



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE

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No. 8

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW OFFICERS OF PENNSYLVANIA!

Grand Master James W. Fuller, Sr.
Rebekah Assembly President Ruth A. Good
Grand Patriarch Courtney V. Franklin
Department Commander BG Michael J. Wallis



PSGM Michelle Heckart presents Special recognition certificates to outgoing and incoming Grand Masters Paul Lautenschlager and James Fuller, Sr.



PSGM Michelle Heckart Presents the Medallion Award to DGM David M. McHugh



@IOOFPA



Places to GO... People to See

+ denotes details to follow



AUGUST

14 - 20 / SGL/GMC/IARA Session, Frisco, TX

SEPTEMBER

12 / Wings N' Wheels - GP Franklin, Blue Bell, PA (pg. 4)

19 / PGM Lautenschlager Testimonial, Dunmore

- All Lodges are reminded
- when planning an
- activity, if you would
- like your state officer's
- support please contact
- the Grand Lodge at
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- or 717-944-7419

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GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Greetings to all brothers and sisters,

WOW! We are having one hot Summer. I hope you all are doing your best to beat this heat down. As many of you know I don't do well with the heat. But you have to deal with what Our Maker gives us. With the Unified Session well behind us now, I hope you are all back to having meetings and sharing time with your brothers and sisters. I have made a few visits and these lodge halls can be very hot. Had a great time at Knoebel's nice place to cool off and have a bit of fun. It was nice seeing some new faces and getting to make some new friends. I will be looking forward to going again next year. This is a great time to relax and enjoy fellowship with one another. With no pressure of worrying if you are going to mess up and do something wrong. Hopefully more of you will come next year. Remember that my door is always open no matter what you want or need to talk about. Feel free to reach out to me. If all goes as planned this is going to be a GREAT year for Odd Fellowship. Get the word out about our order. And this is a great year to do that with our nation celebrating it's 250 anniversary. Get out and join in on the celebrating. Most towns, cities and boroughs are doing something for the 250 years. We need to get our name out and let people know we are still around and doing good things for the community. If you happen to have a minor league baseball team close by be on the watch for some Odd Fellow signs. I'm trying to get signs in as many stadiums as possible with the money that session gave me for my project. I'm going to cover all of PA from East to West and North to South. Let me know if you or your Lodge would like to get involved. Some parks are letting us set up tables at their parks. It would be nice to have local members there instead of me. Come out and work the table then go and enjoy the game. This face to face contact will be a great way of getting our name out there and who and what we do. If there isn't a team by you and you still want to help out let me know.

My charity is Camp Victory a Special Camp for Special Kids. Camp Victory creates a fun, safe camping experience for children, families and individuals facing a variety of medical and life challenges. I hope you all will join in supporting me in helping out with Camp Victory. No matter how big or small your donation is it will all help out in the end.

We are doing the visits a bit different this year. We are splitting up our Commonwealth and each of us is taking a section. I will be doing most of my visits in the center. Our GDM will handle the East and our GW will visit the West. I will be visiting all of my appointed officer's lodges. By doing the visits this way we hope to get more GL visits to our lodges. If you want me to visit and your lodge isn't in the center please let me know. I will do my best to make a visit. If you have an event or special occasion coming up let me know. Remember I work for you, so if there is anything I can do or help out with let me know. Remember "We seek to improve and elevate the character of mankind". I look forward to meeting as many of my fellow brothers and sisters as time will allow.

In Friendship, Love, & Truth,
Jim Fuller Sr. Grand Master

FREEDOM LODGE #88 SPONSORS

I.O.O.F Freedom Lodge #88 is a proud sponsor of the Ladore Open House & Salute to Veterans going to be held on August 5, 2026. Pictured left to right.... Ladore staff Marissa Dubee, Mark Scott, Freedom Lodge #88 member Doug Buchinski Past Grand and Alyson Buchinski Freedom Lodge #88 member and Ladore Lodge staff. Please come out and show your support at Ladore Retreat and Conference Center on August 5th. It's going to be a great event.



COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Fuller has scheduled the following visits for August.
I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

- 3 - Mount Zion #74 OV - 7:00PM
- 6 - Alma #523 OV - 7:30PM
- 13 - Lewisburg #96 OV - 7:00PM
- 20 - York Springs #211 OV - 7:00PM
- 21 - Aluta #488 OV - 8:00PM
- 25 - Foster #333 OV - 6:00PM

THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania would like to welcome our newest members:

Foster Lodge No. 333, Rew
Steven Rizzo - initiated June 11th

Tunkhannock Lodge No. 699, West Nicholson
Eleanore M. Palmer - reinstated May 19th
Welcome back!

