

ODD FELLOW NEWS *of Texas*



MARCH 2026

Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication



Greater Houston #6 Degree Rally



Greater Houston #6 held a Degree Rally at the San Antonio Scottish Rite Cathedral in San Antonio on January 31st. The following Brothers went through the Initiatory, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees:

Greg Gillenwaters, Anthony Harris, Kristopher Ryan Hatfield, Roland G. Havens, Joseph Helminiari, Charles Alan Kee, Anthony Kimball, Robert C. Madison, Chase C. Parsons, Vincent Dominick Pierce, David G. Ryan, and Max Charleswell (2nd and 3rd Degrees).

The Degree Team consisted of: Brian Dodson, Daniel McGettrick, John Elkinton, Trinidad Magana, Bruce Smith, Guadalupe Sandoval, Troy Chapman, Benny Hernandez, Colin Haile, and PGM John Woolsey, Jr.

This Degree Rally was done in order to proceed as soon as possible with reconstitution of the historical San Antonio No. 11, the lodge originally founded in 1849, and that which built the historic Crockett Hotel as its temple in 1927, thereby showing that Odd Fellowship is alive and well in Texas! This was a return of the favor through the generations, because San Antonio No. 11 met in the top floor penthouse of that hotel (directly behind the Alamo), and once allowed Freemasons of the Scottish Rite to meet there as well, along with guests, during their cathedral's construction.

Afterwards, some of the new brethren and some of the degree team reconvened at the Crockett Hotel (only 2 blocks from the Scottish Rite) for lunch to toast this historic occasion.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's the end of February. I hope your Superbowl bets paid off, your parties were fun and no one was hurt in the ice storm.

In less than a month, Grand Lodge will convene to elect your new Grand Master. Like many before me, I will be happy to pass the gavel.

Please attend at least part of the Session. Any organization that relies on the same handful of people is in trouble. Even if you come for half a day, you are connecting separate lodges into our Fellowship.

Terry McElligott

So, the saying starts, "it's been real, it's been real fun". Being 2-3 hours from every meeting has been real. Why is everyone on 635 whenever I have a meeting on the other side of Dallas? It's been fun, it really has. Odd Fellows are good people to be around. Maybe because the Grand Master is here, we're on our best behavior? I don't see that. I saw good people doing great work with a great attitude. Helping others brings out the best in us. It's hard to frown when you're putting a smile on the faces around you. So, for me, completion of the saying is my year "has been real fun."

So many people have helped me this year I cannot begin to list you all. That is supposed to excuse my total inability to remember names. That said, I would be ashamed not to acknowledge a select few. The President of the Rebekah Assembly is a valuable partner to the Grand Master. Thank you to Christina for working together with me. The Past Grand Master is a wonderful resource. Thank you Charlie for answering every call. The person trying to be inconspicuous in every meeting is invaluable. Thank you Nancy. I wouldn't be here without the support and encouragement of the woman I love. Thank you Vivian. Remember, to be an Odd Fellow is to build a better world.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth
Terry McElligott
Grand Master

703 million people lack access to safe water

- MORE THAN 820,000 people ARE ESTIMATED TO DIE EACH YEAR DUE TO WATER-RELATED ILLNESSES
- 1 in 5 children LACKS ACCESS TO BASIC WATER SERVICE
- 2.3 billion people LIVE IN WATER-STRESSED COUNTRIES
- WOMEN SPEND 200 million hours EACH DAY COLLECTING WATER
- \$260 billion IS LOST EACH YEAR DUE TO INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION



Everything begins with water.

Join us at Living Water International in our mission to bring hope and transformation to millions around the world through access to safe water. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty, improve health and education, empower women, boost economies, and quench spiritual thirst with the life-changing message of the gospel.



Let's create a world where everyone can flourish, just as God intended.

Scan here to learn more.

Grand Master's Project— Please consider supporting the Grand Master's project, Living Water International, which provides access to clean, safe water to families & communities around the world. For more information, please visit water.cc. Thank you for your donations & support!



James Curtis

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with a sad heart I write my letter this month. I lost a very dear friend in Evelyn Smith this month and will miss her deeply. Robin, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. I ask that everyone keep Robin in your prayers. Evelyn was one of the sweetest persons you will ever meet.

Friday, the 27th, Christy, Nancy, and I will be meeting with the Grand Lodge Finance Committee to work up a budget for the 2026-2027 term. The budget for this coming year is a proposed budget as we don't have a clue what we will need to make out the year and that is why we must have another meeting in September with the Finance Committee.

I would like to take this time to wish Brother Ray Parrish a Happy Birthday as Ray turned 95 on February 26th! Our very own Nancy Chew has a birthday on February 27th.

Registration is coming in very slowly for our Sovereign Grand Lodge Session to be held in Frisco, Texas, in August. Does anyone out there know of a shuttle company that will transport members from the airport to the Embassy Suites in Frisco or know how we can get it handled? If so, would you please give me a call.

