Virginia I.O.O.F. & Rebekah Newsletter

September, 2026



From the Grandmaster's desk

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a joy filled 4th of July celebrating our 250th year as a nation. I'm not real sure where the last 2 months have gone but they sure went by quickly. Since my last writing. I have had the pleasure of helping Chester #281 with degree work twice. We also put on an Encampment degree where four members got to their Royal Purple degree. It is great to see more involvement and growth for the order overall.

I spent a few days at the Chester facility coordinating the move of the Grand Secretary property from Brother Jacks home to the secured storage area in the Chester activity center. During that time, members from Gate City #170 met me at the Chester activity center. We loaded the furniture from the old Culpepper lodge on my trailer and I delivered it to their Duffield building. I look forward to seeing their newly renovated lodge hall in Gate City in the future.

The big event was Angela's and my first trip to Sovereign Grand Lodge in Frisco TX. We had a great time out there and learned a lot about the workings of our order. There is a lot of work that goes on. Brothers Ed Schilling and Paul Schilinski represented us well. There was quite a bit of socializing also. There may be rumors that I got caught dancing with a dance hall girl at the after session fun night.

Unfortunately, there were some issues found at the Madison Heights activity center under the floor. This created setbacks in the completion of that project: and due to this we moved the statewide picnic to the Elon Ruritan club building.

As we go into the Fall Months, I would encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the beauty of our great jurisdiction and reach out for possible new members. We cannot grow if we aren't engaging our communities.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Tony Whitley, GM

Grand Lodge of Virginia

REBEKAH ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Enjoy the rest of this nice Summer weather. Fall is just around the corner.

It's nice to be home after being in rehab for six weeks due to a fractured shoulder resulting from a fall and vertigo.

On July 14, the Executive Committee met at Judy Gordon's house. Stacey Jones, VP presided and I participated via phone. The purpose of this meeting was to determine who would ride the Rose Float from Virginia. Due to our generous donation of $ 10,000, we were entitled to a rider on the float. The Executive Committee selected Judy Gordon to ride the float this year. Please tune in to the Rose Parade on New Year's Day to see Sister Judy on the float. Also, Sister Sharon Harris and Thomasa Trent were appointed to the newly formed Communications Committee representing the Rebekah Assembly.

Thank you for all the cards and phone calls during my hospitalization, rehab and the loss of Scott's wife Kay on July 22, 2026. I was able to leave rehab to attend the visitation for Kay. Thanks to all who attended her visitation and service.

The Statewide Picnic was held on August 29, 2026 at the Elon Ruritan Club. There was a good turnout of Oddfellows and Rebekahs and some visitors. Everyone enjoyed the nice meal and visiting with one another.

My visitation to Gate City will be in the Spring. I hope to attend some of the Vice President and Warden's visits soon.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Nadine Dulaney President
Rebekah Assembly of Virginia

Department Commander



Hello my fellow Chevaliers, Brothers and Sisters,

My goodness where has the summer gone! Fall is right here and for those who like "Pumpkin Spice" I have seen the commercials. Honestly, I am not a big fan! Give me a good strong cup of joe or a cold glass of water.

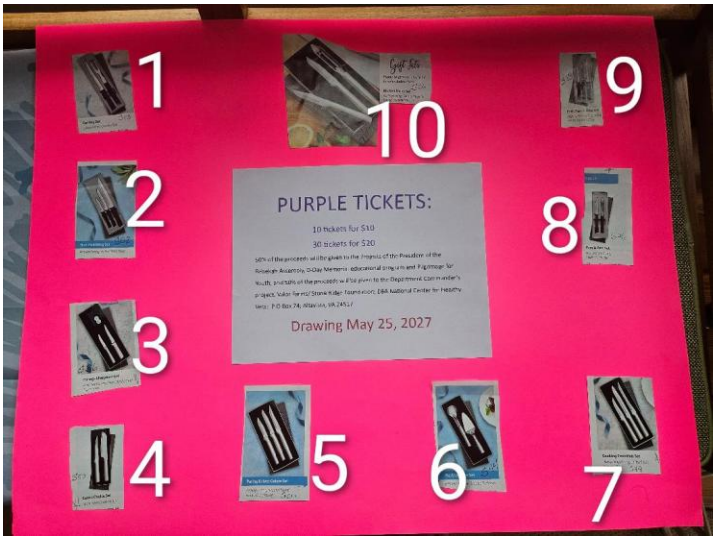
Our Statewide Picnic was held on August 29, 2026, at the Elon Ruritan due to complications with the renovations at the Madison Heights Lodge Hall. I hope you were all able to attend.