Kingwood Lodge No. 1010
Jason S. Clevenger - initiated July 2nd

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates the following on achieving milestone years in Odd Fellowship this month.

40 YEARS

Arthur J. Weiler, #141
Deamer D. Davidson, #562

140 YEARS

White Haven Lodge No. 457

FROM THE GRAND PATRIARCH

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As I begin my year as Grand Patriarch, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the principles that make Encampment such a meaningful part of Odd Fellowship. The Subordinate Lodge teaches us Friendship, Love, and Truth. The Encampment Branch strengthens those principles through Faith, Hope, and Charity. While these are words we learn through our ritual, they are also principles we are called upon to live every day.

When selecting a charity for my year as Grand Patriarch, I wanted to choose an organization whose mission reflects those same values. Angel Flight East coordinates free air transportation for children and adults who must travel long distances to receive specialized medical care, as well as individuals facing humanitarian needs. Volunteer pilots donate their aircraft, time, and expertise to remove one of the greatest barriers many families face—getting to the care they need.

As a pilot, I have always appreciated the freedom that aviation provides. Angel Flight East reminds us that aviation can also be a remarkable instrument of compassion and service. Every flight represents neighbors helping neighbors during some of life's most challenging moments. It is a mission that reflects the very best of Odd Fellowship.

I would like to invite our Pennsylvania Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, their families, and friends to experience this mission firsthand by attending Angel Flight East's Wings N' Wheels on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Wings Field in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

Wings N' Wheels is a family-friendly event featuring aircraft displays, classic and antique automobiles, emergency vehicles, aviation exhibits, food vendors, children's activities, scenic airplane rides, and much more. Most importantly, every admission and every dollar raised helps Angel Flight East continue providing free flights to patients and families in need.

If you are looking for a wonderful family outing while supporting an organization that truly puts Faith, Hope, and Charity into action, I encourage you to join us. I hope to see many Brothers, Sisters, and their families there as we celebrate service, fellowship, and the remarkable difference volunteers can make in the lives of others.

I also look forward to meeting many of you during my official visitations this fall. If your schedule permits, I encourage you to join us for fellowship and an evening of Encampment as we continue building upon the strong foundation we have inherited.

In Faith, Hope & Charity, Courtney V. Franklin, Grand Patriarch

COME VISIT THE GRAND PATRIARCH

Grand Patriarch Franklin has scheduled the following visits for August & September. I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

Aug 13 – Earl R. Leiby #106 OV – 7:30PM

Sep 28 – Ridgley #217 OV – 6:45PM

GRAND MASTER VISITS WALKER LODGE #306

Paul E. Lautenschlager, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania were welcomed by the officers and members of Walker Lodge #306, Philadelphia, on Monday, June 8, for an official visit. Prior to the meeting, a meal was prepared and served in honor of the occasion.



Andrew Kilmer, Grand Marshal, introduced the Past Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers in attendance. During Good of the Order, Grand Master Lautenschlager addressed the membership, sharing his reflections on the past two years of his term and discussing the importance of his charitable initiative, suicide prevention.

Noble Grand Charles Balmer presented a check to the Grand Master in support of this important charitable cause.

Following the meeting, members and guests gathered for photographs and fellowship, bringing a memorable and special evening to a close.

Brotherly love at its finest!



THE TREASURER'S TALES - AUGUST 2026

August is a hot month in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In August 1931 it was a hot month in New Jersey. Barney continues as a tenth grade (sometimes 11 or 12 too) English teacher and a farmer. In 1931 school was scheduled to start in September, so Barney did some planning for the fall semester, but his greatest efforts in August were toward farming.

On August 8, Bobby Burke of the Washington Senators no-hits the Boston Red Sox. On August 18, Lou Gehrig played his 1,000th consecutive game. On August 19, Lefty Grove, of the Philadelphia Athletics won his 16th consecutive game. August 19, Babe Ruth hit his 600th home run.