We still have some lodges that have not gotten their reports in, so if your lodge is one of them, you need to get this taken care of real quick.

I will close for now and hope to see you at the Grand Lodge Session.

In FLT,
James Curtis
Grand Secretary
Grand Instructor



What's happening

@ the Retirement Center



Valentine's Day 2026



Ennis Garden Club passed out Valentines to all residents. Pictured: Pat Warren, Patsy Goss, Joann Markham, Martha Schlottman



A fun trip to Russell Stovers for Valentine's Day. Pictured: Ray Parrish, Kathy Dlabaj, Shirley Malone, Bartine Dickerson



Residents enjoyed Valetine's crafts. Pictured: Ann Clagett, Patsy Goss, and Martha Schlottman



What's happening

@ the Retirement Center



Valentine's Day 2026



A visit from the Valentine! Pictured: Cheryl Baldrige, Levonne Cannaday, Ann Clagett, Rosanna, Martha Schlottman, Patsy Goss



Coloring the Valentine's banner brought by Bristol Hospice. Pictured: Brenda Blaylock, Patsy Goss, Ann Clagett, Rosanna, Martha Schlottman, Cheryl Baldrige



Snack table for Superbowl Sunday!

What's happening @ the Retirement Center



Mardi Gras 2026



Mardi Gras fun with Bristol Hospice!



Martha Schlottman



Ann Clagett



Olympics catch residents' eye! Pictured: Martha Schlottman, Patsy Goss, Ann Clagett

Capital Lodge #23
Austin, Texas
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Capital23.org



Tree-Planting at Historic Cemetery

The Capital Lodge No. 23 has been a partner with the Bethany Cemetery in East Austin for many years. This service work helps us fulfill our mission to “Bury the Dead.”

Bethany Cemetery was a private cemetery for Austin’s African American community. The first graves are from the 1870s, including a Grand United Order of Odd Fellows Brother. There are four known GUOOF Brothers buried at Bethany. It fell into disuse in the mid-twentieth century when a “perpetual care” cemetery was (finally) opened by the City of Austin for Black people in the 1940s.

By the 1980s, it was all but forgotten, and completely overgrown. It has been a struggle to conserve this cemetery. At different times many people have acted to clear the land and identify its historic place in our community. (For two decades, Brother Arro Smith would badger the Travis County Sheriffs Department to have their prison inmates mow it.)

For the last decade, Odd Fellows from Capital Lodge have worked to clean the graves, reset the fallen stones, preserve and conserve this rich history. Our current Noble Grand, Brother Keith Crippen has spent countless hours piecing broken stones and re-erecting monuments.

Our goal, along with the now-active Bethany Cemetery Association, has been to make the cemetery a welcoming destination, so new generations can learn the history of East Austin. It is now a well-maintained cemetery with beautiful—and interesting—grave markers. At least 135 formerly enslaved people are buried at Bethany. Odd Fellows found and restored the grave marker of Easter Pease, one of Governor Pease’s former slaves. The Cemetery Association has erected a historical plaque with a QR code that links to her “bill of sale” at the port of Galveston, found by Brother Arro at the Austin History Center.

To make it even more appealing, the Cemetery Association and the Odd Fellows teamed with another local non-profit, TreeFolks, to carefully plant 16 trees this last month. The project includes installation of a water tank, generator, and pump so the new trees are watered on schedule by volunteers. (There is no plumbing or electricity in this 19th-century cemetery.)

The Capital Lodge contributed \$3,000 for this venture with TreeFolks; we have been a financial sponsor of the Bethany Cemetery Association since its re-activation in 2021.

Children's Book About Fraternalism Now Available

The Anteroom Kid presents fraternalism for children

TUSCOLA, Illinois — Lodge members have a great love and appreciation for their membership in the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, with a strong desire to pass that love of fraternalism on to the young people in their lives but don't always know how. A new book by Brother Garrett Hite of Oklahoma presents an ideal opportunity to share that love. *The Anteroom Kid* tells the story of Russell, a young boy who attends lodge with his father, waiting in the anteroom during lodge meetings and dreaming up elaborate scenarios of what must be going on behind the closed door. It's a charming and heart-warming tale that depicts the sense of wonder and awe Russell has for his father and the lodge's activities.

The book is aimed directly at young readers, with bright illustrations throughout and a story that is readable by most elementary readers. Children will find a very relatable protagonist in Russell, who loves spending time with his father, especially in the lodge hall with its "platters of roast chicken, rolls, and an abundance of green beans." The real magic happens when the door to the lodge is closed and Russell is left to his own imagination, which conjures up all kinds of fanciful stories of knights, pirates, wizards, explorers, and a treasure map. Most importantly, the book imparts a sense of admiration about the lodge, exemplified by the line, "He didn't know what really happened in the lodge, but he knew one thing for sure: Whatever it was, it was something good."

