



Refreshments and Activities at Your Lodge

All refreshments served in the evening will be at 6:00 P.M.. Refreshments served in the morning will be served at 9:00 A.M. unless otherwise noted

January 4, 2025	<u>Morning Meeting 9:00 am</u> Refreshment—Donuts & Bagels Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 11, 2025	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00 pm</u> Refreshments — Clod Cut Sandwiches, Chips Soda, Coffee and Water
January 18, 2025	<u>Morning Meeting 9:00 am</u> Refreshment—Donuts & Danish Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 18, 2025	<u>Installation of Lodge Officers 7:00 pm</u> Refreshment: Roast Beef, Scalloped Potatoes, Mix-Vegetables, Salad, Cake, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 25, 2025	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00 am</u> Refreshment—Chili Dog, Shoe Strings Chips Salad, Rolls, Soda, Tea, Coffee and Water
February 1, 2025	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00 pm (Easter Dinner)</u> Refreshments —Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw, Potatoe Salad Green Beans, Rolls, Pies, Soda, Coffee and Water
February 8, 2025	<u>Morning Meeting 9:00 am</u> Refreshment—Breakfast Sandwiches Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
February 15, 2025	<u>Initiatory Degree 7:00 pm</u> Refreshments— Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Salad, Rolls, Soda, Tea, Coffee and Water
February 22, 2025	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00 pm</u> Refreshments — Cold Cuts & Chips, Soda, Coffee and Water
April 27, 2024	<u>First Degree 7:00pm</u> Refreshments— Beef Tips & Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, French Bread, Soda, Tea, Coffee and Water



LINK-N-LINES



The Official News of St. Louis Lodge No. 5, I.O.O.F.

INSTITUTED AUGUST 21, 1841 RAY WHITE - EDITOR HENRY E. KOTTEMANN - FOUNDER

Website: www.ioof-stl.org

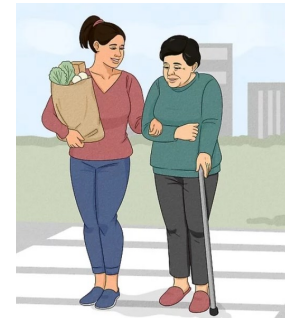
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ioofstl/>



ST. LOUIS LODGE NO. 5, I.O.O.F.

P.O. Box 1467 FENTON, MISSOURI . 63026

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2025



HELPING OTHERS

I went out to do my daily walking, and as I was waiting at the crosswalk for the light to turn green, I saw this sweet old lady who seemed to struggle with her heavy shopping bags. I looked at her, turned off my headphones and with a smile on my face asked: *Excuse me, would you like me to help you?* She looked at me with a strange look on her face and replied: *Are you serious?*

To be honest with you, I thought that maybe she got offended since the look on her face immediately changed when I asked her this question. And I was expecting to get a nasty response. *Do you really want to help me?* She asked. *Yes, of course.*

They look pretty heavy and it's always nice to have someone help ease the burden, no?

(Continued on page 4)



Francis LaVar

A Message From Our Noble Grand Officers and Members

Greetings everybody!

Hope this message finds everyone well! I want to give a heartfelt thank you to Lodge #5 for this past year and the support that I have received.

We had a busy year with all of our events. This also includes new members we have brought in and the degree work that followed. We hope to keep growing! Plans are in the works for a degree rally on Jan 25th, 2025 which is open to other lodges. This ought to be a good time and we need your participation!

We appreciate all that you do! Again "Thank you" for allowing me to have been Noble Grand for this past year and "Best Wishes" to all for 2025!

Francis X. LaVar
Noble Grand

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
Nicholas Rogers	1	Charles Whisenhunt	1
John Dempsey Sr.	6	Kenneth Hermann	2
Dennis Lipski	6	Daniel White	4
Kenneth Rogers	7	William Neighbors	7
Stephen Carr Sr.	8	Terrence Shofner	7
Jose Hernandez	9	Charles Ems	11
William Jimas	9	Thomas Moser	16
Andrew Oberman	9	Art Matthews	17
Steven Throm	10	John Siscel III	27
Alexander Hollenberg	11		
J. Dodson	18		

To our amazing friends, may your birthdays be as incredible as you are. Here's to celebrating another year of your remarkable presence in our life's.



MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DRAWING

10/5/24	Charles Whisenhunt	WINNER
10/12/24	John Siscel	WINNER
10/26/24	Jose Hernandez	WINNER
11/2/24	Francis LaVar	WINNER
11/9/24	Walter Clifton	WINNER
11/16/24	Dennis Lipski	WINNER
11/23/24	Ray White	WINNER
11/30/24	Dennis Lipski	WINNER
12/7/24	Francis LaVar	WINNER
12/14/24	John Eckert	WINNER
12/21/24	Jeffrey Parrotte	WINNER

Come to a meeting and your name could be on this list.

Sick and Shut-ins

Lou Monken.....314-892-4825

These are your brothers that are not able to get out because of injury or illness. Give them a call to let them know we are thinking about them.

