



### 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.

March 2, 2024	<b>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</b> Refreshments – Pizza, Salad Soda, Coffee and Water
March 9, 2024	<b>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</b> Refreshments – Pulled Pork, Potatoes Salad, Baked Beans Soda, Coffee and Water
March 16, 2024	<b>Regular Meeting 7:00pm</b> Refreshments – Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes Soda Bread, Coffee and Water
March 23, 2024	<b>Morning Meeting 9:00am</b> Refreshments – Donuts & Bagels Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
<i>BINGO for LADIES</i> March 30, 2024	<b>Regular Meeting 7:00pm (EASTER DINNER)</b> Refreshments – Ham & Roast Beef, Potatoes Salad, Green Beans, Rolls, Pies, Soda, Coffee and Water
April 6, 2024	<b>Morning Meeting 9:00am</b> Refreshments – Breakfast Sandwiches Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
April 13, 2024	<b>Initiatory Degree 7:00pm</b> Refreshments – Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Salad, Rolls, Soda, Tea, Coffee, and Water
April 20, 2024	<b>Regular Degree 7:00 pm</b> Refreshments – Cold Cuts, & Chips Soda, Coffee and Water
April 27, 2024	<b>First Degree 7:00pm</b> Refreshments Beef Tips & Noodles, Mixed Vegetables Salad, French Bread, Soda, Tea, Coffee, & 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](http://www.ioof-stl.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ioofstl/>



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ST. LOUIS LODGE NO. 5, I.O.O.F.
P.O. Box 1467 FENTON, MISSOURI . 63026
MARCH - APRIL 2024



### Three Sons and a Bundle of Sticks

Once upon a time, an old man lived with his three sons in a village. The three sons were hard workers. Still, they quarreled all the time. The old man tried a lot to unite them but he failed. Though the villagers appreciated their hard work and efforts, they made fun of them on their fights. Months passed by and the old man fell sick. He told his sons to stay united, but they didn't listen to him. So, he decided to teach them a practical lesson so that they would forget their differences and stay united.

The old man called his sons. He told them, "I will give you a bundle of sticks. Separate each stick and you will have to break each stick into two. The one who breaks the sticks quickly will be rewarded more." The sons agreed.

The old man gave a bundle of 10 sticks to each of them and asked them to break each stick into pieces. They broke the sticks into pieces in minutes. And again they started to quarrel among themselves as to who came first. The old man said, "Dear sons, the game is not over. Now I will give another bundle of sticks to each of you. You will have to break the sticks as a bundle, not as separate sticks.

" (Continued on page 4)



Francis LaVar

### A Message From Our Noble Grand Officers and Members

Hello to all!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Noble Grand. As we look ahead to the coming year, we will continue to support the community through charities, scholarships and coffee breaks. More emphasis will be placed on our degree work to fine tune the presentations given to our new candidates.

The goal is also to work towards having a degree rally this summer in which we can extend to other lodges in the state. We haven't done this in a few years. Something new this Spring will be a membership rally. An evening with dinner and entertainment will be provided with the intent of members to bring a potential candidate.

As always we encourage your attendance to our meetings when possible to maintain the traditions and accomplishments of our lodge.

Francis X LaVar  
Noble Grand.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

## MARCH

Richard Walsh	1
Wyatt Wooden	12
Leroy Jennings	10
Johnny Naylor	14
Eric Raney	23
Gary Nelson	25
Stanley Bialczak	26
Casey Liotta	30
C. Ray White Jr.	30

## APRIL

Richard Swanson	4
William Woods	5
John Eckert	6
Mouyassar James	8
Dwight Wyatt	8
Rex Gooch	9
Cody Wilde	13
Francis Lavar Jr.	14
Paxton Rogers	20
Robert Brucker	27
Larry Endicott	28

## MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DRAWING

1/6/24	Jose M. Hernandez	WINNER
1/13/24	Rick L. Bayer	WINNER
1/20/24	Charles E. Whisenhunt	WINNER
1/27/24	Casey Brizendine	WINNER
2/3/24	Walter Clifton	WINNER
2/10/24	James Schmerold	WINNER
2/17/24	Todd Will	WINNER
2/24/24	C. Ray White Jr.	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**  
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

