



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.

December 30, 2023	Morning Meeting 10:00 am Refreshments – Breakfast Sandwiches Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 6, 2024	Initiatory Degree 7:00pm Refreshments – Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 13, 2024	 Pool/Billiard Training 3:00 pm
January 13, 2024	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Cannelloni with Red & White Sauce, Salad Bread, Coffee and Water
January 20, 2024	Morning Meeting 10:00 am Refreshments – Donuts & Bagels Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 20, 2024	Officers Installation 7:00pm Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad Desert, Sheet Cake, Rolls, Soda, Coffee and Water
January 27, 2024	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Gioia's Deli Sandwiches, Chips Soda, Coffee and Water
February 3, 2023	First Degree 7:00 pm Refreshments – Beef Stew, French Bread Soda, Coffee and Water
February 10, 2024 BINGO	Regular Meeting 7:00pm (Valentine Dinner) Refreshments – Chicken Parmesan, Salad, Dessert, Soda, Coffee and Water
February 17, 2024	Second Degree 7:00pm Refreshments – Fish & Chips Soda, Coffee and Water
February 24, 2024	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Chili, Hotdogs, Shoe Strings Potatoes, Oinons, Cheese, Noodles, Soda, 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 2024



WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU

In addition to gaining a worldwide family of Brothers and Sisters and the many philosophical lessons of our Degrees dating back centuries, there are many benefits to being a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Members learn and use many valuable life skills that carry over into life outside the Lodge. These skills are useful to anyone trying to better their career and will be handy on any resume or for anyone who is an entrepreneur trying to start their own business.

Schuyler Colfax, Vice-President of the United States under President Ulysses S. Grant, became an Odd Fellow at the age of 21. From a bashful young man who feared being called upon to speak in front of a group, he was transformed into one of the greatest speakers of his time. He once remarked that his first speech was made in an Odd Fellows Lodge and had attributed the self-confidence he gained to participating in the business sessions of the Order.

(Continued on page 4)



Jose Hernandez

A Message From Our Noble Grand Officers and Members

Hello, fantastic members!

I trust this message finds you in great spirits. Can you believe winter is on its way? Although a balmy 60+ degrees at Christmas might feel a bit unusual, it's always the warmth of our friendships that matters most. And speaking of warmth, if you couldn't make it to Lodge in the past couple of months, you missed out on some wonderful activities – Thanksgiving dinner, Past Grand's Dinner, the Children's Christmas Party, and Christmas dinner were all delightful!

A big congratulations to our new officers! It's been my pleasure to serve as Noble Grand this past year. I must say, this Lodge is a shining example of dedication and hard work, thanks to all our incredible members who diligently take care of the Lodge's business. They make the Noble Grand's job feel like a breeze. As we step into 2024, exciting changes are coming to our lodge. Have you heard? We've got a brand-new outdoor sign, a majestic flagpole, and the interior has received a fantastic update. Your Lodge is getting a makeover, and it's all thanks to your support.

(Continued on page 3)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

JANUARY

Nicholas Rogers	1
John Dempsey Sr.	6
Dennis Lipski	6
Kenneth Rogers	7
Stephen Carr Sr.	8
Jose Hernandez	9
William Jimas	9
Andrew Oberman	9
Steven Throm	10
Alexander Hollenberg	11
Todd Will	12
J. Dodson	18

FEBRUARY

Charles Whisenhunt	1
Kenneth Herrmann	2
Daniel White	4
Casey Brizendine	6
William Neighbors	7
Terrence Shofner	7
Charles Ems	11
Thomas Moser	16
Art Matthews	17
David Haywood	25
John Siscel III	27

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DRAWING

10/14/23	Jose Hernandez	WINNER
10/21/23	Michael Campbell	WINNER
10/28/23	Jeffrey Parrotte	WINNER
11/04/23	Rick Bayer	WINNER
11/11/23	Thomas Kreying	WINNER
11/18/23	Dennis Lipski	WINNER
11/25/23	Richard Aguilar	WINNER
12/2/23	Thomas Moser	WINNER
12/9/23	James Schmerold	WINNER
12/16/23	James Schmerold	WINNER
12/23/23	Jeffrey Parrotte	WINNER

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

Sick and Shut-ins

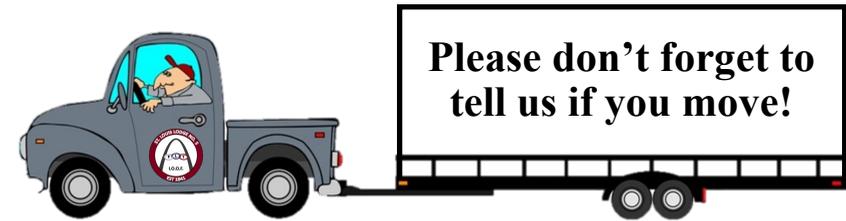
Marion Briggs.....314-773-4421

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.



MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS

ADDRESS CHANGES



DON'T FORGET TO MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR ROSTER

.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

NAME _____

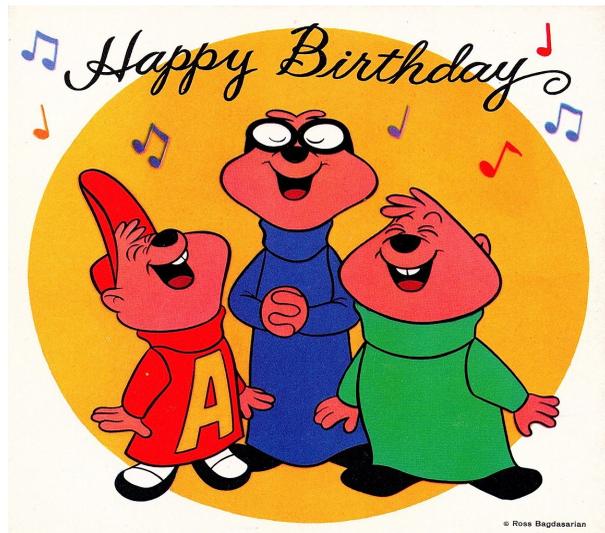
ADDRESS _____

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



LODGE OFFICERS

Noble Grand
 Francis X. LaVar.....314-607-6380

Vice Grand
 John C. Caraker.....314-630-5469

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



St. Louis Lodge No. 5

Cordially invites you, your family and friends to the

Annual Installation of Officers'

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Three Links Building

350 North Valley Dell Dr. Fenton, Mo. 63026



Fellowship begins at 5:30 pm

Dinner is at 6:00 pm

Installation of officers' starts at 7:00 pm

(Noble Grand Continued from page 1)

Now, we could use your help on degree nights to usher in new members. The more, the merrier! Your participation makes putting on these degrees a breeze. Ever thought about volunteering for a speaking part? It's a great way to contribute and learn something new!

And, of course, we want to hear from you. Every week, we provide updates on members facing challenges, but we also love celebrating the good times. If health or other issues keep you from our meetings, do let us know. We genuinely care about how you're doing.

So, be well, my brothers! Here's to a season of warmth, camaraderie, and an exciting future at our Lodge.

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



(Continued on page 1, What can we do for you)

AS A MEMBER WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS IN THE LODGE YOU LEARN THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Responsibility** to all of your Lodge Brothers and Sisters. To uphold the values of the IOOF and to make attending and helping at Lodge functions a personal goal.
1. **Taking part** in Lodge ritual and learning different roles accurately.
2. **Speaking** in front of or reading out loud in front of a group.
3. **Proper protocol** on how to take part in a formal business meeting using Robert's Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure).
4. **How to work with others** on committee plans and successfully carry out a variety of Lodge related events and fundraisers.
5. **How to respectfully** debate a topic in times of disagreement.
6. **Learn to put aside differences** and work together for the good of the Lodge even if it doesn't directly benefit you.
7. **The appropriate way to take** minutes of a meeting and to keep important paperwork organized, filled out properly, and filed in a timely manner.
8. **How to keep proper financial records** and to develop and maintain a budget for the Lodge.
1. **Marketing skills** to promote the work of the Lodge using social media and traditional media like news papers, radio, and TV.
2. **Learn leadership skills** to be empowered and confident.
3. **How to run a meeting** and maintain control and decorum over the Lodge and how to mediate successfully when disagreements arise.
4. **Become a trustee** charged with the care of the lodge property and any tenants it houses as well as managing any historical documents or artifacts.



(Continued on page 4, what can we do for you)

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE MENTOR FOR OTHERS WHO WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU.

ONCE YOU MOVE UP TO THE PAST GRAND POSITION YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO:

- Gain a deeper knowledge of how a non-profit (501 c8) charitable organization works and how to make successful choices for it.
- Work on statewide/jurisdiction wide committees with greater responsibilities attached.
- Travel within the jurisdiction on official business when called upon, and conduct IOOF business with pride.
- Represent your lodge at Grand Lodge Session as their vote on legislation.
- Learn how to write Grand Lodge proposals and bills for debate and voting.
- Weigh out different investment options and manage a variety of properties without causing a loss to the Grand Lodge.
- Maintain large pools of membership information accurately.
- Act as a liaison between the Sovereign Grand Lodge and individual lodges. Acting as a coach and consultant to help individual lodges in need of assistance.





ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS
If you are interested in learning to play (Pool/Billiards). On Saturday January 13, 2024, at 3:00pm. Brother Michael Campbell will be having a training session for those who wish to learn to play the game. The training will be held in the Recreation Room in the rear of the building. Come and join us and have a great time.



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, 2024. 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.



St. Louis Lodge No. 5

Invites our members and their guests
to our annual

Valentine Day Celebration

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Dinner at 6:00 pm
Lodge meeting at 7:00 pm

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

**While the members are having their meeting.
Those who wish can play BINGO \$\$\$\$\$**



NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Annual Adult Christmas Party



On Saturday, December 16, 2023 St. Louis Lodge No. 5 held it's **Annual Adult Christmas Party**. In addition, were honor to have representatives from the Charities that were selected to receive donations from the lodge. In all those in attendance have a great dinner and fellowship was have by all.

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people bolt down a dozen grapes—symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead—right before midnight.

In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, meanwhile, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve; it is said that whoever finds the nut can expect 12 months of good fortune.

Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year, including the ever-popular "Auld Lang Syne" in many English-speaking countries. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot. (They would reportedly vow to pay off debts and return borrowed farm equipment.)

In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in New York City's Time Square at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907. Over time, the ball itself has ballooned from a 700-pound iron-and-wood orb to a brightly patterned sphere 12 feet in diameter and weighing in at nearly 12,000 pounds. Various towns and cities across America have developed their own versions of the Times Square ritual, organizing public drops of items ranging from pickles (Dillsburg, Pennsylvania) to possums (Tallapoosa, Georgia) at midnight on New Year's Eve. Does your family have a special tradition? **May you have a Happy & Safe New Year for you and your family.**