LODGE OFFICERS

Noble Grand
John C. Caraker.....314-630-5469
Vice Grand
Casey Brizendine636-634-1002
Secretary
Robert J. Mayer Sr.....314-278-6065
Financial Secretary
Larry Endicott..... 314-452-8989
Treasurer
Jeffrey A. Parrotte.....314-751-3138

Special Relief Committee

Richard Aguilar.....314-644-1126
Charles Whisenhunt.....314-494-9416
Larry Endicott314-452-8989



MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS
ADDRESS CHANGES



DON'T FORGET

.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER ____ (____) _____

IF YOU HAVE MOVED, CLIP THIS FORM AND MAIL TO;



Robert J. Mayer Sr. - Secretary
St. Louis Lodge No.5, I.O.O.F.
337 Rauhut Ave.
Lemay Mo. 63125

Two golden rules to a Happy Marriage:

1. The wife is always right.

2, When you feel she is wrong slap yourself and read rule number 1 again.

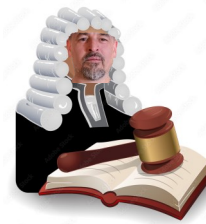
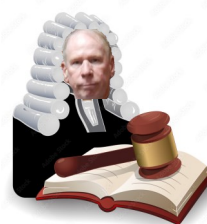


These signs were made possible by men who have been married for a very very long time.

Congratulations

To St. Louis Lodge No. 5 newly elected lodge officers for the year 2025

Noble Grand.....	John C. Caraker
Vice Grand.....	Casey Brizendine
Secretary.....	Robert J. Mayer Sr.
Financial Secretary.....	Larry M. Endicott
Treasurer.....	Jeffrey A. Parrotte



Visit Our Website



A copy of this issue of Link-n-Lines can be found on our website. You can also find additional information about lodge activities and copies of pictures of recent events. Check us out, website is at www.ioof-stl.org



(Continued on page 1) Helping others

My neighbor used to help me but he died so now I have to carry them all alone. It's okay, I said to her with a big smile on my face. He couldn't come so he asked me to do it. Here I am. She smiled. Looked at me a bit surprised, and then asked: Who sent you? My guardian angel? I bet he sent you. And where did you come from because I didn't see you. O h, I live right up here in this building. I said to her while pointing to my block. I just came out of the block, so that's why you didn't see me... No angel, just someone who is here to help.

Oh, my guardian angel is helping me. I know it. He is always helping me.

Since the light turned green, I took two of the 4 shopping bags she was carrying and we started walking, slowly and peacefully to get on the other side of the street.

Where are you going? She asked me while looking at me with these big and loving eyes. I am going for a walk. Oh, I see. I used to enjoy walking as well. I remember waking up at 3 a.m. having to walk a few kilometers to reach the train station from the village I used to live as a young girl. And then 3 more kilometers to reach my school. And I would always wear these high heels. I loved them! My mom used to tell me to stop wearing those shoes because my feet will hurt when I am old, but thank God I have no problem with that. I am 76 years old and I feel pretty good. should give you some money, she said to me as we were approaching what seemed like her building. I need to give you some money for helping me. Oh, God. No! I cannot accept this. I am helping you because I felt it was the right thing to do not because I want to be paid. Please, I do not want to be paid!

If I get money from you, that will be my reward. And I want God to repay me. I am doing this out of love for Him, and not to be paid. So thank you but please... She looked at me confused but also pleased. You probably read the scriptures, that's why you know these things... She said to me while waiting for a reply... But I did not say anything. I simply smiled and continued walking. I watch these spiritual shows on tv... and I also watch the news. Do you watch them as well? No. I don't watch television. That's probably better, she said. The news are so violent and negative. Yes. I replied. You take in something good when you watch those spiritual programs and then you spoil it all by watching the news... Yes. You are right. You are right... They don't do you any good. They only scare you and make you live in fear. Well, this is where I live. She said to me as she was reaching out in her purse to get her keys



(Continued on page 4) Helping others

I will leave the bags at the door and carry one bag at a time upstairs since I live on the 2nd floor and the bags are too heavy for me. I can't do it all at once. I can help you carry them all the way up if you feel comfortable about it... and safe. With all the scary stories and dark news people watch these days, I didn't feel that comfortable asking her whether she wanted me to take the bag all the way to her apartment door. I didn't want to scare her or have her think God knows what... But to my surprise she smiled and replied: Would you do that for me? Really?! Of course. It's no big deal. Oh, you are so kind. I have never met anyone like you in my whole life... Thank you. I will pay you. he opened the door and before we knew it, we were in front of her door, on the 2nd floor with her holding her wallet in her hands and looking for money, yet again, to offer me. Thank you for your help.

I want to pay you. So please, accept my money. No. I really don't want to be paid. I said to her feeling quite uncomfortable and silly. This is silly. I did it out of love and not to be paid. If we do everything for money, there won't be anything left to do out of love... for God, for our fellow human being and for love... And I don't think that is how life ought to be. Oh... God sent you to me. I know. May the Blessed Virgin Mary take care of you.

