

The Hawaii Odd Fellow

Friendship~Love~Truth



Pilialoha~Aloha~'Oia 'I'o

IOOF Hawaii Summer Picnic





Dear Brothers and Sisters

Re: Improving and Elevating
Odd Fellowship in Hawaii

In my report of the 2016 Sovereign Grand Lodge Session I introduced the concept of a renewed commitment to a *MIS-SION* for the Order as derived from our *PURPOSE* in Chapter I, Article 1, Sec. 1 of the Code

of General Laws:

To Improve and Elevate the Character of All

I wish to reaffirm the importance of embracing this mission in promoting the principles of Odd Fellowship in every aspect of the order and our lives. The health and vitality of our Lodge and Order depend on our leaders and members active participation in the government of our lodge.

In alignment with the purpose of the Order and to support our Lodge in this effort I am appointing a Strategic Plan (SP) committee to use the following strategic Initiatives for improving and elevating:

1. The character of Hawaii's lodge members,
2. The character and structure of Hawaii's Lodges,
3. Hawaii's Lodge member programs,
4. Membership recruitment in Hawaii, and
5. Hawaii Lodge's service programs.

There are draft *SMART* objectives for each of these initiatives that I will share with the SP committee for their use as they gather input from all Lodge members. The committee will then refine the initiatives, objectives, and programs to promote our mission in support of the Jurisdiction of Hawaii, the Order, and the World.

In closing, this plan is in alignment with SGM Ferguson's slogan to "*Recruit, Rebuild, and Rededicate Odd Fellowship*". In the spirit of *ALOHA* we can come together during this upcoming "*Year of Unity*" "*To Improve and Elevate the Character of All.*"

In FLT,

Nathan Ramos, Noble Grand, Excelsior Lodge #1



Aloha Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome back! It is nice to get back into Lodge activities after being dark in July and August. On August 12, Vice Grand John Shaw and I travelled to Rapid City, South Dakota for the annual Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions.

We attended the daily sessions of the Sovereign Grand Lodge and renewed old acquaintances. As in years past, we visited committee meetings, which are always a great learning experience. However, not everything was business. Our visit to South Dakota would not have been complete without a visit to Mount Rushmore. This was an excursion taken by all the members of our Hawaii delegation.

As the weeklong session ended, we all witnessed Harmony Lodge Secretary Steven Tseu installed as Sovereign Grand Lodge Marshall. Congratulations Steve!

Our Scholarship Committee chaired by Karro Yee and Brothers Manley Kanoa and Roger Caires evaluated a number of application submissions. Based on the committee recommendations, we awarded scholarships to seven worthy applicants. This was two more than we awarded in 2015.

Harmony Lodge has two more scheduled projects before the end of the year that I hope you will support. On October 22, we will again visit the ARC Home on Diamond Head to conduct a general clean up. We also have our final USS Missouri project that is tentatively scheduled for the fifth of November. I also urge you to assist our other Hawaii Lodges in their upcoming projects. Finally, do not forget our annual Christmas Dinner. It will make the Holidays special seeing all of you there.

In F. L. & T.

Claude Kawabata, Noble Grand, Harmony Lodge #3

Meeting Notices

King Kamehameha Canton #1, meets at 6:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month

Polynesia Encampment #1, meets immediately after the Canton.

Excelsior Lodge #1 meets at 7:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Harmony Lodge #3 meets at 7:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.

Pacific Rebekah Lodge #1 meets at 6:00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Get your newsletter emailed to you

Readers of the Hawaii Odd Fellow are eligible to receive each edition of the publication via email. The pdf version is sent 1-2 weeks before the printed copy is received and is in full color throughout. Join your fellow readers who have already opted to receive their newsletter electronically. Send an email to: Patrick Uza at puza@hawaiiantel.net and enter "opt out" in the subject line.

Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions

Rapid City, South Dakota, August 15 -19, 2016



Francis Robinson, PG, Grand Representative, Hawaii



Nathan Ramos, NG, Excelsior Lodge #1, Francis Robinson, PG, Grand Representative, and Claude Kawabata, PG, Harmony Lodge #3 being presented with the Educational awards.



Karro Yee, PG, Escort with Francis Robinson, PG, Sovereign Grand Representative Hawaii



John Shaw, VG, Harmony Lodge #3, Norvia Shiroma and Francis Robinson, PG, Grand Representative



The Hawaii delegation in the standard attire for the Daily Sessions



The Hawaii delegation



The officers of the International Press Association for 2016/2017, L to R: President: Patrick Uza, Vice President: Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin, Secretary: Penny Castle, and Chaplain: Jim Standerford.