I'm reminding 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 preform 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.

If you have anything that you would like me to add to the agenda for our meeting November 14, 2026, please let me know. I would like to practice sword proficiency and discuss the plans for our annual meeting to be held the Saturday before the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Session May 22 – 26, 2027 at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg.

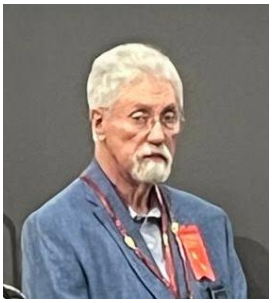
As a fund raiser, I have 10 gift set from Rada, that we will have chances on. The tickets are $10 for 10 tickets or 30 tickets for $20. The funds will be divided between the Department Council and the Rebekah Assembly for the Presidents projects.

Chivalrously,
Thomasa Trent
Thomasa Trent, Department Commander
Department Council of VA



Chivalrously,
Thomasa Trent, Department Commander
Department Council of VA

Grand Patriarch



Greetings All,

My first newsletter column as your Grand Warden and Grand Patriarch for this term. Fall is approaching and 2026 is rapidly passing. I can tell because the stores have already begun selling pumpkin flavored coffee creamer and everything else pumpkin. So, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer although I know that there have been injuries, illnesses and deaths among us. Please know that you are in my thoughts.

Following our Grand Lodge this year, Brenda and I made the trip to Wyoming in June for their Grand Lodge session in Laramie. For those who are un aware, Brenda and I met in Cheyenne while in the Air Force, joined the Lodge and were married there so Wyoming is close to our hearts. Then there was the trip to Frisco, TX for SGL this year. I had the pleasure and surprise of sitting next to another Odd Fellow on the flight to Texas. Second time attending SGL but first time as a Representative and I was appointed to the Committee on Ritualistic Work. My advice to any first time Representatives, have a three-ring binder for all of the paper. There is a lot of business conducted in three or four days. So, with that said, any specific questions directed to me about the proceedings may result in a dumbstruck look and a response that I will have to review my notes. The Ritualistic Work Committee was referred questions regarding abbreviating a degree and the opening and closing procedures for a Canton, as well as translating the ritual into Russian as there was a request to charter a Lodge in Moscow. There was also interest in returning to some of our old ritualistic work and signs. Sadly, there are some lodges that are not following the Ritual so I may have a future letter addressing that specific topic. Next year the SGL will be in Rapid City, S.D., close enough to Wyoming to make a long trip out of it if the stars align.

Thanks to Sister Janet Gibson who graciously allowed me the pleasure of accompanying Deputy Grand Master Eddie Schilling as his escort during the opening flag ceremony of this SGL. And no, I didn't wear the white dress! By the time you read this, I hope you have enjoyed the state picnic.

FLT
Paul Schilinski, Grand Patriarch
Grand Encampment of VA

SICK

Robert Burks Larry Wood Ray Karnes
Gerald Key Howard Malin



DEATHS



Carl Lewis Gibson Obituary

Carl Lewis Gibson, beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend, passed away on June 27, 2026. He was born on May 24, 1928, in Charlottesville, Va, the son of Jerry Ellis Gibson and Duey Anne Mitchell Gibson. Carl was preceded in death by his first wife of 54 years, Edna Vernell Dickinson Gibson, his second wife of 20 years, June Marie Morris Maupin Gibson, his daughter, Debra Ann Gibson Dellinger, brothers Douglas Franklin Gibson

and Ellis Junior Gibson, and sisters Myrtle Elizabeth Gibson McAllister, and Mildred Ann Gibson Roberts.

Carl was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dillwyn, Va. He served in the submarine service of the U. S. Navy during WWII and was a retired letter carrier of the U. S. Postal Service. He loved the Lord, his family, and his country. An outgoing man, Carl enjoyed golfing, gardening, dancing, and cruising with family. He didn't know a stranger and loved socializing, having a way of making people feel like they were special - a talent that he passed down to his three daughters and other family members.

Survivors include his daughters, Linda Vernell Gibson Davis and her husband (Charles McDaniel Davis, Sr.) and Carla Lynn Gibson Agosti her husband (Dr. Steven John Agosti), five grandsons, Charles McDaniel Davis, Jr., Christopher Matthew Davis, Steven Bryan Dellinger, Jeremy Lewis Dellinger, and Matthew David Agosti. Carl is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, Skylar Davis, Lorren Davis, Caitlin Davis, Cassie Davis, Colt Davis, Seraphin Dellinger, Chasity Tranium, and Chase Davis, and one great-great-granddaughter, Nevaeh Lewis.

