

Virginia J.O.O.F. & Rebekah Newsletter



July, 2026



From the Grandmaster's desk

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

First, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support as I have progressed through the chairs of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. As I begin my official last year in the chairs, I sincerely hope we can continue the path we began two years ago: restoring open communication throughout the jurisdiction.

This year's Grand Lodge session was certainly noteworthy. We had open discussions, heard new ideas, and considered and agreed upon several changes. I was pleased to see a few new faces this year, and I hope to see even more next year. One significant change is the location of the 2027 Grand Lodge session: it will be held in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on the campus of James Madison University at Hotel Madison.

Over the past couple of years, Brothers Chris O'Halloran, Ed Schilling, and I have discussed several important changes within the jurisdiction. With the welcome addition of Brother Paul Schilinski as our new Grand Warden, we hope to continue encouraging lodges to work together, participate in shared activities, and stay actively connected with the Grand Lodge. We also welcome Sister Angela Whitley, who was elected as our new Grand Secretary.

I am confident we will receive even more input this year from the newly formed Joint Communications Committee, which now includes two Odd Fellows members and two Rebekah Association members and will replace the Publicity and Social media committee.

Since this message will be shared after the Fourth of July, I hope everyone has had a safe and joyful celebration of our nation's 250th year. If your lodge did anything special to mark this occasion, we would all appreciate photos and a short write-up for the next newsletter.

Statewide Picnic,

Please plan to join others from across the jurisdiction at our soon-to-be-completed activity center in Madison Heights, Virginia, on August 29 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP before August 10th.

In F, L & T,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of VA

Tony Whitley, GM

REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

PRESIDENT



INSTALLATION SPEECH

Tonight, it is an honor to stand here as the newly elected President for 2026-2027. I will serve the Rebekah Assembly to the best of my ability.

To my officers, elected and appointed, I look forward to working with each of you.

To my Installing team, thank you for a job well done. Each one of you are special to me.

Kay, thank you for holding the Bible and placing my jewel. I love you.

Harmony Rebekah Lodge #36 was instituted in July 1934. My aunt joined in 1935; my mother and grandma joined in 1937. So, I grew up hearing the word, Rebekah's. On meeting nights, this 4-year-old went to stay with Granddad.

In 1957, I joined the lodge. In 1965, I received the Rebekah Assembly degree. The next year, I received my first appointment in the Assembly from Sister Clara Walters and this started my learning experience in the Assembly. My 61 years in the Rebekah Assembly have been enjoyable working with so many of the Past and Present Presidents and other Rebekahs. I was being prepared for tonight but didn't realize it until now. I never planned to be President.

In our May, 2023 Rebekah Assembly Monday meeting, no Rebekah would accept the office of Warden. That afternoon, two Sisters asked if I would be willing to have my name placed in nomination for Warden. They promised me they would help me and I told them to ask Scott if he thought I could handle the job. After much consideration, I agreed and on Tuesday, I was elected Warden.

My theme for the coming year is Harmony and Happiness—working in Harmony, we look forward to a Happy and Peaceful Year in 2026-2027.

My motto for this year is Take Time today to help someone. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may not come.

My emblem is the Bluebird symbolizing Happiness.

My project this year is the D-Day Memorial Education Fund. Through this fund, young people are able

to experience the history and learn about the sacrifices that have been made for them. I hope you will consider donating to this project.

In closing, I would like to thank the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs for everything you have done to help Scott and Kay on their journey with Kay's cancer. Working together as Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, that's what we do—help each other. Thank you so much. I look forward to my year as we work together in Harmony and Happiness promoting Friendship, Love and Truth in the Order and helping in our communities.

PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM

2026-2027

THEME: Harmony and Happiness—working in Harmony, we look forward to a Happy and Peaceful Year in 2026-2027.

MOTTO: Take Time today to help someone. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may not come.

EMBLEM: Bluebird—Happiness

SCRIPTURES: Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens."

Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

HYMNS: "Family of God" and "How Great Thou Art"

FLOWERS: Pink carnations and other seasonal flowers

GUIDES: Holy Bible, Ritual, Virginia Digest of Laws, Code of General Laws

PRAYER: Lord, grant me the strength to fulfill the obligation that I have accepted as President of the Rebekah Assembly of Virginia.