IOOF Hawaii Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 16, was the day for this year's IOOF Hawaii Summer Picnic. Sponsored by Excelsior Lodge #1 and open to all our Odd Fellow Brothers and Sisters, this is a much anticipated annual event. The weather cooperated as about seventy Hawaii Odd Fellows and guests participated in a number of games and enjoyed the excellent lunch. Kudos go out to Excelsior Lodge #1, Vice Grand, Randy Grant and his committee of cooks and game coordinators for putting on a most enjoyable event. See you there next year!



Families



Fun & Games



Fun Activities



Children's Games



Fellowship



Friends

Casino Fun Night 2016

Eighty seven Odd Fellow members and guests gathered on Saturday, October 8 for our annual Casino Fun Night. Besides the expansive variety of food and desserts, those in attendance enjoyed games of Roulette, Black-jack and Craps. It was all in fun as the top winners traded in their chips for gift cards and small prizes. Thank you to Al Perkins, Michael Chung and all the members who helped in the set-up and cleanup of this much enjoyed function.



USS Arizona



John Scheleski (2nd from left), Ed Souza, PG Harmony Lodge #3, (far right) and Donna Miller (2nd from right) are the Hawaii Odd Fellow members that attended the re-dedication ceremony.

In the March edition of the Hawaii Odd Fellow, we reported how a group of Harmony Lodge #3 and Excelsior Lodge #1 members gathered for a project to spruce up the USS Arizona Marine Memorial. This project started as part of a conversation between long time Hawaii Odd Fellow member Jim Stepanek and Brother John Scheleski. Now residing in California, Brother Jim still maintains contact and follows the activities of his Hawaii Brethren. It was during that initial conversation that Brother Jim mentioned the sorry state of the Marine Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

As reported previously, this memorial is dedicated to the eighty-seven U.S. Marines detached to the USS Arizona and who subsequently lost their lives in defense of the ship during the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

On a later visit to Pearl Harbor, and the memorial, Brother Scheleski found that it was indeed in need of a great amount of maintenance. Thus began a circuitous journey to discover which organization might be responsible for the memorial. That search ended when Brother John finally contacted Melissa Axtman of the National Park Service. As Chief of Facilities Management, Ms. Axtman was the “go to” person for memorials located on the Park’s grounds. Brother John explained the mission of the Odd Fellows, the work we do, and our interest in sprucing up the Marine Memorial. After receiving paint specifications, allowable cleaning solutions, and the do’s and don’ts that accompany any public service project on National Parks grounds, we finally received an approval to proceed. With the assistance Ed Souza, PG, of Harmony Lodge #3, a crew of volunteers was organized, and the cleanup of the memorial proceeded. As reported earlier, we painted the memorial base, cleaned and polished the plaques and filled the holes in the base of the monument. All the assignments to which we committed to were completed as promised. The only drawback was with the seven plaques attached to the memorial. These were beyond our abilities to properly refurbish.

In June, Brother John was invited to a meeting of principals for a discussion on the Marine Memorial and the possibility of performing more restorative work on the

Memorial prior to the December 7, 2016, 75th anniversary ceremonies. It was at this meeting that Brother John discovered that Park Service employee Melissa Axtman’s grandfather had been a lifelong member of an Odd Fellows Lodge in Massachusetts. John also learned that because of our many years of service to the USS Missouri, the Odd Fellows were a highly esteemed local organization.

The recognition we received at the initial Marine Memorial cleanup, publicized the condition of the Memorial. This publicity, led directly to the participation of U.S. Marine Corp and Park Service entities to completely fund and properly refurbish the plaques on the Marine Corp Memorial. The fully restored memorial was re-dedicated on August 19, 2016. The ceremony was presided over by General John Toolan, Commanding Officer of the Marine Corp Forces Pacific who during the ceremony, duly acknowledged and commended the Odd Fellows for their good work.

