







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
JULY—AUGUST 2023

Refreshments and Activities at Your Lodge
 Refreshments served in the evening will be at 6:00 P.M. and the Refreshments in the morning and will be served at 9:00 A.M. except when otherwise noted.

July 1, 2023	<u>Morning Meeting 10:00am</u> Refreshments – Donuts & Danish Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
July 8, 2023	<u>Morning Meeting 10:00am</u> Refreshments – Breakfast Sandwiches Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
July 15, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw, Bake Beans French Bread, , Soda, Coffee and Water
July 22, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – - Bratwurst, Sauerkraut and Chips Soda, Coffee and Water
July 29, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – Meatloaf, Green Beans, Mash Potatoes Rolls, Soda, Coffee and Water
August 5, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – - Pizza & Salad Soda, Coffee and Water
August 12, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – Fried Chicken, Mash Potatoes, Cole Slaw Salad, Bread, Soda, Coffee and Water
August 19, 2023	<u>Morning Meeting 10:00am</u> Refreshments – Bagels & Danish Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
August 26, 2023	<u>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</u> Refreshments – Roast Beef, Green Beans, Salad Bread, Soda, Coffee and Water



FOURTH OF JULY IS SUCH A SPECIAL DAY

Holidays seem to have become less about the celebration and more about the preparation. For weeks before these big days, our parents and grandparents slave away to prepare the big feast or relentlessly try to clean the kitchen that never seems to be clean enough.

I find it so funny that so much stress goes into holidays that are meant to be celebrations of family and good tidings. But there is one holiday in the year that never seems to be stressful.

Tensions never seem to rise in the family household. A day of celebration for the country that made us who we are today, a celebration for the colors we are proud to wear and a celebration for the three letters we love to chant on The Fourth of July.

(Continued on page 9)



Jose Hernandez

A Message From Our Noble Grand Officers and Members Greetings everyone!

Hello there! I sincerely hope this message reaches you in good spirits, feeling happy, refreshed, and in good health. The recent heat wave has been on my mind, considering the impact it's had on people. It appears to be lingering longer than usual this year. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by it.

Now that summer has finally arrived, it seems like everyone is bustling with activity. Some of us find ourselves occupied with a plethora of tasks both at home and at work. Our Lodge is no exception to the summer rush. We have scheduled safety coffee breaks, an upcoming annual picnic, a annual banquet, fun bowling tournament, and even a momentous celebration for our 9500th consecutive meeting.

Alongside these events, there are numerous regular meetings to attend. Additionally, it's vacation season, and upon returning, it often feels like there's even more to catch up on than before we left. Amidst the busyness, let's take the time to cherish the moments we spend together and strive to avoid excessive stress.

(Continued on page 3)

(Noble Grand Continued from page 1)

Remember, reaching out for help from others when needed is crucial, and keeping things in perspective is essential. I would like to reiterate my previous request, hoping to hear from my fellow members. We genuinely appreciate any communication. In our weekly reports, we provide updates on members facing illness or distress. If you're unable to attend meetings due to health or any other reasons, please inform us. It would be heartwarming to report that those who haven't been to the Lodge in a while are in good health and thriving. Your well-being matters to us, and we genuinely care about your status. Feel free to drop me an email at jose_63042@yahoo.com or leave a message on my cell at 314-753-3880. While my schedule is quite packed these days, I will make sure to return your call. May God bless and watch over all of you.

Warmest regards,
Jose Hernandez
Noble Grand



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

**Remember Odd Fellows Objective is
To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind**

9,500 CELEBRATION



THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF **ODD FELLOWS**

ST. LOUIS LODGE NO. 5

*Will be celebrating their 9,500 Lodge Meeting
On July 8, 2023 at 6:00pm*

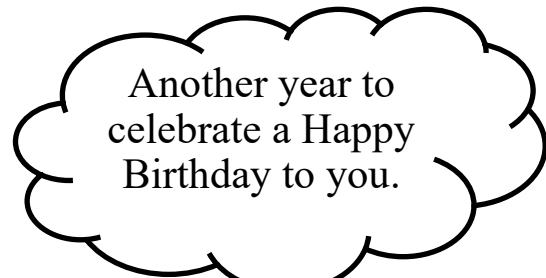
at



4254 TELEGRAPH ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63129

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

JULY		AUGUST	
Glen Robinson	3	Rick Bayer	3
Kenneth David	4	Charles Petersen	3
Jeffrey Parrotte	7	J.T. Taylor	27
Darrel Curtis	13	Charles Alexander	29
Jeffrey Pedroley	16	Michael Campbell	31
Mark Schultheis	20	Stephen Marquard	31
Thomas Kreyling	26	Carl Oberle	31
Charles Benson	30		
Philip Cole	30		



MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DRAWING

4/15/23	John Eckert	WINNER
4/22/23	Ray White	WINNER
4/29/23	John Eckert	WINNER
5/6/23	Kurt Witzel	WINNER
5/13/23	Ray White	WINNER
5/20/23	Tom Moser	WINNER
5/27/23	Jose Hernandez	WINNER
6/3/23	Walter Clifton	WINNER
6/10/23	John Eckert	WINNER
6/17/23	Bruce Boeckmann	WINNER
6/24/23	Walter Clifton	WINNER

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

Sick and Shut-ins

Marion Briggs.....314-773-4421

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**
Jose M. Hernandez.....314-753-3880
- Vice Grand**
Rodney Kleine.....314-952-7941
- Secretary**
Robert J. Mayer Sr.....314-278-6065
- Financial Secretary**
Francis LaVar.....314-607-6380
- Treasurer**
Jeffrey Parrotte.....314-751-3138

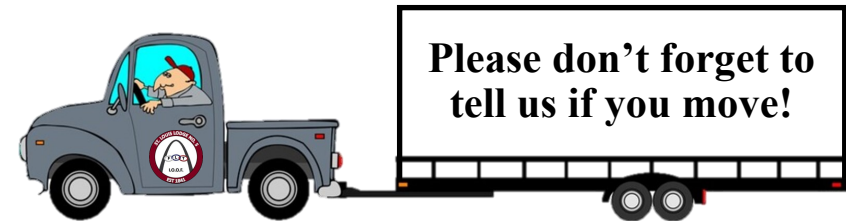
Special Relief Committee

- Richard Aguilar.....314-644-1126
- Craig A. Skinner.....314-839-3081
- Larry Endicott314-452-8989



MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS

ADDRESS CHANGES



DON'T FORGET TO MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR ROSTER

.....

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



Fun facts about the 4th of July

1. Where was the first celebration of Independence Day held?
2. Every Independence Day, how many times does the Liberty Bell ring?
3. What was the name of the newspaper that published the Declaration of Independence?
4. The Fourth of July commemorates which document?
5. Which American president was born on July 4th?
6. Which president of the United States was the first to host a Fourth of July celebration at the White House?
7. How many Stars and Stripes does the US flag have?
8. What is the location of the nation's oldest Fourth of July parade?
9. What was the total number of people who signed the Declaration of Independence?
10. Every July 4th, what food is most commonly consumed?
11. Who gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
12. What was The Statue of Liberty's official name?
13. Where is the Liberty Bell currently located?
14. Every July 4th, how many hot dogs are consumed?
15. What was the estimated population of the United States on July 4, 1776?

Answer's to above questions

1. Philadelphia	11. French People
2. 13	12. Liberty Enlightening the World
3. The Pennsylvania Evening Post	13. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
4. Declaration of Independence	14. 150 million
5. Calvin Coolidge	15. 2.5 million people
6. Thomas Jefferson	
7. 50 Stars and 13 Stripes	
8. Bristol, Rhode Island	
9. 56	
10. Hot Dogs	

July 4th, continued from page 1)

The Fourth of July is a culmination of everything that makes us the United States of America. In my head, whenever I picture this special day, I see children with watermelon dripping down their faces, running through the yard with sparklers in hand. Families and friends glued to the grill waiting for the self-proclaimed grill master to finish their burger and hot dogs. Children are decked out in their best red white and blue garb. Blankets are strewn all around the park full of unknown people that are all there for the same purpose, to watch the never disappointing fireworks while "Born in the U.S.A." sung by our boy Bruce Springsteen plays in the background. Pure summertime happiness.

When I think back on my childhood, some of my fondest memories come from the Fourth of July. What makes the Fourth of July so great is that there is no pressure. No pressure to cook a huge meal, no pressure to buy everyone the best presents, no pressure to clean your house to the point where it looks like no one lives in the house. This day is as relaxed as it gets, consisting of a day on the beach or a casual family barbecue. The point of the Fourth of July is to get together with friends and family to celebrate the great country we live in and to celebrate each other. The Fourth of July is a day where we can step outside to our sunny backyards and smell the fresh cut grass and be proud to live in our country.