DEDICATION: My program is dedicated in memory of my parents, grandmother and aunt who was Past President of the Rebekah Assembly, my husband and Scott's dad who supported us in our obligation. He was not an Odd Fellow in name but enjoyed helping to make apple butter and other projects of the Order. Melvin lived a life doing for others.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT: Pilgrimage for Youth

SPECIAL PROJECT: D-Day Memorial—Children's Education Program

In F, L and T,

Nadine Dulaney, President Rebekah Assembly of VA

Department Commander

Hello my fellow Chevaliers,
Brothers and Sisters,



I would like to congratulate the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of Virginia on their sessions, and to the incoming officers I wish for you a productive and harmonious year ahead.

I'm asking all the past officers of the Department Council to think back when you were, Department Commander,

Deputy Department Commander, Adjutant and/or Quartermaster, what duties did you perform and when did you do certain tasks? I would like to create a guide for sorts to assist the officers in their duties. I for one have no idea what is expected of me. Please bring your ideas to the Mid-Session in November.

Also, think of how we can raise money to cover our expenses for the future. Our executive committee was split in their opinion of where the meeting for our Session would be held in 2027. With the information I received and my memory of our April 2026 meeting, I agreed that we would meet at the same time as the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Session in May 2027 at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg. We will be meeting on the Saturday before the official Opening on Sunday. We will discuss this more at our Mid-Session in November.

Chivalrously,
Thomasa Trent, Department Commander
Department Council of VA

SICK

Robert Burks Larry Moore Ray Karnes
Gerald Key Christine Bryant Howard Malin
Jack & Janet Gibson Scott & Kay Dulaney



DEATHS



Carl Moore Broyles

Carl Moore Broyles, 82, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2026, at Dogwood Village of Orange County Health and Rehabilitation.

Carl was born on November 5, 1943, in Paso Robles, California, while his father was stationed at Camp Roberts. In 1946, following his father's service in the U.S. Army, the family returned to Culpeper, Virginia, where they lived until 1956. Upon the death of his grandfather, the family returned to the Broyles family farm in Madison County, Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Shirley Cornelius Broyles and Dorothy Moore Broyles; his brother, Robert David Broyles; his paternal grandparents, Robert L. Broyles and Elsie Clore Broyles; and his maternal grandparents, Hiram David Moore and Angeline Zollman Moore. Carl's affection for and admiration of his grandmothers was unwavering.

Carl graduated from Culpeper County High School in 1962 and continued his education at U.S. Eastern Business School and Roanoke National Business College. He later served in the Virginia Army National Guard with Company "C," 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, based in Warrenton, Virginia. Carl served on active duty from 1966 to 1967, with assignments at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and continued as a reservist until 1971. He received an honorable discharge with the rank of Specialist 4 (E-4).

A devoted member of his community, Carl was active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Phoenix Lodge No. 59 in Culpeper, joining in 1968 and remaining a member until the lodge was disbanded. He was also a member of the Charlottesville Chapter, joining in 2006. During his many years of service, he held leadership roles including Noble Grand of the Culpeper Lodge and District Grand Master.

Carl was a lifelong and faithful member of Bethel Baptist Church in Reva, Virginia. His service to the church spanned decades, including more than 40 years as Treasurer, over 30 years as organist and pianist, and service as a Deacon and member—and often chair—of the Nominating Committee.

Known for his humility, kindness, and quiet generosity, Carl lived a life of service without seeking recognition. He seldom met a stranger and always had a kind word to share. He formed deep and lasting friendships, remaining thoughtful and caring toward others even in his final days.

Carl had many interests that brought him joy. He was an accomplished organist and pianist, a car enthusiast, and a devoted dog lover. His beloved companions—Ralphie, Apollo, and Murphy—were a central part of his life. He was proud to be the owner of an American Champion Shih Tzu (Murphy) and a Grand American Champion Shih Tzu (Apollo), traveling throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast while campaigning his dogs.

Carl also had an extraordinary knowledge of local history and family heritage, often serving as a trusted resource for those seeking to learn more about the community he loved.

He worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation as a Quality Control Technician and later retired in 2005 from Culpeper Stone's Fredericksburg Division in the same role. In retirement, he continued to serve his community by working part-time at the U.S. Post Office in Mitchells, Virginia.

Carl spent most of his life in Culpeper County, with time also spent in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Fredericksburg, Virginia.

A service to celebrate Carl's life was held on Monday, May 4, at Johnson Funeral Home in Locust Grove, Virginia. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by the funeral service from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., with interment at Hebron Lutheran

Church Cemetery in Madison, Virginia. Pallbearers will be Bruce Butler, Harrison Grayson, Bo Smith, Edward Carder, Robert Nave, and Thomas ("Tad") Adam Delaney.

Carl's extended family—Edward "Earl" Morris, Jr., Jeffrey G. Verling, and Dennis Ray and Judith V. Skinner— extend special thanks to Helen Hunycutt and Debbie Settle for their support and contributions to the service; and to the staff at Dogwood Village and Hospice of the Piedmont for the compassionate care and comfort they provided Carl.

A special and heartfelt thanks to Wayne Carder, Carl's best friend since the age of five. Carl deeply respected and cherished their lifelong friendship, a bond defined by steadfast loyalty and devotion. In this loss, we recognize the depth of Wayne's grief and hold him close in thought.

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**Anthony Whitley, Joanne Fields and Col. Louise Schwarting at the Tomb of the Unknown.**

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MONTICELLO LODGE #97

This being Odd Fellow Week, I wanted to fill you in on what's been going on with Monticello Lodge #97 this week.

We lost a member of our lodge this week, Carl Broyles passed away Tuesday, 4/28, morning. He has been a member since 7/20/2006 first a member of Phoenix lodge in Culpepper and then later Monticello Lodge #97 when Phoenix lodge closed. His funeral services will be 5/4 12 - 1 viewing, 1 - 2 service at Johnson's funeral home in Locust Grove, Va. burial following at Hebron Lutheran Cemetery in Madison, Va.

In other much happier news- Two members of our lodge were hard at work this week of Odd Fellowship in getting our name out there and doing such good things in our community! Their hard work on the behalf of our lodge and all of us is something to acknowledge and celebrate! They should be thanked for their hard work and service to our Lodge. Thank you Dot Marsh and Lee Barnett, your hard work is appreciated!

They have been working hard much longer than just this week, but this week alone they were part of an opening ceremony of a special sound proof room for kids at the courthouse where our Hug from an Odd Fellow bears will now be in a new room dedicated to children who are going through difficult court cases and they will be able to take a

bear to help comfort them during and beyond their time spent in the courtroom.

In addition, they also delivered 7 large trays of cookies to area organizations dedicated to helping children and their families. Today, 5/1, they delivered cookies to 3 different boys and girls clubs in the Charlottesville area, and to Ronald McDonald House.

Proud to call these two members sisters, and proud of our lodge for making this all possible. Next time you see them, give them a big thank you hug for all their hard work and dedication to our lodge and our community! True Odd Fellowship in action!

FLT,
Amanda, Secretary



Inspiration #106 attending Fun Night at Session.

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#### **STONEY CREEK #103**

Stoney Creek Rebekah Lodge was honored and privileged to share in a special occasion of one its members recently. Our own Sister Christine Bryant who is a resident at the Bedford County Nursing Home now is very blessed to now be 96 years old and has blessed so many. We had a party to celebrate this special milestone from God for her. Along with our members was her family with her son Charlie and his wife Carolyn and granddaughter Angela and her husband Greg and great granddaughter Lauren and a niece Janet. Cake, ice cream, soda and of course gifts for the birthday queen! She is a special member of our lodge and was very faithful until her health would not allow. God bless her and her family who are very faithful and caring to her.



## One of our Lodges, Iva #173, awarding 50-year pins to two Brothers! Congratulations Brother Wayne and Brother Charlie!

On June 16th, at our regular meeting, two brothers were honored for fifty years of membership. It is incredible that they have a combined total of one hundred years of friendship, truth and love in our great fraternity. They are Wayne Groseclose (left) and Charlie Walke (right). They are pictured with our Noble Grand, Danny Pack (center), who presented them with their fifty-year membership pins.



### CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Brothers and Sisters,

At our recent Grand Lodge Session, the decision was made to relocate our 2027 Grand Sessions to Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, Virginia. While this move presents exciting opportunities, it also brings a number of logistical and strategic considerations that must be addressed. I want to assure you that your Convention Committee is already hard at work preparing for these changes and laying the groundwork for a successful and memorable Session in 2027.

At the same time, I recognize that this transition carries a sentimental weight. For more than three decades, we have gathered in a place that became familiar to generations of Virginia Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Many cherished memories, lasting friendships, and significant moments in the life of our Jurisdiction were forged there. Change is never without reflection, and it is only natural to feel a sense of attachment to a place that has served us so well for so many years.

As fate would have it, I also serve as Chairman of the Joint Communications Committee, and I would be

remiss if I did not take this opportunity to “communicate” an update on our progress. I am pleased to report that the hotel contract has been signed, the schedule of events has been finalized, and—barring any unforeseen disruptions to the food supply chain—the menu selections have been completed. We are also developing a more organized process for official photographs and are currently exploring entertainment options to enhance the overall experience.

One aspect of the 2027 Session that is especially exciting is the reunification of all branches of our Order under one roof. We are pleased to welcome back both the Grand Encampment and the Department Council, which will be meeting in conjunction with our Grand Sessions. Bringing together Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Patriarchs, and Chevaliers once again reflects the unity and fellowship that have long been hallmarks of our Fraternity.

For those who are eligible, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by attending the sessions of these branches. Beyond the official business to be conducted, these gatherings provide a valuable chance to strengthen old friendships, make new acquaintances, and gain a greater appreciation for the full scope of Odd Fellowship in Virginia.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the many years of dedicated service Brother Roger West has given as General Chairman. His tireless efforts, experience, and leadership have contributed greatly to the success of our Sessions. As I undertake this responsibility, I am grateful for his counsel and look forward to drawing upon his wisdom and guidance. Brother Roger: Thank you!

As I begin my first year as your General Chairman, my hope is not for personal recognition, but rather that our efforts will strengthen the bonds of our Jurisdiction and provide an enjoyable and meaningful Session for all who attend. May each of you return to your Lodges, Rebekah Lodges, Encampments, and Cantons renewed in spirit, inspired in purpose, and strengthened in the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

Fraternally,

Bro. Nick Curry,

General Chairman, Convention Committee

## Meritorious Service Awards



This Brother was born in Florence, AZ on October 1st, 1947. Immediately after graduating High School, he joined the United States Navy. Upon the completion of almost two years of training his first tour of duty was aboard the Destroyer U.S.S. Epperson (DD719) home ported in Hawaii from 1968 to 1971. During that tour, he was involved in the Vietnam Conflict. From Hawaii, he was transferred to Mare Island in Vallejo, CA where he was an instructor at Crypto School from 1971 to 1975. While stationed at Mare Island, in 1972, he met his future wife who was, at that time, President of her Theta Rho Girl's Club. They were then married in February after her parents completed all of the installations of the Lodges in their District, as they were the District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy President of their respective Districts and did joint installations with the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges in the area.

After attending the testimonial of the Grand Ruler of the Grand Junior Lodge, this Brother joined the Milpitas Odd Fellows Lodge #505 in Milpitas, CA in April 1974, and joined Rolling Hills, Rebekah Lodge No. 428 in Milpitas in 1975. He also joined Livermore Encampment in Livermore, CA in 1975. That was a busy year for this Brother because he was serving as Vice Grand in Milpitas and received orders transferring him to the U.S.S. Racine (LST1191) home ported in San Diego, CA from 1975 to 1979. During that tour of duty, this Brother drove home to Milpitas from San Diego (over 491 miles each way) every weekend for four years to spend time with his family, except when he was out to sea or had to stand duty. During that four-year tour, he and his wife became parents of two beautiful daughters. During the week, if he was not standing duty or working, he would go to different Lodge meetings in the San Diego area.