The Anteroom Kid is available directly from publisher Heart In Hand Institute through their website at <https://www.heartinhandinstitute.com> and also through major online book sellers. Copies will be available for sale at the upcoming Sovereign Grand Lodge session in Texas.

Their first children's book, *The Anteroom Kid*, furthers the mission of the Heart In Hand Institute of providing quality literature for Odd Fellows, of both an instructional and entertaining nature. Their previous title, *The Odd Fellows Chaplain: History And Manual*, provided a much-needed history and guide for the role of Chaplain across all branches of the Order. Their joke book, *Three Links Hijinks*, filled a long-standing need for a collection of jokes appropriate for Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. *Emblems of Odd Fellowship* reintroduced modern Odd Fellows to our rich tradition of symbols used to teach our lessons. *The District Deputy's Guide* bolstered the field of member training by providing a comprehensive guide for District Deputies for the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Their first title, *The Odd Fellows' Primer*, has become the de facto book for educating new members about the history and traditions of Odd Fellowship, selling more than three thousand copies to date.





GRAND LODGE
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS OF TEXAS

-INSTITUTED 1841-
3440 WEST SECOND AVENUE
CORSICANA, TEXAS 75110
(903) 872-7438
(844) 872-7438
FAX (903)872-7277



January 19, 2026

TO ALL ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH LODGES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone is planning on attending the upcoming Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Sessions to be held Saturday, March 14 through Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the I.O.O.F. Event Center in Corsicana, Texas.

Ticket information for the various functions to take place during the sessions is attached. In addition to a listing of each of the events with prices and the menu selections, you will also find a registration and meal ticket order form enclosed. **A separate form will need to be completed for each person. The forms should be completed and returned along with payment to the Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. of Texas, ATTN: Nancy Chew, 3440 W. Second Avenue, Corsicana, TX 75110.** Please make copies of the forms as needed. Please order your tickets as soon as possible in order for us to provide the caterer with a count. Your tickets will be available in your pre-registration folder upon arrival at the session.

In considering the meal ticket information, I would like to encourage everyone to support these meal functions. If you plan on eating your meals on site, you will save time and energy instead of having to go out to one of the local restaurants for your meals. A larger crowd at each of these events adds to our fellowship and the overall success of our sessions.

Please pre-register and purchase your tickets no later than March 6, 2026. No tickets will be sold at the session. Debit and credit cards can be accepted to pay your registration fee while at the Session, but a \$3.00 fee will be added. Debit and credit cards will be accepted in the supply store located in the Grand Lodge Administration building. You will be given a printed receipt to present to the Registration Committee to show proof of payment. Unfortunately, debit and credit cards cannot be accepted for meals.

For your convenience, a list of the hotels located in Corsicana is also attached. Most of the local hotels no longer offer special rates, so you will need to contact them directly as their rates fluctuate throughout the year.

Donations are being accepted for the goody bags that will be distributed when you pick up your registration packet. If you or your lodge would like to donate items for the bags, please send them to the Grand Lodge Office no later than Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Some things that I would like to bring to your attention include a fun night with a Kentucky Derby theme to be held Saturday, March 14th from 6 to 8 pm at the I.O.O.F. Event Center. This should be a fun evening and food will be served. There is no charge, but we will need to know how many plan to attend. There is a space on the registration form for you to indicate if you plan to attend.

The Past District Deputy Grand Masters' Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 15th at the Whataburger restaurant located at 1709 W. 7th Avenue in Corsicana, Texas. Everyone is responsible for paying for their own meal and no reservations are needed.

This year, the Fifty Year Girls' Luncheon and the Fifty Year Boys' Luncheon will be a combined event. The luncheon will be held at Noon on Sunday, March 15th in the I.O.O.F. Event Center. Anyone may purchase a ticket and attend.

The Grand Master and President's Banquet will be held Sunday evening, March 15th, at 6:00 p.m. in the I.O.O.F. Event Center. On Monday evening, March 16th, the Installation of Officers ceremony will be held at 6:00 p.m., followed by a banquet honoring the incoming Grand Master and Assembly President, which will start at 7:00 pm. All of these events will take place at the I.O.O.F. Event Center and the dress code is business casual to semi-formal.

If you need additional information about the sessions, please call the Grand Lodge Office at 1-844-872-7438.

