is where I received my Encampment Degrees, and it meets at Walker Hall, home of Walker Lodge No. 306, where I have been a member for more than forty-five years. Although this was my first official visitation as Grand Patriarch, it certainly will not be my last visit to Perseverance. Whenever I am in the area on a meeting night, I will make every effort to be there.

Past Grand Patriarchs have already offered helpful advice and encouragement. My father, Charles, and I frequently talk about Encampment—at meetings and during my time on the road, when he knows he has a captive audience. Another reminder that has stayed with me is that leadership requires us to respect our traditions and, just as importantly, to show up.

On Monday, July 20, my travels took me to Bushkill Encampment No. 35 in Sellersville. This was my first visit to Bushkill, although I have known several of its members for many years. Its lodge hall and surroundings have a completely different character from Walker Hall. Sellersville retains some of its small-town atmosphere, even as suburban development continues to reach what was once a much more rural community.

The members of Bushkill welcomed me warmly, and we were already discussing my next visit before the evening was over. Summer meetings can be smaller, so I look forward to returning when more members may be able to attend.

Later that evening, I visited Allentown Canton No. 39. Bushkill meets on the third floor of the lodge hall, while the Canton meets separately on the more open fourth floor, where its members have room to march and muster. Moving from one meeting to the other offered another reminder of the different experiences available within our Order and the fellowship connecting its various branches.

What have I learned from these first visits?

Most importantly, I have been reminded of the value of being present.

Many of our Encampments are located in smaller communities and rural areas. Their members may regularly see a District Deputy, but they may see the Grand Patriarch or other Grand Encampment officers only once during an entire term. I hope to change that during my year.

My goal is to make approximately thirty visits over the remaining nine months of my term and, if possible, reach every active Encampment twice. This is an ambitious schedule, but making more than one visit matters. The first visit introduces us. The next allows us to continue the conversation, learn more about the Encampment, and strengthen the relationship.

Official visitations should not simply be ceremonial appearances. They are opportunities for the Grand Encampment and its officers to remain visible and accessible. They give us an opportunity to listen, learn what is happening locally, encourage members, and better understand how we can support each Encampment.

Our jurisdiction includes Encampments of different sizes, in different communities, with different histories and challenges. Yet the fellowship I experienced at Perseverance, Bushkill, and Allentown demonstrated that the principles uniting us remain the same.

I look forward to continuing these travels and meeting many more of you along the way. If your schedule permits, please consider joining us at one of the following upcoming visitations:

Upcoming Official Visitations

Monday, September 28, 2026 - Ridgley Encampment No. 217,
9 East Main Street, Strasburg

Meeting: 6:45 p.m.

Monday, October 5, 2026 - Chosen Friends Encampment No. 88, 111
Church Street, Malvern

Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - General Worth Encampment No. 188, 3684
Finley-Elrama Road, Finleyville. Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Whether I am returning home or walking through an Encampment's doors for the first time, I hope every visit will create an opportunity to listen, learn, and enjoy the fellowship that makes Odd Fellowship so meaningful.

Sometimes leadership begins with something as simple as showing up.

Fraternally,

Courtney V. Franklin, Grand Patriarch

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

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania would like to
welcome our newest members:

Hampton Lodge No. 1004, Allison Park
Matt Williams – initiated July 14th

ODD FELLOW – REBEKAH SCHOLARSHIP

Thank yous

*Thank you to the IOOF for considering me for
this generous gift. It is being used towards my
college tuition to further my education.*

Thank you, Sadie Schaffer

INVESTING IN TOMORROW: THE PENNSYLVANIA JOINT YOUTH COMMITTEE

The future of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows depends on the young people we inspire today. While our Order has proudly served communities for generations through Friendship, Love, and Truth, it is our responsibility to ensure those values continue to thrive in the next generation. That is the mission of the Pennsylvania Joint Youth Committee.