This day is a celebration for all. You do not have to be Catholic or Jewish or Irish to enjoy this day. There is a reason we all live in this country, and now we have the chance to show it. It is a chance to let our freedom flags fly in all their glory. Pride is a very strong emotion; it fills your gut with warmth and brings a smile to your face and tears to your eyes. On this day, we get to share our pride in the form of clothing, food, chants and fireworks. The whole country is celebrating the same thing; there is power and unity in this notion. It is a day where we can be "Proud to be an American" and get to "Party in the U.S.A." All in all, "God Bless the U.S.A."





A STORY ABOUT A BUNDLE OF STICKS

Once upon a time, there was a very old man with many sons. The children were always fighting with each other. As the man became older and weaker, he became worried that his children would ruin themselves if they continued to fight like this. He decided to teach them a lesson. He called his children and asked them to bring two sticks each from the village. Then he asked them to break one stick each, and the sons did what the father asked. He took the second stick from his children and bundled them up. He asked his children to break the bundle of sticks, but they were unsuccessful. Then he explained to his sons that no one would be able to break them if they stayed together, just like the bundle of sticks. The children learned their lesson and realised the importance of one another.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

The moral of “The Bundle Of Sticks” story is “Unity is strength,” which means that when we are united, we are powerful, and no one can break us when we are together. In the story, the old man taught his children that when they remained unified and together, they would be happier and stronger, and no one would be able to harm them. When separated, they will be weak and have to face life’s difficulties alone. This teaches us why we should live unitedly instead of fighting. This is a lesson we all should learn.



REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES

The Financial Secretary's Corner

The Financial Secretary wishes to remind the members, that Lodge Dues are due on January 1, 2023. 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 Francis LaVar for further information at **314-607-6380**.

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.



Children’s Story – The First 4th of July

One day, more than two hundred years ago, five men were appointed to write a letter to the world. One of the five men was old — seventy years old. His name was Benjamin Franklin. Two of them were middle-aged. Their names were John Adams and Roger Sherman. The other two were young men, and their names were Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson.

Most of the letter was written by one of the young men, by the one named Thomas. He was tall and had sandy hair. His eyes were gray and often sparkled like two stars. He was strong and liked to ride horseback.

Thomas dipped his quill [feather] pen into the ink and scratched away on the paper until the letter was finished. When the other four men read it, they liked it so well that they asked him to make only a few changes.

Soon after the letter was written a big bell began to ring and men began to throw up their hats and shout. The big bell rang and the people shouted because the letter to the world had been written and signed. It was signed by the five men who wrote it, and also by fifty-one other men who had asked them to write it.

That letter to the world is now known in every part of the world. In the United States of America, it is printed in most of the history books that boys and girls study in school. It is called the Declaration of Independence.

The young man Thomas who wrote the Declaration of Independence was Thomas Jefferson. He was later to become the president of the United States. The Declaration was signed on the 4th of July 1776. That is the reason we celebrate the 4th of July every year. The big bell weighs more than a ton and it is known as the Liberty Bell. It is kept in the city where the Declaration of Independence was written and signed.

You have all heard the 4th of July called Independence Day. The Liberty Bell hangs in Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell became famous on the first 4th of July in American history. A verse from the Bible is printed on the bell. It says, “Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof” (Leviticus 25:10).



Don't Forget

Upcoming Annual Banquet

St. Louis Lodge No. 5 members and a guest are invited to attend our upcoming Annual Banquet on **August 19, 2023 at 6:00pm**. The banquet will be held at **Andre's Banquets & Catering**, located at **4254 Telegraph Road, St. Louis Mo. 63129**.

Members will soon be receiving a letter in the mail with information pertaining to the banquet as well as a ticket request form. Please return your ticket request form as soon as possible. This helps us to plan the meals and finalize the details. If you have any questions or concerns please call Brother Francis LaVar (Banquet Coordinator) at 314-607-6380. Hope to see you there.....



St. Louis Lodge No. 5

The following is a list of upcoming lodge activities for the rest of this year. We hope that you will attend.

Upcoming activities

- **Safety Coffee Break** (July 4th 2023)
- **9,500 meeting Banquet** (Historic Event)
- **Bowling Tournament** (July 9, 2023)
- **Annual Banquet** (August 19, 2023)
- **Annual Picnic** (September 10, 2023)
- **Thanksgiving Dinner** (Rob your neighbor)
- **Past Grand Night** (Steak night)
- **Children's Christmas Party** (Santa Claus visit)
- **Adult Christmas Dinner** (Charity Presentations)

Then we start over with more too come