There were a number of notable people born in August 1931. On the 10th, Tom Laughlin, actor in the *Billy Jack* series was born. On the 19th, Forest Mars was born, eat a candy bar in his memory. On the 19th, Bill "Willie" Shoemaker, famous jockey was born. On August 23, Barbara Eden was born. Barbara was Jeannie in *I Dream of Jeannie*, an she is still going strong. On August 25, talk show host Regis Philbin was born.

Barney had a rough day working in the fields. He ate dinner and sat in his rocking chair. He started to read *Alice in Wonderland*, and fell asleep. Barney was a dreamer and soon he was following the role of Alice. He followed a large white rabbit down a hole and landed in a room that alternately got larger and smaller. He was seduced to take pills that made him grow larger than smaller.

After returning to normal size, he encountered a Cheshire Raccoon in a tree. Just like the cat in Lewis Carroll's book the Cheshire Raccoon disappears, leaving only a smile. Because of his familiarity with raccoons, Barney engages the Cheshire Raccoon in conversation and is led through a series of adventures, culminating in a tea party in what looks like an Odd Fellows Lodge Hall. The Noble Grand has a king of hearts outfit on. The white rabbit is there, acting like a human and Cheshire Raccoon pours the tea. The Mad Hatter sets the table and everything is jumbled up. Instead of tea cakes or cookies, mushroom balls are served. The participants argue violently, throwing tea at each other.

A noise outside causes Barney to stir and then fall asleep again. He is now at a degree rally. He is King Saul. He can't remember his lines. The Cheshire Raccoon suddenly appears on his shoulder and whispers the lines in his ear. The raccoon disappears into a smile, and then nothing. The raccoon stays with him through the whole rally, prompting him when he forgets a line. The raccoon disappears at the end of the degree, then appears, first as just a smile at lunch. He takes part of Barney's lunch as he is trying to eat.

Then Barney stirs a bit and he is in an Encampment Rally. The huge figure of a raccoon, in a purple robe stands before him, delivering a lecture. The raccoon fades into a smile and then disappears. Barney begins to see the face of the Cheshire Raccoon in every role in the rally. When he goes to the restroom and looks in the mirror, Barney sees a raccoon's head where his head should be. He runs out of the lodge hall and he is back at the Mad Hatter's tea party. The Cheshire Raccoon hands him a cup of tea and banters about everyone being mad.

Barney is starting to become agitated when the telephone rings. He awakens. Elizabeth picks up the telephone. It is Clancey at the grocery store. He wants to speak to Barney.

"How are you feeling?" Clancey asks.

Barney replies, "A little groggy, I was just taking nap."

"Did you eat those mushrooms I sold you yesterday?" Clancey inquires.

"Why yes, we had them with a beef roast tonight." Barney replies.

Clancey exclaims, "Don't go anywhere till tomorrow afternoon, and don't drive a car, tractor or anything else."

Suspicion aroused, Barney asks, "Was there something wrong with the mushrooms?"

Clancey admits, "They were from a shipment out west. They had psilocybin in them. The western Indians used them in certain rituals. These were fresh, having dark brown caps or light brown caps with white in the middle and stems that are white or a light gray. They are not legal for medical or recreational use and can become addictive."

Barney comments, "They were pretty good."

Clancey, almost yelling, "Quit eating them, throw what you have left away. I will give you two quarts of good mushrooms the next time you come in the store."

Barney thanked Clancey. He told Elizabeth to dig all the mushrooms out of the beef broth and throw them in the garbage.

Later that night, Saul was making his rounds. He stopped at Barney's garbage can and smelled something that had the scent of roast beef. He pulled off

the lid, found the mushrooms and ate them. Toward morning, you could see Saul standing on the top limb of a tree, acting like he was Julius Caesar, leading an army into Gaul.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer and Past Sovereign Grand Master. You can contact him by email at jcupp275@gmail.com or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopewood PA 15445.

VINCENT LODGE PICNIC

Vincent Lodge recently held our annual picnic and corn hole tournament. We also celebrated 155 years of Vincent Lodge!

We were joined by members from the Grand Lodge, Boyertown Lodge, Malvern Lodge and Paoli Lodge.

Everyone enjoyed the food, music and games but especially the company of so many Odd Fellows!



97 year old Ray Brown from Paoli Lodge enjoying a board game with his daughter Linda. Ray came dressed in his vintage Downingtown/ Paoli Lodge t-shirt



Brother Steve Boyko presents the winners of the corn hole tournament with Wawa gift cards



PA Lodges celebrate America 250th



MT. ZION LODGE CELEBRATES

Great time with Lodge Members and Family Celebrating The 250th Birthday of The U.S.