Fraternally,



Attest:



James Curtis
Grand Secretary

Terry McElligott
Grand Master
810-338-7329
tmcelligott@gmail.com

TM/nc

**2026 GRAND LODGE & REBEKAH ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
I.O.O.F. EVENT CENTER
CORSICANA, TEXAS
MARCH 14-17, 2026**

****** REGISTRATION & MEAL TICKETS ORDER FORM ******

NAME: _____ HIGHEST RANK: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 LODGE: _____
 OFFICE/COMMITTEE FOR THIS SESSION: _____
 ATTENDING: _____ GRAND LODGE _____ REBEKAH ASSEMBLY *(Mark only 1 Session)*
 OUT OF JURISDICTION VISITOR? ___ YES ___ NO - JURISDICTION _____
 TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

FUNCTION	PRICE	TOTAL
REGISTRATION	\$30.00	
REGISTRATION LATE FEE <i>(IF NOT PAID BEFORE 03/06/26)</i>	\$10.00	
PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON - 03/14/26 - <i>Invitation Only</i> (Saturday)	20.00	
FUN NIGHT - 03/14/26 (No charge, but we need a head count) (Saturday)	N/C	Yes or No
FIFTY YEAR BOYS & GIRLS' CLUB LUNCHEON - 03/15/26 (Sunday)	24.00	
GRAND MASTER & PRESIDENT'S BANQUET - 03/15/26 (Sunday)	25.00	
S.G.L./I.A.R.A. LUNCHEON - 03/16/26 (Monday)	18.00	
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER & VICE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET - 03/16/26 (Monday)	25.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE GRAND LODGE I.O.O.F. OF TEXAS. YOUR ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026.

MAIL TO: GRAND LODGE I.O.O.F. OF TEXAS
 ATTN: NANCY CHEW
 3440 WEST SECOND AVENUE
 CORSICANA, TX 75110

NOTE: REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AT 9:00 A.M., SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026. YOUR TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FOLDER UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SESSION.

**2026 GRAND LODGE & REBEKAH ASSEMBLY SESSION
I.O.O.F. EVENT CENTER
CORSICANA, TEXAS
MARCH 14 - 17, 2026**

NOTE: All tickets can be picked up at the Event Center ticket office upon arrival. The cut-off date for ordering meal tickets is Friday, March 6, 2026. There will be open seating at all of the banquets and luncheons.

PLEASE ORDER YOUR TICKETS BEFORE MARCH 6, 2026!

PRE-REGISTRATION

Price: \$30.00 if paid by March 6th and \$40.00 if paid after March 6th. (An additional \$3 fee will be charged for debit/credit cards used as payment at the session.)

PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON - *Invitation Only*

When: Saturday, March 14, 2026
Where: B. J. Longshore Boardroom - Administration Bldg.
Time: 12:00 Noon - 1:0 p.m.
Price: \$20.00

Menu: House Salad
King Ranch Casserole
Rolls and butter
Apple cobbler
Tea & Coffee

FIFTY YEAR BOYS & GIRLS' LUNCHEON

When: Sunday, March 15, 2026
Where: Ballroom "East" - I.O.O.F. Event Center
Time: 12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm
Price: \$24.00

Menu: Honey baked ham
Scalloped potatoes
Glazed carrots
Chocolate molten cake
Tea & Coffee

GRAND MASTER & PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

When: Sunday, March 15, 2026
Where: Ballroom "East" - I.O.O.F. Event Center
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Price: \$25.00

Menu: House Salad
Chicken Skewers
Green beans
Baked red potatoes with onions
Rolls and butter
Cheesecake
Tea & Coffee

S.G.L./I.A.R.A. LUNCHEON

When: Monday, March 16, 2026
Where: Ballroom "East" - I.O.O.F. Event Center
Time: 12:00 Noon - 1:00 pm
Price: \$18.00

Menu: Chicken Salad
Crackers or croissants
Apple pie with vanilla ice cream
Fresh Fruit Cup
Tea & Coffee

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER & VICE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

When: Monday, March 16, 2026
Where: Ballroom "East" - I.O.O.F. Event Center
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Price: \$25.00

Menu: Chips & Salsa
Beef enchiladas
Mexican rice
Pinto beans
Italian cream cake
Tea & Coffee

**2026 GRAND LODGE & REBEKAH ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
MARCH 14-17, 2026
CORSICANA, TEXAS**

HOTEL INFORMATION

BEST WESTERN EXECUTIVE INN

2100 E. Hwy. 31
Corsicana, TX 75109
903-872-5300

Rates: *Please contact the hotel directly as no discount is being offered and their rates fluctuate.*

No Pets (Except service animals) & No Smoking.

COMFORT INN

1946 E. Hwy. 31
Corsicana, TX 75110
903-875-0616

Rates: Singles - \$114.99 plus tax
Doubles - \$114.99 plus tax

** These rates are for 2 people per room. Each additional guest will be a \$10 extra charge per room per night. The maximum number of guests per room is 4. **BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE I.O.O.F. OF GET THIS SPECIAL RATE.***

No Pets (Except service animals) & No Smoking.