From 1979 to 1982, this Brother was then transferred to shore duty and stationed at Port Hueneme, California. There he transferred to Oxnard Odd Fellows lodge #89 in Oxnard, CA and served as both Vice Grand and Noble Grand. He joined Anacapa Canton #10 in Oxnard where he served as Ensign, and transferred to Oxnard Encampment #79, where he served as Chief Patriarch. From Port Hueneme he was transferred to the U.S.S. Ranger (CVN61), again home ported in San Diego where he spent the next three years. During that tour of duty, his family was with him in San Diego. In April 1984, the ship had to change homeport to Bremerton, WA for a 16-month overhaul and the entire family got to ride aboard the Aircraft Carrier from San Diego, CA to Bremerton, WA, what an experience that was for his family.

In 1985, he was once again transferred and moved his family back to Mare Island, California, and returned to instructor school as a Senior Chief Petty Officer. Unable to decide whether to stay in the Navy or to retire, he was advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer. He then decided to stay in the Navy and during his tour of duty at Mare Island, he transferred to Livermore Odd Fellows lodge #219 in Livermore, CA. There in 1987, he served as Vice Grand. He was soon after transferred to the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN65) in 1988 in Alameda, CA. The

Enterprise was to leave Alameda, CA for good in August 1989 to make its new home port in Norfolk, VA. Aboard the Enterprise, he made a world cruise that would take him to his new home port in Norfolk, VA in March 1990.

During the next five years, this Brother and his wife became Band Boosters for the Menchville High School Monarch Marching Band, where their eldest daughter was Captain of the Flag Team, and their youngest daughter was Captain of the Dance Team. He also served as Treasurer for the Band Boosters from 1992 to 1996. Newport News also became home to the new Theta Row Girl's Club, in which all were very active. His daughters are both Past Presidents of Naida Theta Rho Girl's Club #88 in Livermore, CA and Past Presidents of the new Colonial Theta Rho Girl's Club #4 in Newport News, VA. Both daughters have also served as Officers of the Theta Rho Assembly of California and their youngest served as President of Region 10, which encompassed several states in the West.

In 1991, he became an Associate Member of East End Odd Fellows Lodge #247 in Hampton, VA. He served as Noble Grand in 1993 and served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1994 - 1995. In 1996, He became an associate member of York Rebekah lodge #53 in Poquoson, Virginia. In 1997, he transferred his Encampment membership to Norfolk Encampment #13 in Norfolk, VA.

In 1993, he was transferred from the U.S.S. Enterprise to Fleet Training Center in Norfolk, VA, where he retired in February 1997 after dedicating over 30 years of his life to military service.

He was elected Grand Warden in 1995, Deputy Grand Master In 1996, and proudly served the Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of Virginia as your Grand Master in 1997. He has also served on numerous Grand Lodge committees both in California and Virginia. He has served as the Grand Representative of the Grand Encampment to The Sovereign Grand Lodge since 1997 missing only Sovereign Grand Lodge session. He served as Chairman of several Committees of The Sovereign Grand Lodge as well as his jurisdictional Grand Lodge Sessions.

During all the years of transfers and world travels, he has been a most proud, faithful and devoted Odd Fellow. He has attended every Lodge meeting and Grand Lodge session he has had the opportunity to attend. The only time he ever missed either of these was during one of his Navy deployments, we are very proud to say, "He IS an ODD FELLOW."

He definitely has an Odd Fellow family. As of this date, May 2026, his eldest daughter has been in the Order for 41 years which includes her Theta Rho Girls Club time as there was no break in service becoming a Rebekah on her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday when she was initiated into York Rebekah lodge #53, and was also an Associate Member of Revived Rebekah Lodge #100 in Blacksburg, VA, where she was attending Virginia Polytechnic University, (Virginia Tech). His youngest daughter married a Naval Petty Officer Second Class on July 19th, 1997. Her husband was stationed at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk VA, and he joined East End Odd Fellows Lodge #247 in March 1998 and was a very active member. His wife is a member of the Order 60 years which includes her Theta Rho Girls Club membership as well and he is a member of the Order for over 52 years.

At the Grand Lodge session of 2000 held in Roanoke, Virginia, this Brother was elected your Grand Secretary and has served the membership of this Grand Lodge for 26 years. He has gone out of his way, above and beyond the call of duty to

accommodate International Visitors from The Sovereign Grand Lodge as well as transport not only the Grand Lodge equipment but the Grand Encampment and Rebekah Assembly equipment to the annual sessions for those years he has served as your Grand Secretary.