Mount Zion Lodge #74 York, PA ~ Howard Tendler, NG



BINKLEY BACK IN ACTION

Happy 250 to all of you. This morning I rode in the local 250 parade. It was my first parade in 2 years. Last year I was unable to get out of the recliner due to chemotherapy treatments. Great to be back doing fun things while I am able.

Dale Binkley



DISTRICT 6 SUPPORTS THE 250TH

The Schuylkill County Odd Fellow Lodges, District 6, took part in the Schuylkill County 250th parade at their county seat of Pottsville. There was representation from the Odd Fellows Lodges from Tamaqua, New Ringgold, Shenandoah, St. Clair and Pine Grove. The Rebekah Lodge and Encampment were also represented and the Canton formed an Honor Guard for the group. It was a wet day but very well worth it. Frankly, the weather was miserable. But the camaraderie certainly made up for it. This is what Odd Fellowship is all about. Thanks to PG Art Valentine for use of his trailer, VG Tom Dargis for use of his truck, and NG Julie Stokes for not killing anyone! Thanks to all who attended!!





PA Lodges celebrate America 250th



VIENNA LODGE FLAG DAY & AMERICA 250TH



Vienna lodge #847 of Allentown, Partnered with the Emmaus Rotary club to host the Emmaus Flag Day observance and Vienna's America 250PA event on Sunday June 14, 2026 at 2:00. Many local residents, friends, veterans, scout troops and area dignitaries gather to celebrate flag day and this years America 250. Students in the 5TH grade and 8TH grade read their wining poetry & essays about "What the American flag means to them". Vienna lodge is a proud sponsor of the programs, songbooks, trophies and refreshments to all. This yearly tradition starting in 2019 for Vienna #847, and we look forward to continuing into the future.



BARBECUE AT VETERANS HOSPITAL



On Saturday, June 6, Malvern Pocahontas Lodge #201 hosted a barbecue lunch for the patients of the Coatesville Veterans Hospital. Unlike some previous events, this one was organized by our Lodge, with guidance and support from the hospital staff. We provided the main food, while members of Paoli Lodge #290 contributed chips and cookies.

The turnout was excellent, and we had plenty of helping hands to keep everything running smoothly. The weather cooperated as well - it was neither too hot nor too cold. By the end of the event, we had served about 80 patients. The morning flew by, and by 1:30 p.m. everything had been cleaned up and packed away. We left tired but in good spirits, knowing that we had done something worthwhile for our veterans.



AUGUST OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.



Mary M. Wilson
Lady Worth Rebekah Lodge No. 328
April 19, 2026

Sister Mary M. (Rearick) Wilson, 83, of Jackson Center, PA, was initiated into Lady Worth Rebekah

Lodge #328, Sandy Lake, PA, on April 8, 1968. She left the Lodge and later reinstated on November 18, 2017.

She was a member of The Millbrook Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie, and an infant son. Surviving are a daughter, a son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Oak Hill Cemetery, Sandy Lake Twp.



Dennison S. Hare
Mount Zion Lodge No. 74
May 24, 2026

Brother Dennison S. "Denny" Hare, 87, of York, PA, was initiated into Mount Zion Lodge #74, York, on June 17, 2019.

He was a member of Shrewsbury Assembly of God.

Surviving is his wife, the former Donna J. Blevins, one daughter, one son, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial will be held at a later date.

Garry G. Rebuck, Sr.
Mount Tabor Lodge No. 125
May 28, 2026



Brother Garry G. Rebuck, Sr., 81, of Paxinos, PA, was initiated into Mount Tabor Lodge #125, Shamokin, PA on November 12, 1984.

He was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hunter Station, PA.

Surviving is his wife, the former Grace Danley, six children, one being Larry Rebuck, also of Mount Tabor Lodge, 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



Donald M. Sechler
Somerset Lodge No. 438
June 8, 2026

Brother Donald M. Sechler, of Greensburg, PA, was initiated into Somerset Lodge #438 on March 16, 1953, where he became a Past Grand on April 14, 1980 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on July 11, 1983. He served for many years as secretary. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's oldest member, by age and tenure.

He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a member of the New Centerville Church of God.