The Joint Youth Committee is a collaborative committee made up of all branches of the order, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Cantons, & Encampments., who share one common goal: creating opportunities for young people to learn about our Order, develop leadership skills, build lifelong friendships, and experience the joy of community service. We believe that today's youth are tomorrow's Lodge officers, Rebekah leaders, and community servants.

Our committee works to support and promote youth activities across Pennsylvania. We encourage all Lodges to include young people in family-friendly events, community service projects, educational opportunities, and fellowship activities. By giving youth meaningful experiences with our organization, we help them see firsthand what it means to live the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

One of our initiatives is designed to encourage Lodges to involve youth in meaningful community service. The Joint Youth Committee will reimburse up to **\$100 toward a lunch/dinner** for youth volunteers who participate in a community service project sponsored by your Lodge. To be eligible, the Lodge must submit a photograph of the event for the magazine, along with a copy of the lunch receipt. We hope this program not only rewards our young volunteers for their hard work but also inspires more Lodges across Pennsylvania to plan service projects that engage the next generation. Through service, youth experience firsthand the satisfaction of helping others while learning the true meaning of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

The committee also helps coordinate statewide youth events throughout the year. Whether it's a day of fun at Knoebels, educational workshops, service projects, or other special gatherings, our goal is to create memorable experiences where young people can connect with one another while learning about the values that have guided the Odd Fellows for more than two centuries.

As we begin this new term, our committee has an exciting vision for the future. We hope to expand participation from every district in Pennsylvania and encourage every Lodge to identify young people in their families and communities who may benefit from becoming involved. We would love to see more youth attending our events, volunteering alongside members, and discovering that the Odd Fellows is more than meetings—it's a family dedicated to making the world a better place.

We also recognize that youth involvement begins with our members. Every Brother and Sister has the opportunity to mentor, encourage, and welcome young people into our activities. A simple invitation to attend an event, help with a community project, or participate in a fundraiser can make a lasting impression.



INVEST INVEST INVEST! Left is a picture of Rayne Shellhamer at the Educational Pilgrimage for Youth! She's now the current Vice Grand of Lady Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 86.

Just coming back from the Educational Pilgrimage for Youth is Kenny Bailey with his cousin, Bailey Pliska. Kenny is a member of Harmony Lodge #86 and Scott Encampment #132 of Tamaqua.

Think these "delegates" don't go far in Odd Fellowship? Why don't you ask our current Grand Patriarch and Grand Warden??



The Joint Youth Committee is not simply planning events—we are investing in the future of our Order. Every young person who experiences the kindness, fellowship, and service that define the Odd Fellows becomes another opportunity to preserve and strengthen our organization for generations to come.

If your Lodge has ideas for youth activities, would like to partner with the committee, or has young people interested in participating, we encourage you to reach out. Together, we can build a stronger future for Pennsylvania Odd Fellowship by creating opportunities where our youth can grow, lead, and serve.

As Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Joint Youth Committee, I invite every Lodge to join us in this important mission. Whether you're planning a service project, hosting a family-friendly event, or simply looking for ways to engage young people, the Joint Youth Committee is here to support you. Together, we can ensure that the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth continue to inspire future generations.

The future of our Order is not something we wait for—it is something we build together, one young person at a time.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,

Julie Stokes, Chairperson

Executive Committee Members

Julie Stokes, Chairperson
Andrew Kilmer, Co-Chairperson
Kathy Barber, Secretary
Nicole Inama, Treasurer

1ST BATTALION, 1ST REGIMENT PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Canton Philadelphia No. 1 and Canton Allentown No. 39
On Thursday July 9th, I had the privilege of attending the Public Installation of Officers for **Philadelphia Canton No. 1** and **Allentown Canton No. 39**. The installation was conducted by **LTG William F. Hanby**, assisted by **MG Justin C. Bailey**.