Visitation and Services were held at Hill and Wood Funeral Services, 201 1st St. N. Charlottesville, Va from 1:00 PM to about 3:00 PM on July 2, 2026.



Elizabeth Christine Hensley Hatcher Bryant

Elizabeth Christine Hensley Hatcher Bryant, 96 of Bedford, VA passed away Sunday, July 26, 2026 at Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital. She was born on Saturday, May 31, 1930 in Bedford County, a daughter of the late Charles Robert Hensley and Minerva Holdren Hensley. Twice married, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Lewis Daniel Hatcher, Jr., and Morton L. "Ben" Bryant and her son, Donald E. Hatcher, step-daughter, Clara Bender, brothers, Lewis Carson Hensley (Marion) & a sister, Carrie O. Ware (Pete), a step-grandson, Jason Hill, brother-in-law, Ralph Hatcher (Doris), sister-in-law, Shirley Hensley.

She was baptized at Ebenezer United Methodist Church at the age of nine and had been a member of the Otterville United Methodist Church since 1967. She was active in many capacities in her church and was also a Past Noble Grand of the Stoney Creek Rebekah Lodge #103 having received the Decoration of Chivalry in 1995.

She was employed in retail sales work as a clerk/cashier for thirty six years having retired in 1998.

She is survived by her sons, Roger L. Hatcher (Barbara). Charles R. Hatcher (Carolyn); her step-daughter, Rachel B. Hill (Thomas), special niece, Rebecca Hensley Mumford; her grandchildren, Roger L. Hatcher, Jr., Melessia Hatcher Leonard (Jeffery), Angela Hatcher Lynch (Greg), Jason Hatcher; her step-grandchildren, Chad E. Martin, Amy Martin; Greg Hill, Nicholas Hill, Andrew Hill, Nathan Hill; her great grandchildren, Ashli Glenn (Ciarra), Lauryn Lynch, Joshua Hatcher, Colin Hatcher, Lindsay Martin, Caytlin Palmborg (Colton); two great great grandsons, her brothers, Clyde M. Hensley, Wayne R. Hensley (Judy) as well as many nieces and nephews and her special "Tuesday friend", Erma Whorley.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Bedford County Nursing Home and the ICU Unit at Centra Bedford Memorial Hospital for their care and concern while caring for our loved one.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to Otterville United Methodist Church or the Stoney Creek Rebekah Lodge #103.

The family received friends beginning at 12 noon on Thursday, July 30, 2026 at Updike Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Bedford and a funeral service will follow at 2 PM in the chapel. Interment will follow in Greenwood Cemetery.



Chuck Tippett

Some people leave behind memories. Others leave behind stories that become part of the places they loved. Charles Stanley "Chuck" Tippett Jr. was one of those people.

Whether you knew him from Warrenton, Coles Point, Horsefeathers Airfield, the Flying Circus, the electric line, a local restaurant, a community event, or simply because he had a way of making everyone feel like an old friend, chances are you have a Chuck story.

Chuck passed away suddenly on August 3, 2026, near his beloved river house in Coles Point, Virginia. After years of carrying the memory of the love of his life, Vicki, with him every day, those who loved them both find comfort in believing she was finally there to welcome him home.

Chuck was born on May 20, 1961, in Washington, D.C., to Charles Stanley Tippett Sr. and Penelope Beardreki. He was preceded in death by his father and by his wife of thirty-five years, Vicki Tippett—the love of his life.

To know Chuck was to know how deeply he loved Vicki. Their thirty-five years of marriage were filled with laughter, adventure, and unwavering devotion. Even after her passing, she remained at the center of his life. He spoke of her often, carried her memory wherever he went, and continued supporting the people and causes that meant so much to her. Honoring Vicki became one of the greatest purposes of his own life.

Chuck made his home in Warrenton, but he belonged just as much to Coles Point, Horsefeathers Airfield, the Flying Circus, and just about anywhere else he happened to be. Horsefeathers Airfield, one of Chuck's lifelong dreams realized, became more than an airfield—it became a gathering place where friends always knew they were welcome. He became the unofficial mayor of every place he loved. Somehow he knew everyone, and more remarkably, everyone felt like they knew Chuck. Whether you had known him for thirty years or thirty minutes, he had a way of making you feel like you belonged.

Of all the titles Chuck held throughout his life—lineman, aviator, mentor, Dad, Pops, and the unofficial mayor of just about everywhere he went—the ones he treasured most were husband, Dad, and Pops.