LaQUINTA INN & SUITES

2020 Regal Drive (Off I-45 and Hwy 31)
Corsicana, TX 75109
903-874-6292

Rates: *Please contact the hotel directly as no discount is being offered and their rates fluctuate.*

No Smoking Facility - Pets allowed with a non-refundable deposit.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES

623 Bryant's Way (I-45 @ Exit 229) (287 South)
Corsicana, TX 75109
903-872-2238 (1-800-HILTONS)

Rates: *Please contact the hotel directly as no discount is being offered and their rates fluctuate.*

** No Smoking Facility - Pets are allowed with a non-refundable deposit*

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

620 Bryant Way
Corsicana, TX 75109
903-874-7440

Rates: *Please contact the hotel directly as no discount is being offered and their rates fluctuate.*

** No Smoking Facility - Only Service Animals are allowed.*

I.O.O.F.
EX-STUDENTS' HOMECOMING



APRIL 26, 2026

Sunday, April 26

Business Meeting - 9:00am - 10:30am
(Main Building)

Bell Tower Memorial Service - 11am - 12pm
(@ the Bell Tower)

Sack Lunch/Picnic - 12:30pm - 3pm
(Main Building)

I.O.O.F. Admin Bldg.
3440 W. Second Ave. - Corsicana

Registration/check-in fee: \$5 per person or \$10 per family (collected at entrance table)
Please bring your own lunch for our upcoming gathering. We will be providing refreshing water and delicious desserts.



PLEASE CONTACT BECCA HAGLI AT 817-313-0504 FOR ANY QUESTIONS

54th ANNUAL
CANADIAN WAR MEMORIAL WEEKEND
June 5,6,7 2026

To All Members and Friends of Odd Fellowship:

Greetings:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Canadian War Memorial Celebration and Wreath Laying Ceremony to be held on June 5,6,7, 2026.

Our headquarter's hotel will be the Best Western Plus, Ottawa Civic Centre, 1274 Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ontario. Room rates are \$189.00 per night Queen Bed(s) \$ 199.00 per night for King Bed (Canadian funds plus applicable taxes). SEE PAGE 2 FOR RESERVATION. Rooms in our block are limited and must be ordered before **May 6 , 2025**. All rooms will be released after this date. **Blocks are for Fri, Sat and Sun nights.**

Our annual banquet and entertainment will be held at the hotel 1274 dining room on Saturday, June 6st . The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a time of fellowship and cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the banquet are \$70.00 and must be ordered in advance, No later than May 15. Your choice of **Chicken, Salmon or Beef** must be shown on the **pre registration form attached**. Suggested dress code is men in tuxedo, business suit or military uniform. For the ladies is street length dress or formal gown.

Our Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on **Sunday, June 7th** at the National War Memorial commencing at 11:00 a.m. Transportation will be provided. Wreaths are made of artificial flowers and can be used for many years. Those Jurisdictions who currently have a wreath are urged to have a representative available to present their wreath. The name of the person should be sent to the Secretary no later than May 15, 2026. If no representative is available, the committee will find an able body to present your wreath. Jurisdictions that do not have a wreath and would like to order one may do so by contacting the Secretary. The cost of a new wreath is \$200.00 and must be ordered no later than March 1, 2026.

On Friday evening there will be a informal get together in the Club 1274 Lounge from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Banquet tickets** will be available for pick-up at that time.

On Saturday we have scheduled no events for group participation for Saturday morning, however last year many people who arrived Friday evening decided on exploring Ottawa. See information on page 2.

The committee is looking forward to greeting you in Ottawa June 5,6,7, 2026
If you have any questions please feel free to contact the secretary

Mathew Forgie, Secretary
519-437-9221, matthew.forgie@gmail.com

... over

To make reservations, please have call, fax or e-mail as follows:

Direct Line 613-728-1951 Ext. 0 (do not use the central booking system call the direct line)

E-mail Frontdesk@ottawabestwestern.com

When making reservations, guests should refer to **Canadian War Memorial or Block ID 2595**, in order to obtain the special group block rate. The guest must provide a credit card for the first nights room and tax. The individual room reservation cancellation policy is up to 48 Hours prior to arrival. If the reservation is cancelled less than 48 hours of arrival, a one night room and tax charge will apply as a penalty.

All reservations must be made by May 5, 2026. All rooms will be released after this date.

Schedule of events.

June 5 2026 - Meet and Great at the 1274 restaurant 7PM until 9 PM. Banquet ticket pick-up

June 6 2026 - Banquet Social at 5 PM, Dinner at 6 PM in 1274 restaurant. Banquet ticket pickup

June 7 2026 - The 1274 restaurant will be open at 7 AM for breakfast

June 7 2026. - The Bus leaves the hotel at 10 AM sharp. Wreath laying at 11 AM following the changing of the guard. The bus will arrive back at the hotel between 12.30 and 1 PM.

Hotel checkout is 11 AM. The Committee will try to make a room available for luggage storage.

There are many things to do in Ottawa.

Museums:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Ottawa

Shopping:

<https://www.byward-market.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparks_Street

<https://ca.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-ottawa/>

53rd Canadian War Memorial Weekend
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
June 5,6,7, 2026

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee MUST be paid by all attendees and will reserve a seat on the bus

All registrations **MUST** be received no later than May 15, 2026 (If mailing from the United States, please allow a minimum of 2 weeks for delivery). After May 15 2026 the fee is \$ 15.00

Note: There is no shuttle service between Airport and the Hotel.