The following officers were installed for **Canton Philadelphia No. 1**:

- Captain – **Joseph Miczak** & Lieutenant – **Charles Danihel**

The following officers were installed for **Canton Allentown No. 39**:

- Lieutenant – **Justin C. Bailey** & Ensign – **Thomas P. Dargis**

The public installation was well attended by members of both Cantons, as well as family members and friends who gathered to recognize the officers assuming their new responsibilities. It was encouraging to see such strong support for the Patriarchs Militant and for the continued work of the Cantons.

Following the installation, everyone enjoyed a potluck-style meal prepared by members of the Cantons, their annual "coronafest". The fellowship

that followed provided an opportunity to visit with members, congratulate the newly installed officers, and strengthen the friendships that continue to make our Order so meaningful. It was a pleasure to extend my congratulations to each of the officers installed and thank the members of Philadelphia Canton No. 1 for their warm hospitality. As Bushkill Encampment No. 55 of Sellersville was also invited on these affairs, I took the time to visit them also.

We all wish each of the newly elected officers a successful and rewarding term as they continue to serve the Patriarchs Militant and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. ~ Courtney Franklin



ODD FELLOWS HOME OF WESTERN PA - MEADVILLE

Congratulations to the 2026 Scholarship Award Winners: Mckenzie Barger, Luke Bowers, Tobias Kitay & Mason Oliver! Under the visionary leadership of Lisa Brinker, President of the Odd Fellow Home of Western Pennsylvania, and the dedicated board, these exceptional young individuals and their families gathered to celebrate the pillars of scholarship, friendship, love, and truth. The Odd Fellow Home Board proudly honored outstanding students from across Pennsylvania. Take a moment to read about their achievements and visit the inspiring Odd Fellow Home Museum in Atlantic, Pennsylvania.



GREAT DAY AT KNOEBELS!

The Hilt's & Limone's day at Knoebel's with the IOOF. left to right. Taylor Hilt/Limone, Eileen Hilt, Elsie, Great Granddaughter. Paxton, Great Grandson in stroller, Nick Limone, Son-in-Law, Frank Hilt, DDGM. We had a "Great Day" FLT Brother Frank



SANDY LAKE LODGE CONTINUES TO EDUCATE!



Our continued education committee really outdid themselves! The lodge was packed, and everyone was focused on our amazing Clint. He gave a fantastic presentation to the students and their parents, and as usual, Beth put together a delicious spread. We like always, Independent Order of Odd Fellows - Sandy Lake, PA Lodge #573 is here to support our members and families, including Ryan, Noah, and Rachel. Which new membership will come into our lodge. Exciting stuff! Plus, the continued education scholarships and the Odd Fellows of Sandy Lake #573 on everyone's minds, we can only keep growing. Look at us now! ~DDGM Shawne Balash



FALLS CREEK SUPPORTING THEIR COMMUNITY



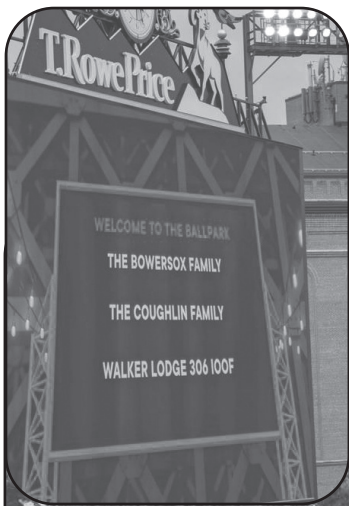
Falls Creek Lodge #957 sponsored a free swim in Dubois for the community, and gave away snacks and drinks. In conjunction with the 250-year anniversary of the nation. Noble Grand Jerry Weis, Bob Thomas & Joe Shick were present for the event.

~ Roger Mikulec, Sec

Another round of Hometown Hero Banners for Falls Creek. The Odd Fellows made happen. Roger Mikulec on this one.