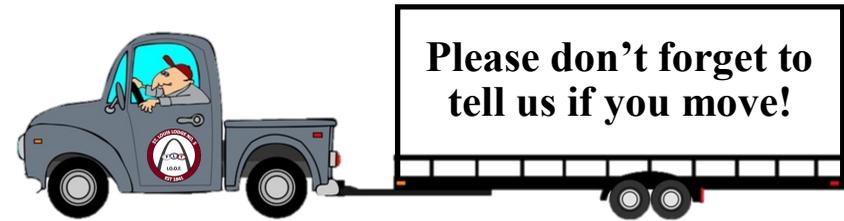
### Special Relief Committee

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



## MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS

## ADDRESS CHANGES



## DON'T FORGET TO MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR ROSTER

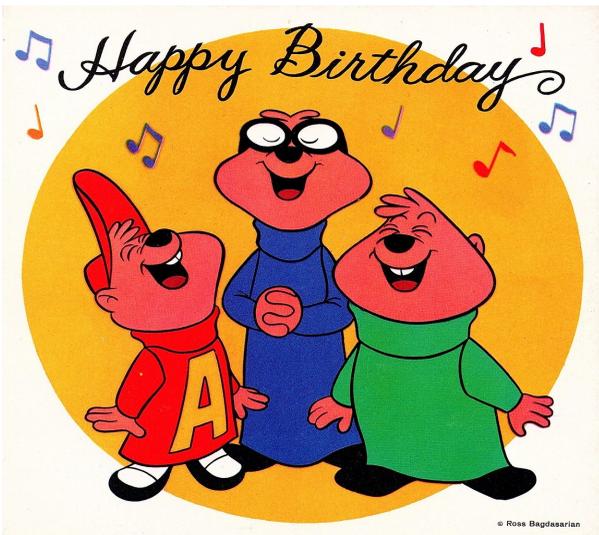
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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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





### How This All Came About !

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years." But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?" "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch..



A husband and wife who work for a circus went to an agency to adopt a child, but social workers raised doubts about their suitability. So, the couple produced photos of their motorhome, which was clean and well maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The social workers were satisfied, but then raised concerns about the kind of education a child would receive while in the couple's care. The husband put their mind at ease, saying "We have arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills." Next the social workers expressed concerns about a child being raised in a circus environment.

The wife explained "Our nanny is a qualified expert in pediatric care, welfare and diet." The social workers were finally satisfied and asked, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?? The husband said, "It doesn't really matter, as long as the kid fits in the cannon."

I hope you get this.



*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](http://www.ioof-stl.org)

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



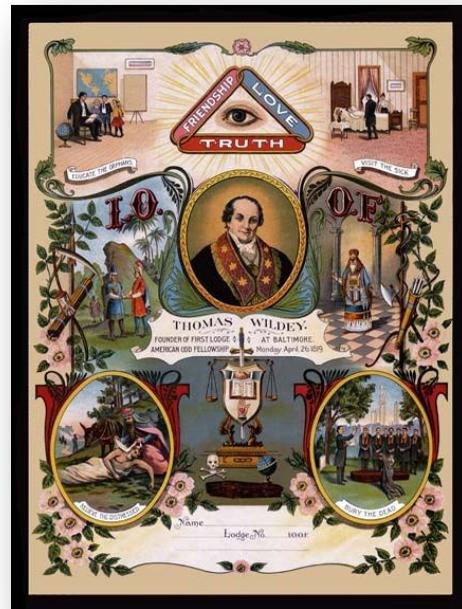
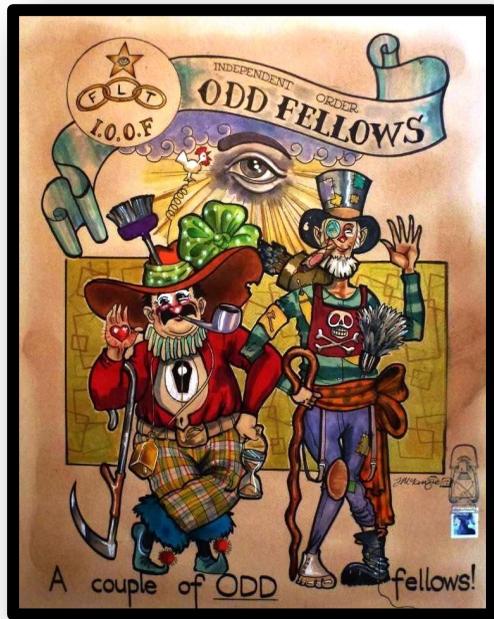
(Continued from page 1)