Annual Banquet is \$ 70.00 Canadian Funds

(Please **advise in advance** if you have any dietary restrictions and what they are so that we can arrange for an alternative. Place information on back of this form.

NOTE: Tickets will not be mailed. They can be picked up Friday, June 5, in Café 1274 between 7-9 p.m. or Saturday prior to banquet.

Registration form contact information

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Prov/State _____ Postal/zip code _____ Email _____
 My Title on June 1/2026 _____

MAIL TO: **Mrs. Sue Geurts**
2 Algonquin Trail
Newcastle, Ontario, Canada
L1B 1A1 Ph. 905-743-0838, suegeurts@gmail.com

Make all Cheques/Money Orders payable to "Canadian War Memorial Committee" in Canadian Funds

First Name	Last Name	Title	Chicken	Salmon	beef	amount

Total banquet _____

Number of registrations _____ @ \$10.00 CDN, ea, Total registrations _____

Total amount on check/cheque

=====



**Do you have ten years
continuous membership in
an Odd Fellow or Rebekah
Lodge?**

If so, you qualify for the lowest rate at the *I.O.O.F. Retirement Center* in Ennis, Texas. For details, please call Director Levonne Cannaday at 972-875-8641.

share with us!

DEADLINE IS THE 25TH OF THE MONTH
FOR THE NEXT EDITION.
EMAIL TAMARA.FRANKS@GLIOOFTX.ORG OR
MAIL TO OFN OF TX, 3440 W. 2ND AVE,
CORSICANA, TX 75110

EXAMPLES/IDEAS: LODGE ACTIVITIES &
EVENTS, PHOTOS, FUNDRAISERS, SOCIAL
NIGHT, DATES TO REMEMBER OR ANYTHING
YOU WANT TO SHARE!



REBEKAH LODGES

- **HARLANDALE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 179**

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday – 7 PM
@8707 Laurel Canyon Drive, Universal City, TX 78247
MAIL: 14215 Cradlewood, San Antonio, TX 78233
10/2026

- **CYPRESS REBEKAH LODGE NO. 22**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday – 7 PM
@VFW Post 8905 21902 Northwest Fwy, Cypress, TX 77429
MAIL: 3114 Pathfinders Pass, Spring, TX 77373
05/2026

If you need information on other Rebekah Lodges,
please contact Pam Isenhower @ (713) 775.9726

Obituaries

Crispin Green
August 10, 1938–August 16, 2025

Crispin Green, 87, of Muleshoe, Texas, passed away Saturday, August 16, 2025, at his home. Memorial services were held Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Trinity Church in Muleshoe.

Crispin was born August 10, 1938, in Clovis, New Mexico, to Lusky and Ruby (Smith) Green. He married June Beth Thompson on March 8, 1975, in Littlefield, Texas, and together they shared over 49 years of marriage.

A proud veteran, Crispin served in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1960 and was involved in the China Campaign in 1957. He was a lifelong truckdriver with the last 28 years driving for Walmart. He was a longtime member of the VFW and American Legion in Muleshoe and a member of Trinity Church. He was also a Veteran Life Member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Crispin enjoyed fishing and farming alongside his dad. In later years, Crispin spent time taking care of his mom and searching for material so she could piece together quilts. Also, one of his greatest joys was spending time with his great-grandson. Known for his honesty and truthfulness, he was a devoted husband, a loving son, loving dad, and a loyal friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, June Green, his daughter, Lola Jones, his brother, Tommy Green, and his sister, Bertha Stockman.

Survivors include his son, Monty Jones and wife Cheryl of El Paso, two daughters, Dorena Proudfoot and husband Mike of Sweetwater and Tammy Jones of Lubbock, one brother, Charles Green and wife Gale of Midland, and a sister, Norene Pearson and husband J.C. of Muleshoe. He was blessed with eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 17 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.





Obituaries



Sterling Edwin Newcomb, Jr.
March 17, 1948–January 13, 2026

Sterling Edwin Newcomb, Jr., 77, of Greenville, Texas, passed away on January 13, 2026, after a hard-fought battle with leukemia.

Sterling was born in Phillips, Texas, a small town in the Panhandle, where he developed friendships that lasted long after the town itself ceased to exist. It was in Phillips that he met his high school sweetheart, Karen, to whom he was married for more than 56 years.

Sterling received a law degree from Baylor University in 1971, after which he and Karen settled in Greenville, where Sterling practiced law for over five decades. He was highly respected by both his colleagues and his legal adversaries. Outside the courtroom, Sterling loved nothing more than to 'hold court' with his friends and family, often regaling them with stories of his beloved outdoor endeavors—hunting, fishing, and golfing. The jury's still out as to whether or not he may have, on occasion, embellished some details. Sterling was also a Veteran Life Member of Fred Ende Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

As intimidating as he could be in a courtroom, at home he was a kind, funny, and generous soul, who touched many lives. His presence will be greatly missed by his wife Karen, his son Trey (Joanna), grandchildren Liam and Lexie, sister-in-law Nikki (Mike), half-brothers Jerry and Bobby, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

A celebration of life was held February 7, 2026, at Coker-Mathews Funeral Home Chapel.