WALKER LODGE GOES TO THE BALL GAME



On August 2nd, Walker Lodge No. 306 members friends and family attended a game of the Philadelphia Phillies and the Baltimore Orioles in Camden Yard, MD.



The members were treated to a great meal of all you can eat pulled pork, hot dogs, sausage, and plenty of other great food in the picnic pavilion. Noble Grand Charlie and Sister Judy Balmer did a great job providing beverages and entertainment on the bus. Everything seemed to go well, except for lovely Mother Nature. The game experienced an almost two-hour delay, and then after another inning or so, was called due to the weather. Fortunately enough, the Phillies still won 8 - 0.

MAHANOY LODGE HONORS STUDENT



On July 23rd Mahanoy #551 presented the recipient Stephen Ilgenfritz his Grand Lodge Scholarship award of \$1000.00

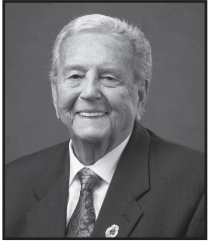
Stephen is the son of lodge member Mark Ilgenfritz. Stephen will graduate from Northumberland Christian Academy and attend Grove City College and study electrical engineering.

Congratulations and good luck in your future!



SEPTEMBER OBITUARIES

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



Richard H. Dibble
Mount Zion Lodge No. 74
Mount Vernon Encampment No. 14
July 2, 2026

Brother Richard H. Dibble, 94, of York, PA, was initiated into Crescent Junior Lodge #25, East Hartford, CT, in the

1940's. He joined the Odd Fellows in Maryland, being active in several Lodges, Pikesville Lodge #2, Jefferson Lodge #9 and was a Past Grand of Shiloh Lodge #111 of Granite, MD, in 1984. He became a member of Mount Zion Lodge #74, York, PA, on October 1, 2002, and received his Grand Lodge Degree May 17, 2003. He reinstated into Mount Zion Lodge on July 7, 2018. He was a former member of Salome Rebekah Lodge #30 of York, and Canton York No. 14, where he reinstated 2018 and received an honorable discharge in 2020. He was a Patriarch of Mount Vernon Encampment #14, York, PA.

He was a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Surviving is his wife, Alma, four children, ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.



Kenneth L. Stottlemeyer, Jr.
Strasburg Lodge No. 361
Ridgely Encampment No. 217
July 3, 2026

Brother Kenneth L. "Ken" Stottlemeyer, Jr., 66, of Strasburg, PA, was initiated into Strasburg Lodge #361 on February 28,

2013, where he became a Past Grand on November 28, 2016, and received his Grand Lodge Degree April 8, 2017. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's Chaplain. He was exalted to the Encampment as a Patriarch of Ridgely Encampment #217, Strasburg, PA, on May 13, 2013, where he was their Chief Patriarch at the time of his passing. He was a long-time trustee of the Lodge, helping maintain the Massasoit Hall.

Surviving is his wife, the former Joy Groff, three children, and two grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and burial was held in the Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Quarryville, PA.



Richard L. McAlpine
Nucleus Lodge No. 377
July 7, 2026

Brother Richard L. "Dick" McAlpine, 88, of Greensburg, PA, was initiated into General Worth Lodge #386, Connellsville, PA, on February 9, 2012, where he became a Past Grand on October 7, 2017. He became a member of Nucleus Lodge #377, Finleyville, PA, through consolidation on May 30, 2018, and received the Grand Lodge Degree on June 27, 2018.

He was a member of First Christian Church, DOC, Greensburg.

Surviving is his wife, the former Loretta Davenport, also a member of Nucleus Lodge, one daughter, two sons, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Westmoreland County Memorial Park, Greensburg, PA.



James M. Hiles, Jr.
Connoquenessing Lodge No. 278
July 20, 2026

Brother James M. "Squire" Hiles, Jr., 92, of Karns City, PA, was initiated into Bruin Lodge #534 on January 16, 1956.