If you or your Lodge needed anything, all you would have to do is give him a call and he would make sure you received what you needed. In 2000, there were 65 Odd Fellow Lodges in the Jurisdiction of Virginia, and he always got the Jurisdictional Per Capita Reports completed and to The Sovereign Grand Lodge prior to the required deadline, NEVER having to be charged a late fee for non-compliance.

He is a Past Grand Master, Past Grand Patriarch and a Past Department Commander. He has received the Decoration of Chivalry from the Department Council of Virginia and the Meritorious Service Award from the Grand Encampment of Virginia where he has served as Grand Treasurer since 2002. He was instrumental in the construction of the "Lodge Hall" at the new Grand Lodge Activities Center in Chester where the Chester Odd Fellows now utilize the building and call it home.

We could go on and on about all of the good he has done for this Grand Jurisdiction, but instead of doing that we would like, with the permission, backing and support of this Grand Lodge, to recommend and bestow the title of Past Grand Secretary, Emeritus upon Brother Jack R. Gibson, Jr. for all of the years of service and dedication to this Order.

Fraternally,

The members of York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89

Janet E. Gibson, Secretary

York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89



This Brother has been very active in Community affairs and activities over the years. They include active membership with the Buckroe Beach Volunteer Fire Company (14 years), during which time he served as Assistant Secretary and Secretary, and the Buckroe Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad (14 years).

During this time, he served as secretary and was the Captain for two years. He served on the Board of Directors of the Briar Queen Recreation Association for four years and served as President for two years. He was an active member of the Peninsula Fire Prevention Council.

He began his Odd Fellowship affiliation as a charter member of Chesapeake Junior Lodge No. 11, Hampton, VA, which was established by Brother Stanley Armstead, Past Grand Master. He later resumed affiliation in Odd Fellowship, October 1978, when he became a member of Newport News Lodge No. 92 where he served as Inside Guardian, Chaplain and Vice Grand. He served as Noble Grand in 1981 and was elected to serve as District Deputy Grand Master in 1983-84.

Instead, he was nominated and elected to serve as Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. He was Secretary of Newport News Lodge No. 92 from January 1982 through December 1983. He was also a member of Newport News Rebekah lodge No. 40 Newport News, Encampment No. 12, where he served as Chief Patriarch. He was a member of

Norfolk Canton No. 17, and Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans (AMOS). El Zues No. 126.

He was elevated to Deputy Grand Master in May 1984. In October 1984, at Old Timers Night held in Lafayette Lodge No. 9, Norfolk, he and Brother Dewey Tom's Grand Master, were presented plaques for outstanding service in our order in memory of Brother John H. Junginger, Past Grand and Brother.

This Brother was nominated by his father and elevated to Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in May 1985.

He was married to the former Mary Virginia Wornom of Poquoson, Virginia and has a daughter, Lynn Yvonne, who is married.

He was employed by the US Navy as a civilian at the Naval Supply Center Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg as the Safety Manager.

He is a dedicated Odd Fellow and has helped Odd Fellowship by serving in many capacities. He is not only the Treasurer of the Virginia Eye Committee, but also the Convention Chairman and has been for the last 11 years, he has been a member of this Order for over 50 years, he has served this Grand Lodge as Grand Treasurer for the last 17 years and is currently our Senior Most Past Grand Master. All one has to do is give him a call and he is right there to help you out. We have all heard so many times over the years that he firmly believes that he belongs to the "world's greatest fraternity."

Therefore, the Officers and Members of York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89 of Poquoson, Virginia would like to present this most deserving Brother, Brother Roger West with the Meritorious Service Award for his many years of service and going above and beyond the call of duty to help his fellow man.

Fraternally,

Janet E. Gibson, Secretary

York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89



The Past Presidents of the Rebekah Assembly of Virginia recommended Judy Gordon be awarded the Meritorious Service Award. She is currently a member of Harmony Rebekah Lodge #36, Beaver Dam Odd Fellows Lodge #248 and Canton Central Virginia #16.