James Hulen
November 1, 1943–February 6, 2026

Funeral services for James Hulen, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, were held on February 11, 2026, at First Baptist Church. Mr. Hulen passed away at AVIR in Grand Saline, Texas, on February 6, 2026.

James Hulen was born on November 1, 1943, in Deport, Texas, to Marion P. and Allene (Loven) Hulen. James married Patricia "Pat" (Meier) Hulen on July 28, 2000, in Sulphur Springs, Texas. James worked as a successful self-employed photographer for over fifty years as well as co-owned Deport Hardware and Lumber. He was deeply involved in both his local communities, as well as in his hometown of Deport, Texas. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) – Commerce Lodge No. 234 and held several offices within the Order including District Deputy and Noble Grand for two years. He also served on the planning committee of the Grand Lodge of Texas. He was an Ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce in Sulphur Springs, Texas, as well as active in the Kiwanis Club and Professional Photographers of America since 1964. James was a volunteer firefighter for over twenty-eight years. During his life, he won many awards for his creativity and for his service to the community. James won the Martin Luther King Award twice in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and he was awarded the Ambassador of the Year of Sulphur Springs, Texas. He also won a Photograph Award and his picture was on display in Las Vegas, Nevada, for an entire year. He was a proud member of First Baptist Church for over fifty years.

James is survived by his sisters-in-law, Kathy (Meier) Cope and Linda (Johnson) Meier; brother-in-law, Robert Meier and his wife, Dian; stepdaughters, Julia Wilhite and her husband, Cory, and Rosa Blake and her husband, Kirt. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia "Pat" Hulen, and his parents, Marion and Allene Hulen.



Obituaries



**Evelyn “Oma” Smith
October 13, 1932–February 16, 2026**

Evelyn Joyce Smith passed away at the age of 93, leaving behind a legacy of devotion, accomplishment, and kindness that touched the lives of many. Her journey began with her graduation from Jefferson High School in May 1949, where she was a proud member of the Jefferson Lasso Dance team. Evelyn’s spirit and determination were evident from her early days, setting the foundation for a lifetime of meaningful contributions.

After school, Evelyn embarked on a distinguished 31-year career at Southwestern Bell, where she worked diligently and was a proud member of CWA Local 6143. Her commitment extended to 17 years at Ruidoso Racetrack, where her dedication was appreciated by colleagues and patrons alike.

Evelyn’s love for her community shone through her volunteer work. She served as an usher at Woodlawn Theatre during the vibrant 1960s, including the memorable Alamo premiere with John Wayne. Her remarkable efforts with the San Antonio Livestock and Rodeo Raffle Committee led to the sale of half a million tickets, and her participation in the Silent Auction and Calf Scramble further demonstrated her dedication. Evelyn also gave her time to the Medina Food Pantry, Ronald McDonald House, the Juvenile Diabetes Walk, and Fiesta, always striving to uplift those around her.

As an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, Evelyn enriched her faith community with her presence and support. She contributed to organizations such as SYLD, SISDEF, Birdies 4 Charity, ACT and Pioneer Luncheons, and the Leukemia Society, embodying the spirit of service and generosity.

Evelyn’s legacy is one of compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to family, friends, and the broader community. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her, inspiring future generations to follow her example of service and integrity.

Evelyn is preceded in death by her parents Ernest and Mary Tezel, husband Morris “Smitty” Lee Smith, lovingly known as Opa, and siblings Ina Mae Tezel and Dorothy Sims.

She is survived by her daughter Robin Cloberdants, Rebekah Assembly of Texas Past President, and adopted daughter Susie Pool, grandchildren Joshua Bradley (Amber) and Chance Routh, greatgrandchildren Christian Bradley, Wyatt Routh, Walker Routh and Lorelai Bradley, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held February 23, 2026, at the Hurley Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral services were held February 24, 2026, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Castroville, Texas.

UPCOMING *events*

DATE	EVENT	WHEN	WHERE
MARCH			
03/06/26	GL Session Registration Deadline		Send forms & payment to GL Office, 3440 W. Second Ave., Corsicana, TX
03/14-17/26	Grand Lodge Session		I.O.O.F. Event Center, Corsicana, TX
03/25/26	Odd Fellow News Deadline		All submissions are welcome.
APRIL			
04/10/26	Grand Lodge Executive Committee Meeting	1pm	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
04/11/26	W. & O. Homes Board of Trustees Meeting	9:30am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
04/11/26	Grand Lodge Board of Trustees Meeting	11am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.
04/25/26	Odd Fellow News Deadline		All submissions are welcome.
04/26/26	Annual I.O.O.F. Ex—Students Hi-Kids Homecoming	9am	Grand Lodge Admin. Bldg.