So it was that what started as a casual conversation between California Brother Jim Stepanek and Hawaii Brother John Scheleski led to a half day cleanup project by several Hawaii Odd Fellow members. Subsequently, a chance connection to the granddaughter of a Massachusetts Odd Fellow ultimately led to the Marines and United States Park Service to fully refinish the seven bronze plaques that make up the USS Arizona Marine Memorial in time for the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



General John Toolan and John Scheleski at the Re-dedication ceremony

Adopt A Highway



John Scheleski and Robert Yee walked the 2 miles and cleaned the Kaneohe side of our Adopt-A-Highway route on September 10, 2016.

Upcoming Events

USS Missouri: November 5, 2016, 8:00am Docksides or 7:15am at the Arizona Memorial parking lot.

Blood Drive: Lodge Hall, November 16, 8:00am, sign up at the Lodge or just show up.

Adopt A Highway: November 19, 8:30am. Final clean up of the year.

Hugs Project: Monday, November 28, 2 hour shifts from 9:00am. Wrap Christmas gifts for children in need. Sign up at the Lodge.

Family Programs Hawaii: (Foster Families) 6:30am at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. Set up for their annual Christmas Luncheon.

Excelsior Lodge #1 Anniversary Dinner: Dec. 10, 2016, 5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner, Ala Moana Hotel

Christmas Dinner, Harmony Lodge #3: Dec. 17, 5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner, Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel

Anniversaries

October

5 Years: Ryan Ariola, Frank Bragg, Peter Comilla, Joseph Kelly, Kehau Kelly

November

20 Years: Patrick Uza

25 Years: Richard Burkhart & Richard Kim

Birthdays

October: John Lattanzi, Glen Goya, Jean Lizardi, Gail Uza, Tedmund Cheong, Alfred Antonio, Wayne Lovell, Gary Johnson, Ben Baniaga, Richard Heflin, Lambert Burke, Yona Chock, Miriam Cabral, Bay Watanabe, Francis Robinson, Keith Williams, Rod King, Naomi Kim

November: Claude Kawabata, Juana Tabali-Weir, Ernest Baptist, Timothy Connors, Ben Villaflor, Lynne Hill, Melvin Mung Lim Jr., William Lau, William Settle, Steven Ariola, Trina Rivers, Freida Menezes, Benjamin Wadahara, Kevin Ventura Noneza, Kanekoa Crabbe

December: Thomas Yim, Bernice Akamine, Howard Malin, Louis Caires, Kenneth Wiseman III, John Osborn, Jesse Smith, Delorese Gregorie, John Hill, Norvia Shiro-ma, Lawrence AhNee, Nickolas Young, Geri Kawai, John Bonsey, Lloyd Nakao, Wallace Shikuma, Cynthia Ponce Marugame, Faye Ramos

Hawaii Public Radio



Manning the phone bank at Hawaii Public Radio's semi-annual fund drives has been an ongoing Hawaii Odd Fellow project for almost twenty years. This year's Fall Fund Drive was held on Saturday, October 15. For the first time, the Odd Fellows were assisted by the members and coaches of the University of Hawaii, Women's Basketball Team. The Ladies had an enjoyable morning and hope to join us at the Spring Fund Drive.

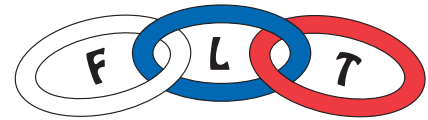
United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth



Excelsior Lodge sponsored Kylee Jervis' pilgrimage to the United Nations in July 2016. Kylee joined hundreds of other youth delegates from all over the world in a two week discovery tour to Philadelphia, New York, Toronto, and Washington, DC, with historical stops along the way. In New York, the delegates visited the United Nations and made speeches to the other leaders and delegates there. Sister Juana Tabali-Weir volunteered to be a tour leader this year.

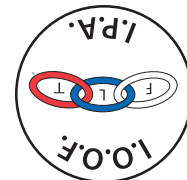
This December, the UNP Committee will select next year's delegate from all the applications received to that date. Visit unpilgrimage.org to learn more about the program and to download an application. Contact Rod Schultz, Juana Tabali-Weir, Frieda Meneses, or Shirley Streck for more information.

Photo: Kylee at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada.



MISSION STATEMENT
**"Promoting Odd Fellowship Through
 Positive Communications"**
 Editor: Patrick Uza
 Committee Members: Jerrett Kamaka & Juana Tabali-Weir

International Press Association



Member

Visit us at: www.IOOFHawaii.org

Honolulu, HI 96816

1134 First Avenue

Excelsior Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F.



Published Quarterly by

The Hawaii! Odd Fellow Newsletter