He became a member of Miller-Karns Lodge #931, Chicora, through consolidation on March 21, 1970, and finally a member of Connoquenessing Lodge No. 278, Butler, PA, through consolidation on January 28, 1992. He was a Past Grand and received his Grand Lodge Degree on October 3, 2015. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's Inside Guardian, the oldest living member of Connoquenessing Lodge #278, by age and tenure, and the last surviving member of Bruin Lodge No. 534 and Miller-Karns Lodge No. 931.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Carol Young, and an infant daughter. Surviving are five children, 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Bear Creek Cemetery, Petrolia, PA.

THE DONALD TRULICK FUND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Trulick fund was set up to send students on the Educational Pilgrimage for Youth Tour. We would like to keep the lodges and members informed that donations help us achieve this. If you would like to contribute you can make a check to the Donald Trulick Foundation and send it to:

Col. John J. Dzyak Quartermaster
126 Hilltop Drive
Scottsdale PA. 15683.

THE TREASURER'S TALES - SEPTEMBER 2026

September sees the end of summer and beginning of fall. In September 1931 it was a warm month. The Great Depression was starting to be felt everywhere. School attendance is down. Parents can't afford clothing to send their children to school. Children are sent to work, so that families can get enough to eat. This is especially true in rural areas where children can work on the farm.

Many things happen all over the world, every day. Turning our attention to September 1931, on the first, Lou Gehrig hit his third grand slam homer in four days. On the second, Bing Crosby made his radio debut. September 10, Lucky Luciano arranged the murder of Salvatore Maranzano. On the fifteenth, the Philadelphia Athletics cinched the pennant, defeating Cleveland. September 16, the Cardinals cinched the National League pennant by defeating the Phillies. On September 19, Lefty Grove (Philadelphia Athletics) won his 30th game over the White Sox. On September 21, Britain left the gold standard and on September 27, Lou Gehrig completed his 6th consecutive season of playing in every game with a final batting average of .3486.

There were many notable births in September 1931. On September 1, country singer Boxcar Willie was born. September 4, saw the arrival of Mitzi Gaynor. Anne Bancroft was born on September 17. On September 21, Larry Hagman, J.R. of Dallas was born. September 29, the world welcomed Anita Ekberg. Angie Dickinson was born on September 30.

The school year began on Wednesday, September 11, 1931 in Grovers Mill. The warm weather and recent, summer vacation had the students overactive as the school year began. Grovers Mill had a 165-day year and was considered progressive. The attendance was down and several teachers had been laid off.

Barney had to get the students reading and writing, the basic tools in the English curriculum. Because the number of teachers was down due to layoffs, he was required to teach 10th, 11th, and 12th grade English. He wasn't the only English teacher, but the other teachers were required to teach different subjects as well as English. If he didn't want to teach 12th grade English, he could have switched it for Problems of Democracy or Chemistry. He stuck with all English classes.

Barney thought that teaching seniors for the first time, he would have more mature and dedicated students. He thought they would be more interested in learning than the younger students. He was wrong.

Barney was hoping he could get the students to tell him what they wanted to read and give feedback. The students knew that Barney had encouraged them to read plays and perform them. The twelfth graders wanted to read the same plays they read in eleventh grade. Barney had to come up with something new. He toyed with the idea of Shakespeare. But that met with resistance. He decided he would have the twelfth grade students write a play of their own. He suggested that they write about farm life in rural New Jersey. This did not get much approval from the students. The county fair was the week before school and it was quite popular. The students wanted to write a play about the county fair. Barney expected the students to write about the animals and farm product displays, the thrill of the rides and midway. The strange people who ran the carnival would make an interesting topic. He was unaware that boys and girls sneaking off together would turn out to be the most popular sub-genre. He had twenty four students in his class. He did six groups of four and turned them loose on day two, assigned to meet and come up with a story line about this topic. Day three, each of the six groups was to present its topic.