To
Staff
of
ODD Fellow
News.

Thanks so much for the wonderful news letters. I enjoy getting it, I don't do on-line or texting - so I have to do old fashion way.

So many fine pictures of all the center activities
Thank you keep up the good work.
Eddie Cassoday

TEXAS ODD FELLOW

LODGE DIRECTORY



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UPDATED 06/26/2025

Abernathy No. 809 - 728 Avenue C, Abernathy, TX 79311.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Saturday at 2:30 pm

Athens No. 961 - 1301 W. Cayuga Dr., Athens, TX 75751. Mail: 8833 CR 1406, Athens, TX 75751.

Meets: Thursday at 7:00 pm

Austin - Capital No. 23 - 6809 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78752. Mail: PO Box 49113, Austin, TX 78765.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Balch Springs No. 64 - 12001 Crumpton, Balch Springs, TX 75180. Mail: PO Box 800514, Balch Springs, TX 75180.

Meets: 1st and 3rd Saturday at 2:00 pm

Bryan - Brazos Valley No. 76 - 107 A S. Main St., Bryan, TX 77803. Mail: 4798 Holm Oak Rd., College Station, TX 77845

Meets: 1st and 3rd Saturday at 10:30 am

Carthage - Gaiety No. 84 - 106 E. Sabine, Carthage, TX 75633. Mail: PO Box 616, Carthage, TX 75633.

Meets: 1st Monday at 6:30 pm

Commerce No. 234 - 1210 1/2 Alamo Street, Commerce, TX 75428. Mail: PO Box 323, Commerce, TX 75429.

Meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm

Conroe No. 67 - 1018 N. Roberson, Conroe, TX 77301. Mail: PO Box 1332, Conroe, TX 77301.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30 pm

Corsicana No. 63 - 3330 W. 2nd Ave., Corsicana, TX 75110. Mail: 7361 SE CR 3060, Corsicana, TX 75109.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm

Dallas No. 44 - 1808 S. Hampton, Dallas, TX 75208.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Denton No. 82 - 1415 Eden, Denton, TX 76209. Mail: PO Box 1233, Bridgeport, TX 76426.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm

Ennis No. 227 - 2309 S. Kaufman, Ennis, TX 75119. Mail: PO Box 283, Ennis, TX 75120.

Meets: Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Farmersville - Pride No. 228 - 803 Windom Street, Farmersville, TX 75442. Mail: PO Box 263, Farmersville, TX 75442.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm

Ft. Worth - White Settlement No. 52 - 550 NW Summercrest Blvd. Burleson, TX 76028. Mail: 324 S. Fox Ln., Burleson, TX 76028.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm

Fort Worth No. 251 - 1501 Hemphill St., Ft. Worth, TX 76104.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm

Garland No. 304 - 125 E. State Street, Garland, TX 75040. Mail: 118 Sleepy Hollow Drive, Fate, TX 75189.

Meets: 2nd Monday, 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Gonzales No. 38 - 1405 Conway Street, Gonzales, TX 78629. Mail: 562 CR 238, Gonzales, TX 78629.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Grapevine No. 402 - 330 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051. Mail: PO Box 385, Grapevine, TX 76099.

Meets: 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Greenville - Fred Ende No. 87 - 3013 Washington Street, Greenville, TX 75401. Mail: PO Box 33, Greenville, TX 75403.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm

Houston - Greater Houston No. 6 - 2401 W. Bellfort Houston, TX 77054. Mail: 217 Williamsburg Ave., Clute, TX 77531.

Meets: 1st Thursday & 3rd Saturday at 10:30 am

Houston - Houston Heights No. 225 - 115 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77008.

Meets: 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm; Meet & Greet Social Meeting 1st Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Mineral Wells No. 440 - 1234 E. Lake Dr., Weatherford, TX 76087. Mail: Same.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm

New Boston No. 110 - E. Hoskins Street, New Boston, TX 75570. Mail: 713 Anderson Street, New Boston, TX 75570.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm

Plano No. 114 - 1111 Jupiter Road, #105b, Plano, TX 75074. Mail: PO Box 860643, Plano, TX 75086.

Meets: 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Smithville No. 393 - 406 Turney, Smithville, TX 78957.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm

Springtown No. 75 - 112 S. Main Street, Springtown, TX 76082. Mail: PO Box 924, Springtown, TX 76082.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Tyler - William Tell No. 27 - 1617 Golden Road, Tyler, TX 75701. Mail: 1107 Gardenia Drive, Longview, TX 75601

Meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday at 7:30 pm

Waco No. 137 - 3135 Franklin Ave., Waco, TX 76710. Mail: Same.

Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm

Waxahachie No. 80 - 208 1/2 S. Rodgers, Waxahachie, TX 75165. Mail: PO Box 324, Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Meets: Monday at 6:30 pm dinner; 7:30 pm meeting.