The sons agreed and tried to break the bundle of sticks. Though they tried their best, they could not break the bundle. They failed to complete the task. The three sons reported their failure to their father.

The old man replied, *“Dear sons, See! You could easily break the single sticks into pieces, but you were not able to break the bundle! So if you stay united, nobody can do any harm to you. If you quarrel every time with your brothers, anyone can easily defeat you. I request you to stay united.”*

The three sons understood the power of unity and promised their father that whatever be the situation, they would all stay together.

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. This sounds like a story I once heard.



## **SGT. KEITH CLARK** **BROKEN TAPS**

Army Sgt. Keith Clark wasn't your stereotypical military man. He never rushed the enemy under a hail of gunfire, and with his black horn-rimmed glasses, he looked more professor than soldier.

But as the principal bugler for the U.S. Army band, Clark served his country in a different but still critical way: he played “Taps” at President John F. Kennedy’s funeral. He had blown the haunting, 24-note melody flawlessly thousands of times before, but on this day, after waiting for hours in the cold and under unprecedented pressure, Clark uncharacteristically missed the sixth note.

It should have been a disaster, but to a grieving nation, the broken sound came across as a wail, a sob, as if the bugler and his trumpet were also crying for their fallen leader. Clark’s broken rendition of Taps became one of most iconic moments of the four-day memorial. At the Military Heritage Museum, we detail Clark’s story, show a video and display his uniform in tribute to the all-too-human soldier-musician who inadvertently provided the sound to match his country’s sorrow.





## Why Do We Say That - History !

1. There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, UK, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial, of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like ONE LAST DRINK. If he said YES, it was referred to as **ONE FOR THE ROAD**. If he declined, that prisoner was **ON THE WAGON**.
2. The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s: Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"



## 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 is pleased and honored to invite you and your guest to our **Membership Drive Banquet**

March 22, 2024 at

**Andre's South Banquet & Catering, 4254 Telegraph Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63129.**

The event will kick off at 7:00 pm. The doors will open at 6:00 pm. and dinner to follow. You are encouraged to bring a guest and their (wife or significant others) who show interest in joining Odd Fellows.

This Membership Drive is to bring in new members. We will also have great entertainment in addition to dinner. This is a time for us to meet potential new members and enjoy each other company.

The dress attire is casual.

If you are interested, please contact Brother Larry Endicott no later than March 15, 2024.



# Provided by Brother Tom Moser



## JOKES TO THINK ABOUT

### Thinking of Her

A man and his wife went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife suddenly passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here, in the Holy Land, for \$150." The man thought about it and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, "Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your wife home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$150?". The man replied, "Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I can't take that risk."

### A Child's View of Retirement

After the spring break, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent the holidays. One youngster offered the following: "We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a nice big brick house. But, grandpa got retarded and they moved to Floriduh. Now they live in a place with lots of other Grandmas and Grandpas. They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass.

They ride around in huge tricycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a big building called the wrecked center. They must have fixed it because it looks pretty good now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool, too, but they all jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim. At the gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man who sits in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes though, they do manage to sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts. Grandma used to bake cookies and other neat things, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night, "Early Bird," whatever that is. Some of the people can't get past the old man in the dollhouse. So the ones that escape bring food back to the wrecked center and call it a potluck.

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says that I should work hard so I can also be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the old man in the dollhouse. Then I'll let people out so they can visit their grandchildren."