Judy served this assembly as president for 2 terms. She served the International Association of Ladies Auxiliary as their president, also serving as their secretary for several years.

When we think of an outstanding Rebekah we think of an individual that goes out of their way to serve our Order. Judy is the perfect example of how a Rebekah should promote the Order. She goes out of her way to assist at every event she attends. She also tries to visit Rebekahs and Odd Fellows whenever she travels.

It would be difficult for us to list all that she has done for Odd Fellowship during her membership. She is known for her good works throughout the US and Canada.

Fraternally, Past Presidents of the Rebekah Assembly of VA

JURISDICTION OF  
**F L T**  
**VIRGINIA**  
**STATEWIDE**  
**PICNIC**



**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**



**NOON – 4PM**



**MADISON HEIGHTS  
GRAND LODGE –  
CENTRAL VA EVENT CENTER  
189 Main St, Madison Heights, VA**

***Food Provided!***

**So come, bring your lodge brothers and sisters,  
and bring your family and guests!**

***Let's make this a fun and exciting  
time for fellowship!***



**RSVP NEEDED  
to Angela Whitley**

**(434) 664-8102 or [awhitley98@gmail.com](mailto:awhitley98@gmail.com)**



## From Your JOINT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

# THE EMPTY CHAIR:

### *Our Duty to the Absent Brother and Sister*

In every Odd Fellow Lodge, Rebekah Lodge, Encampment, and Canton, there are members whose names appear faithfully on our rolls. Their dues are paid. Their memberships remain active. Yet months, and sometimes years, pass without seeing them in our halls, at our events, or among our fellowship.

It is easy to focus our attention on those who regularly attend meetings and activities. They are the faces we see, the hands that help, and the voices we hear. But our obligations as members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows extend beyond those who sit beside us in lodge. The teachings of **F**riendship, **L**ove, and **T**ruth call upon us to remember all our members, especially those who have drifted from active participation.



As Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, we are taught to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, and extend the hand of friendship to those who may feel forgotten or disconnected. A member who has quietly withdrawn from lodge life may not be suffering illness or hardship, but they may nevertheless need to know that their brothers and sisters still care.



For Patriarchs of the Encampment, our lessons emphasize faith, hope, and charity. We are reminded that our work is not only for ourselves, but for the welfare and strengthening of our entire fraternal family. A simple telephone call, a card, an invitation to dinner, or a visit can rekindle a connection that has grown faint over time.



For Chevaliers of the Canton, our commitment to service challenges us to actively seek opportunities to assist and encourage others. Service is not limited to public acts of charity; it also includes caring for our own members and ensuring that none feel abandoned or overlooked.

Many inactive members do not return simply because no one has asked them to. Others may believe they are no longer missed. Some may be facing personal challenges unknown to us. We cannot know unless we make the effort to reach out.

Let us challenge ourselves and our lodges to review our membership rolls and identify those brothers and sisters who have not attended in some time. Let us contact them, not to question their absence, but to express genuine concern and friendship. Let them know they are remembered. Let them know they remain part of our fraternity.

The strength of our Order is measured not merely by the number of members on our books, but by the bonds we maintain between them. When we reach out to the absent member, we practice the very principles our degrees have taught us. In doing so, we strengthen our lodges, our encampments, our cantons, and our Order itself.



*We  
Remember  
You.*



**NO BROTHER. NO SISTER. NO PATRIARCH. NO CHEVALIER.  
SHOULD EVER FEEL FORGOTTEN.**

**Sharon Harris, Editor**  
**90 Back Creek Lane**  
**Buchanan, VA 24066**

### **FROM THE EDITOR**

**All articles are welcomed from everyone. If you have something, please send them to me—**

**Sharon Harris at 90 Back Creek Lane, Buchanan, VA 24066 —**

**Phone 540-254-1414 or E-mail to [Ladysharonh1211@aol.com](mailto:Ladysharonh1211@aol.com)**

**Everyone receiving the newsletter electronically will pay \$5 and  
by mail will pay \$10.00 per year.**

**When your \$5.00 or \$10 is received you will receive your copy.**

**All articles for the next Newsletter are due before August 25.**

**Be sure to check your address label for your expiration date.**