The six groups each had a different take on how they should explore the fair. The first group thought that they should all dress up as animals and discuss how they would take over the farm. The second group was interested in concessions and thought of a new candy item to

sell on the midway. The third group wanted to center a romance around a carousel. The fourth group (mostly farm kids) wanted to have tractor demonstrations. The fifth group wanted the play to be a walking tour of the fair. The final group wanted to be agricultural products, talking cabbage, singing carrots, etc.

Barney listed pros and cons for each idea. The animal costume idea would be too expensive to pull off. The new candy would require some exotic props. The romance around the carousel would not go over with the school administration and might damage Barney's career. The tractor demonstrations would not work in auditorium and would require tractors. The walking tour of the fair would require a big stage. The lifelike vegetables would be very different.

After two class periods discussing the different options, the name of the play was decided as the singing carrots. The students had to make their own costumes. Some were carrots, others ears of corn, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce (similar to cabbage), beans, squash and a lonely rutabaga. It was a musical. Public performances in early November, on Friday and Saturday evenings. It would be a smash, with no throwing rotten tomatoes.

The curtain raised and the entire cast sang *I was raised on country sunshine*. There was a humorous discussion among the carrots as to why the peas didn't come up. The tomatoes gathered and sang *You are my sunshine*. Next the squash and beans discuss why they hated rabbits and how unhealthy it was for rabbits to be allowed to roam the fields free and unfettered. The corn began a diatribe against raccoons. Apparently raccoons climb corn stalks and eat the corn off the cob while it is still growing. This was before intermission.

Intermission was a bit chaotic. Someone had left a door open and there was Saul and Melchizedek in the popcorn, enjoying refreshments while the play was going on. They were chased out the door and some unpleasant language ensued. The second act started late.

The potatoes opened by singing, *Beat me daddy, eight to the bar*, a popular song. Some quipped that this was the original *Mashed potatoes* song. The tomatoes gathered in a circle and sang *April showers*, and mimicked growing on stage. The lone rutabaga then did a solo from World War I, *How you gonna keep em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree*. The vegetables then began a discussion about going to the fair. They all boasted they were going to win the blue ribbon. There was a chorus of *Tiptoe through the tulips* with a tulip coming on stage at the end of the number. The finale was *Yes we have no bananas*. The rutabaga walked out wearing a blue ribbon just as the song ended and the curtain dropped.

Barney was so grateful that his show came off with no major flubs and only a little intermission problem. He gave all the students A's and thought he struck a chord. As he was getting ready to leave several sets of parents came up to him and congratulated him on the fine show. One of them asked if it was really necessary to keep the kids out till 10:00pm every evening for practice. Stunned, Barney told them he didn't have any evening practices.

The next Monday, many of the students looked despondent. They had all conspired to spend their evenings out, on extended dates. Barney had given them the perfect cover. After their cover was blown, many were punished and Barney would not be able to do another twelfth grade play.

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.

SHENANDOAH LODGE SUPPORTS FRACKVILLE

As we all know by now, it's the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It's also the 150th anniversary of the founding of Frackville, PA, in Schuylkill County. Though Frackville was instituted in 1876, District Lodge No. 823, of Frackville, was instituted in 1873, three years before the town was founded. They consolidated in 1969 with Shenandoah Lodge No. 591, which is the reason this Lodge has two cemeteries, and the reason Shenandoah takes part in Frackville's event.

For years, Shenandoah has taken part in their annual July 4th fireworks celebration. They have been selling cotton candy, candied apples, and several other items. The turnout has been growing every year, having more than a dozen members, friends and family showing. As it falls right around July 4th, it is normally right on the feet of Unified Session, and it is HOT.