He is survived by his children, Chuck Tippett and his wife, Danielle; Chip Tippett and his wife, Jessica; and Victoria Tippett; his grandchildren Ryder, Maverick, Teegan, Camden, Allie, Dennis, and Kayleigh; and his sisters Terri Zigler, Linda Kepler, Viki Wellershaus, and Patricia Tippett.

Nothing made Chuck prouder than being "Pops." His grandchildren were among the greatest joys of his life, and each held a special place in his heart. Whether he was cheering them on, making them laugh, taking them on adventures, or simply spending an ordinary day together, he made sure they always knew how deeply they were loved. The adventurous spirit, curiosity, confidence, generosity, and love of life he poured into them will continue through each of them, carrying his legacy forward for generations to come.

Chuck spent his career as a lineman with Rappahannock Electric Cooperative before returning from retirement to continue working with River City Construction. Hard work wasn't simply what Chuck did—it was who he was. He took immense pride in his work and believed there was no substitute for showing up, doing the job right, and helping the people around him.

Chuck believed life wasn't something to watch—it was something to jump into with both feet.

He never simply attended a gathering—he became the story people told afterward. Whether dancing, lending a hand, or convincing someone to take an airplane ride, he embraced life with an enthusiasm that drew everyone around him into the adventure.

His children often joked that growing up with Chuck was like living inside a National Lampoon movie. Their childhood was filled with unforgettable adventures, spontaneous road trips, impossible situations, and stories that have become family legend. No Hollywood writer could have invented the situations Chuck somehow managed to find himself in because somehow, against all odds, those things really happened. Chuck believed people were always more important than possessions or pride. Whether you had known him for decades or had just met him, he treated you like an old friend. If someone needed help, Chuck showed up. He gave freely of his time, his knowledge, his tools, and often the shirt off his back—not because anyone asked, but because that was simply who he was.

Flying wasn't simply something Chuck loved—it was a lifelong dream he worked tirelessly to achieve. Learning to fly fulfilled that dream, but sharing aviation with others became an even greater passion.

His contributions to aviation were recognized with his induction into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame, an honor that reflected not only his accomplishments but also the countless people he inspired along the way.

As a wingwalker at the Flying Circus and a devoted member of its close-knit community, Chuck built lifelong friendships while sharing his fearless enthusiasm with audiences and fellow aviators alike. He became a trusted mentor to

many, opening doors, encouraging dreams, and helping others experience the same freedom he found in the sky. His influence will continue every time one of those people takes flight.

There were few things Chuck loved more than living life at full throttle. He loved flying, riding Harleys, wing walking, spending time on the river, dancing to just about anything with a beat, gathering friends, and saying "Hell Yea" to the next adventure before most people had even considered it.

Chuck also leaves behind an extraordinary extended family of friends, coworkers, neighbors, pilots, linemen, and members of the communities he loved. While impossible to name individually, each held a special place in his heart.

One of the causes closest to Chuck's heart was the FCPS Transitions Program. Supporting its students was one of the many ways he continued honoring Vicki, whose dedication to the program inspired him long after she was gone.

A celebration of Chuck's life is being planned, with details to be announced once arrangements have been finalized.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in memory of Chuck and Vicki to:

FCPS Transitions Program
c/o Special Education Office
430 E. Shirley Avenue, Building B
Warrenton, VA 20186

Please make checks payable to FCPS Transitions Program.

It has often been said that an ordinary man would need forty-eight hours in a twenty-four-hour day to accomplish what Chuck did. He packed more life into sixty-five years than many could in twice that time.

Chuck didn't just live in his communities—he helped define them.

His legacy is found not only in the power lines he built, the airplanes he flew, the airfield he dreamed into existence, or the honors he received. It lives in the people he encouraged, the grandchildren who adored him, the friendships he treasured, and the communities he helped shape. It will continue in the stories told around hangars, river houses, garages, campfires, kitchens, and dinner tables for generations to come.

Somewhere today, someone is telling a Chuck story.

They probably always will.

The measure of Chuck's life isn't found in the years he lived, but in the lives he filled.

The world will be quieter without his laughter, every place he called home a little less vibrant, and the countless lives he touched forever changed.

There will never be another quite like Chuck Tippett.

Blue skies, smooth landings, and tailwinds forever, Chuck.

Congratulations **Virginia Odd Fellows - Grand Lodge of VA**, Rebekah Assembly of Virginia, on receiving a meritorious service award from **GMC General Marion F. Owens Jr.** Received by Judy Gordon, Louise Schwarting, and Janet Gibson, for your contribution to the Veterans Program through the GMC in the amount of $10,000.00.