For I see you have God in your heart. And I am a Catholic woman and she has been my help and mother for so long... May she help and guide you. Thank you. May God take care of all of us, I said to her with a smile on my face while getting ready to take the stairs and get started with my walking meditation. Oh, and I forgot to ask. I said to her while walking down the stairs. What is your name? My name is Doina. Well, nice meeting you Doina. My name is Luminita. God bless you. And off I went with a big smile on my face, thinking how blessed I was to be given the opportunity to take my focus off myself and place it on another human being. We often think that life is about doing big, bold and grand things. And in our search for grandiosity, we fail to realize that life isn't so much about doing big things as it is about doing small things with great love. To me, helping out that sweet beautiful lady was nothing. But to her, it might have been everything. And all because the deed was done with love, not to take credit and boost one's ego and self-importance, but to help out a fellow human being that seemed to be in need of help. You too can be of service to those around you. And you don't have to look for opportunities to help out. They will present themselves to you. And if your eyes, hear and hands will be open, you will discover that in helping others we help ourselves, and in loving others, we show love to ourselves.

(Note)

When you seek happiness for yourself, it will always elude you. When you seek happiness for others, you will find it yourself.



(Continued from page 5)

This year, as Vice Grand, I plan on utilizing Officers and members alike to continue achieving the functions of our Order. My Committee will be made up of my Brethren who have served faithfully for many years. Each of you already has the knowledge needed to fulfill this mission. Any and all advice from you is invaluable! There are other tasks that I would like to delegate to our newer members as well. Someday you will also become Vice Grand. With your involvement behind the scenes, you'll receive the understanding of how the inner workings of our Lodge is accomplished. I am truly grateful to be serving with accomplished and remarkable men such as yourselves.

I look forward to serving Saint Louis Lodge #5 in 2025 as your Vice Grand. Thank you! Fraternally and in Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Casey Alan Brizendine
Vice Grand
I.O.O.F. Saint Louis Lodge #5



REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

The Financial Secretary wishes to remind the members, that Lodge Dues were due on January 1, 2025. Our annual dues are now \$50.00 a year. Members who fail to pay their dues will lose their membership benefits and will not be permitted to attend any lodge activities. (such as Picnic, Banquet etc. :) If you are having financial problems paying your dues, please contact Larry Endicott for further information at 314-452-8989.

PLEASE NOTE: It is also requested that if at any time you have any bills, or other financial transactions with the lodge please contact the Financial Secretary approximately 30 minutes prior to refreshments on Saturday so that he can give you the attention needed.



By Bro. Casey 'Briz' Brizendine



Greetings Odd Fellow Brethren of Saint Louis Lodge #5. I am pleased to bring you another article for the Odd Fellows Minute. The Odd Fellows Minute is designed for educational purposes to impart wisdom and understanding about the symbols of Odd Fellowship. In this issue of the Link-N-Lines we will discuss the symbol of the Bundle of Sticks. *E Pluribus Unum* – “out of many, one” – was first featured on the original 1776 design of the Great Seal of the United States and was formally adopted by the U.S. Congress as our nation’s official motto in 1782. The Latin phrase reminds us that from the original Thirteen Colonies emerged a single nation.

It took many years for a seal of the United States to be finalized, this motto stuck and became the words scribed on the scroll in the beak of a bald eagle. The motto has important meaning for the United States of America. Our country began as land belonging to Great Britain. As we continued to grow, we became 13 colonies. When deciding to fight for our freedom, the colonists decided that they would be more powerful if all of the colonies fought together. Out of 13 colonies came one nation. Out of our 50 states comes one nation. The motto describes our history and our belief that we are a nation that should work together as one!

The same idea of e pluribus unum is taught within the I.O.O.F. through the lesson of the Bundle of Sticks. It is one of our principal emblems that teaches us strength in unity. Whether we are doing our work within the Lodge during meetings, Degrees, or as an Entertainment Committee planning Lodge meals, upcoming events like our Annual Banquets, Family Picnic, Valentines Day, Mothers Day, Past Grand Night, and our Christmas parties, we must work together as an oiled machine to have these events come together smoothly.

(Continued on page 8)



St. Louis Lodge No. 5 recently held it's annual Children's Christmas Party. In attendance we had approximately 50 children along with Mom's & Dad's, Grandma's & Grandpa's. We also had approximately 20 lodge members on hand to help. Santa Clause made his special visit and passed out gifts to all the children. In addition to the party we had a excellent meal. Missouri Child Identification Program was on hand to assist the parent's in providing Child identifications.

Special thanks go out to Sister Pamela Whisehunt, and Sister Janet LaVar for their invaluable help to Santa. The lodge members would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.



Charity/Adult Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 21, 2024, St. Louis Lodge NO. 5 held it's annual Charity/Adult Christmas Party. In attendance were numerous charities and guests of members. As each organization (Charities) was called forward, they were asked to tell us how they intend to use their donation. All were worthy causes. Dinner was great and afterwards while lodge members were attending their meeting. The remaining guests played bingo and prizes were won. Overall, it was a great time, lots of Friendship, Love and Truth was had by all.