This year proved to be the most bizarre of any they have ever had. The second picture doesn't do it much justice, but if you can see on the far right, Brother Kenny Bailey of Harmony Lodge, holding on to the tent for dear life. One of the worst storms many members have ever seen quickly and unexpectidly popped up. The tent another local group was using was lifted and twisted up like straw paper. Fortunately, Vice Grand Tom Dargis had secured the back of the tents to the chain link fence, so when the front lifted up, several members grabbed the fronts and held them down. Past Noble Grand Kate Bailey of Lady Harmony, and volunteers Corabel Najarro and Jackson Bailey held down the back of the tarp, but were practically thrown off when the wind hit. The fire company next to the Lodge sold funnel cakes and had large fryers. When the rain came in, one of the fireman attempted to cover the fryer, but ended up getting third degree burns on his arms and had to go to the emergency room.

The storm lasted around an hour and everything turned in to a giant swamp. Luckily enough, after the rain, most things (members included) dried off and the Lodge continued to have a successful evening and got to see some beautiful fireworks. The money raised goes back in to the community throughout

the year towards donations, as well as the IOOF charities. The fire company acutally packed up after the storm since the fryer and batter were ruined from the rain. The Lodge stepped in and donated \$100 to help buffer their loss a little bit. All in all, everyone had a good time, and can honestly say, this is one for the books!



ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS ASSOCIATION OF PA 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania announced the recipients of the "2026 Scholarship Awards." The Association's Award Committee (Chairman Robert Grant, George Hogan, Robert Ruff, and Debbie Young) presented five candidate recommendations to the Association's Board, and each, having fulfilled the requirements of the Award, was unanimously approved by the Board. Each received a \$4,000 monetary award, which was sent to their respective college/university. Makenzie Barger – daughter of Rhonda and Dale Barger (Rimersburg, PA). Mackenzie is a member of Phoebe Rebekah Lodge #123 (Rimersburg) and has completed her sophomore year at Gettysburg College (Gettysburg, PA), where she is majoring in Music Education.

Luke Bowers – son of Kristy Bowers (Confluence, PA). Luke is a member of Kingwood Lodge #1010 (Markleton, PA) and was a 2025 Scholarship recipient. He will be entering his senior year at West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV), majoring in Sports Management.

Tobias Kitay - son of Rachel Stone and Doug Kitay (Gibsonia, PA). Toby is the grandson of Marc Rosenwasser (Hampton Lodge #1004). His stepfather, Bradley Stone, and his uncle, David Rosenwasser, are long-standing IOOF members. Toby was a 2024 and 2025 Scholarship recipient and will be entering his senior year at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville, TN), where he is majoring in Finance.

Olivia Oaks – daughter of Jaime and Craig Oaks (Murrysville, PA). Olivia is a member of Alma Lodge #523 (Johnstown, PA) along with her father (Craig), grandfather (Richard), and brother (Cameron). She was previous-

ly awarded scholarships in 2024 and 2025. Olivia completed her junior year in the fast-track Physician Assistant Program at Seton Hill University (Greensburg, PA). The fast-track program will allow her to earn her PA Degree in 5 years, as opposed to the "normal" 6-7 years.

Mason Oliver – son of Melissa and Michael Oliver (Johnstown, PA). His grandfather, Joseph Oliver is a member of Alma Lodge #523 (Johnstown, PA). Mason, a 2025 Scholarship recipient, will be entering his junior year at Saint Francis University (Loretto, PA), where his primary course of study is Physical Therapy.

On behalf of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania, the 2026 Scholarship Award Committee wishes Makenzie, Luke, Toby, Olivia, and Mason, continued success toward the completion of their degrees and in all their future endeavors.

An "Application" and "Rules" for the OFRA of PA Scholarship Award (undergraduate) will be sent to all Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges in PA at the beginning of April next year. Notification of this Award is also submitted to our monthly magazine, the *Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine*. The application window typically runs from April to June, with a submission deadline usually around late June of the same year. The recipients are then notified before the beginning of their fall semester.