Tunnels to Towers donation from **Virginia Odd Fellows - Grand Lodge of VA** Rebekah Assembly of VA $10,000



York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89 Donation

Noble Grand Joanne Saunders and Vice Grand Jim Saunders of York Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89 presented a check in the amount of $21,500 to the Poquoson Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for three sets of turnout gear and for the purchase of a specialty trailer needed to haul their specialty gear. They informed us that once the trailer has been purchased, they will install a plaque stating the purchase of the trailer was made possible by the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 89 of Poquoson, and they will invite the members to a thank you/presentation ceremony.



Norfolk Encampment No. 13 Donation

Acting Chief Patriarch Jim Saunders and High Priest Joanne Saunders from Norfolk Encampment No. 13 presented a check in the amount of $25,000.00 to the Poquoson Fire and Rescue Department for a boat house to dock their Fire and Rescue water vessel in. They are so very appreciative to the Odd Fellows and Encampment members in Poquoson for our generous donations. They will be placing a plaque on the boat house to commemorate it being provided by Norfolk Encampment No. 13.

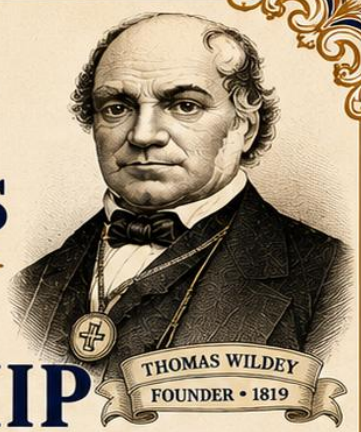




F L T

Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Virginia

Friendship • Love • Truth



Odd Fellowship
Finds a Curious Audience

In August, the Odd Fellows of Virginia had an excellent opportunity to introduce Odd Fellowship to a new audience at ***Vintage Trixie's Curiosity Faire,*** held August 22–23 at the Chesapeake Conference Center.



The opportunity grew out of contacts made within Virginia's oddities and curiosities community while exploring possibilities for the proposed Odd Fellows Carnival of the Strange. One particularly valuable connection was made with Lisa Behm, owner and operator of Vintage Trixie in Chesapeake, who generously offered the Odd Fellows of Virginia a table at the Curiosity Faire free of charge.



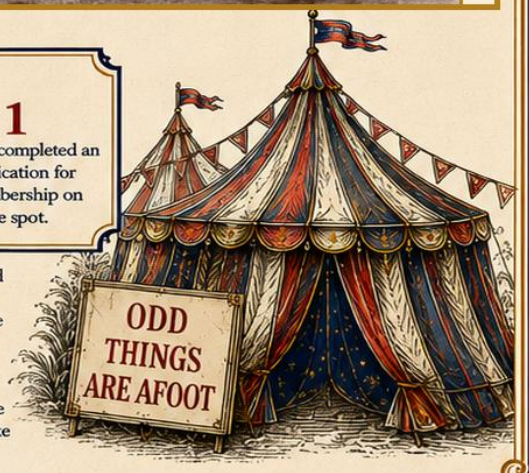
Our display included several items representing Odd Fellowship, information about the Order, interest forms, and contact sheets visitors could take with them. The history, symbols, traditions, and unusual character of Odd Fellowship were a natural fit for the Faire and generated considerable curiosity and conversation throughout the weekend.

Most importantly, that curiosity translated into genuine interest.

26 people signed interest forms asking to learn more about Odd Fellowship.

30 information sheets were distributed—we gave away all we brought.

1 visitor completed an application for membership on the spot.



The response was extremely encouraging and demonstrated the value of taking Odd Fellowship beyond our lodge halls and introducing ourselves to people who might otherwise never encounter the Order. There are people in our communities who are interested in fellowship, service, history, tradition, and the unique character of Odd Fellowship—they simply need an opportunity to discover us.

The Curiosity Faire also provided an encouraging glimpse of the potential behind the proposed Odd Fellows Carnival of the Strange. Our participation allowed us to make new connections, introduce the Order to dozens of people, and see firsthand how naturally Odd Fellowship fits within this community.

We extend our sincere thanks to ***Lisa Behm*** and ***Vintage Trixie*** for their generosity and hospitality, and for providing the Odd Fellows of Virginia with such a successful opportunity to reach a new audience.

We Seek to Improve and Elevate the Character of Man.

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

Everyone can receive the newsletter either electronically or by mail.

All articles for the next Newsletter are due before October 25.