Submitted by Bob Grant, Chairperson

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BUCKS COUNTY

Interesting Facts:

Though the Encampments numbers ended in the early 300's, there were over 500 encampments in their almost 200 years of existence! Some of the numbers, you'll also see more than once, as some of these Lodges only lasted a few years.

Even having thousands of Chevaliers, we only had approximately 60 Cantons in Pennsylvania. There were around 30 Auxiliaries.

How many Encampments or Cantons were in YOUR County?? Did your County even have an Encampment or Canton? Did you ever wonder if your town had one?

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

BUCKS COUNTY ENCAMPMENTS

Bristol - Hope Encampment #31 - defunct prior to 1895
 Doylestown - Doylestown Encampment #35 - defunct 1956
 Hulmeville - Hulmeville Encampment #223 - defunct 1929
 Newton - Curtis Encampment #77 - consolidated 1939
 Sellersville - Sellersville Encampment #252 - consolidated 1974
Sellersville - Bushkill Encampment #55

CANTONS & AUXILIARIES

Sellersville - Canton Sellersville #52 - defunct 1912
Sellersville - Canton Allentown #39
 Sellersville - Allentown Auxiliary #39, LAPM - consolidated 2021

1st Encampment - Hope Encampment No. 31 in 1846
 Last Encampment - Bushkill Encampment No. 55

6 Encampments with 1 remaining



As shown for the 20th anniversary of the Sellersville Volunteer fire company in 1908, the hall of Sellersville Encampment #252 still stands, now home to Bushkill Encampment

NEXT MONTH - Butler County

A THANK YOU FROM THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Late last year, as a part of my Department Commander's project to visit the graves of all Pennsylvania Past Department Commanders, I visited the final resting place of our second Commander, Major General J. Blair Andrews and his wife Mollie at Rose Hill Cemetery in Altoona. I was joined on that day by an outstanding group of Brothers from Fred R. Korman Lodge #55. During our solemn and moving ceremony in remembrance of Major General Andrews, it was noticed that the gravestone for Mrs. Andrews was left partially unfinished. As we discussed this sad observation, it was concluded that this must have been because Mrs. Andrews died sometime after her husband and, there being no immediate family left to attend to the business of inscribing the stone, it was left incomplete. The Brothers of Fred R. Korman Lodge, being the dedicated and respectful Odd Fellows that they are, suggested that it is our duty and responsibility to come to the aid of Major General Andrews and cure this omission. The plan thus in place, I set out to work with the cemetery and monument companies and to request donations from Odd Fellows who wished to help. The following generously contributed to this effort:

Fred R. Korman Lodge #55
 Alma Lodge #523
 Al Johnson/Jamison Lodge #447

Thanks to these Brothers and Sisters the stone is now in the shop being engraved and will be reset at Rose Hill by the fall. I think that a comforting lesson that we can all draw from this is that our commitment to each other as a fraternal family - to help one another in times of need - is such a strong and fundamental principle of our Order that it extends beyond the present and even applies those who we lost many years ago. I am sure that Major General Andrews is looking down upon us with appreciation as we help him complete this important task that he was unable to carry out himself.

LTG William F. Hanby, PDC
 Department Adjutant

HAMPTON LODGE INITIATES MEMBER



Hampton Lodge 1004 performed the Initiatory Degree 7/14 and brought one new Brother, Matt Williams, into the order
 ~ Brandon Wald

Periodicals

JULY DONATIONS

VISUAL RESEARCH		
488	Aluta	100.00
1128	Fallowfield	80.36
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		205.36
PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE		
2	Unified	25.00
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION		
1128	Fallowfield	80.36
2	Unified	<u>50.00</u>
		130.36
PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
Odd Fellows Home of Western PA (Meadville)		2,000.00
2	Unified	<u>50.00</u>
		2,050.00
PA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND		
Odd Fellows Home of Western PA (Meadville)		2,000.00
1128	Fallowfield	<u>200.19</u>
		2,200.19