He was preceded in death by his two wives, the former Ruth Baker and Betty Hawkins, one son and two step-sons. Surviving are four children, five step-children, 16 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren, 26 step-grandchildren, 67 step-great-grandchildren and 3 step-great-great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted by the members of his District and burial was held in Somerset Memorial Park.



Richard A. Marks
Mount Zion Lodge No. 74
Mount Vernon Encampment No. 14
June 11, 2026

Brother Richard A. Marks, 94, of York, PA, was initiated into Mount Zion Lodge #74, York, on February 4, 2008. He was also a Patriarch of Mount Vernon Encampment #14 of York.

He was a U.S. Army Korean War Veteran.

Surviving is his wife, the former Maryann Gallagher, three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Burial was held in Holy Savior Cemetery, York.



Miriam Clark
Lady Sellers Rebekah Lodge No. 558
June 15, 2026

Sister Miriam "Mim" (Shive) Clark, 86, of Bricktown, NJ, was initiated into Lady Sellers Rebekah Lodge #558, Sellersville, PA, on March 5, 1960, where she became a Past Noble Grand on October 27, 1964 and received her Rebekah Assembly Degree on August 27, 1968. At the time of her death, she was the oldest living member, and is the oldest tenured member, having joined the same time as her sister, PPRA Mary Landes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert. Surviving is one daughter, two grandchildren, and her sisters, Mary Landes and Linda Torrence, also of Lady Sellers.

Burial was held in Perth Amboy, NJ.

JOIN FAIR IN WEST CHESTER

On Saturday, May 30, Malvern Pocahontas Lodge #201 participated in the Join Fair organized by the West Chester Public Library.

The event was a follow-up to the screening of "Join or Die", a documentary about civic engagement and the importance of joining community organizations. The library promoted the event and generously provided the venue, tables, refreshments, and snacks. A wide variety of groups participated, ranging from an embroidery club to the local Rotary.

We did our best to represent Odd Fellowship well. For the event, we designed and printed new brochures, created a slide presentation showcasing our activities, and brought a large monitor to display it. We were also preparing a table runner with our logo, but when it became clear that it would not arrive in time, Vincent Lodge came to the rescue by lending us a banner, which fit perfectly on the railing above our table. It was a wonderful example of cooperation and solidarity among Chester County lodges.

The event was also a fraternal debut for Brother Steve, who was initiated this spring. Friendly and outgoing, he quickly helped visitors feel welcome and contributed greatly to the success of the day.

We met many interesting people, shared information about Odd Fellowship, and made several new contacts. We left in good spirits - and immediately turned our attention to preparations for the Memorial Parade in Malvern.



ALMA LODGE SUPPORTS THEIR COMMUNITY

Alma Lodge #523 of Johnstown Pennsylvania was asked for a donation to help offset the cost of a fire/police refreshment center truck. The nonprofit organization is called The Box11. This truck provides relief services for firefighters and police officers who are involved in large fires and crowd control. In the winter they offer free hot beverages and food snacks with a warm place to rest. In the summer they offer free cold drinks and snacks in the air-conditioned vehicle for rest from the heat.

The Odd Fellows will be prominently advertised on the outside of the truck. Alma Lodge #523 donated \$50,000.00 to purchase the multi-use vehicle and to advertise in Cambria, Blair, Indiana, and Bedford Counties.

~Jim Kuntz, PG



NAKOMIS REBEKAH LODGE HONORS THE LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM



Nakomis Rebekah Lodge #497 donated a planter with flowers to Newfoundland Area Public Library as part of the Living Legacy project. Present were Nadine Hager, Jessica Kilmer and Andrew Kilmer (not pictured), who built the planter box. Kristina Russo, librarian for the library accepted the planter. Photo credit Jessica Kilmer.

CANADIAN WAR MEMORIAL



In June Past Department Commander and General Military Council Chief of Staff Lieutenant General William F. Hanby attended the Canadian War Memorial Weekend in Ottawa. He joined Sovereign Grand Master Calabrese, IARA President Eisenhower, General Commanding Retired Lasswell and Odd Fellows from all over Canada and the US for a wreath laying ceremony at Canada's shrine to its national heroes.

The memorial is located in Ottawa, Canada's capitol, in a magnificent setting surrounded

by Canada's beautiful capitol buildings. The memorial monument itself is a huge and awe inspiring granite arch under which are massive bronze

statues depicting heroic Canadian Servicemen. The monument, named "The Response", has at its base the Canadian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One feels humbled and eternally grateful while standing in its towering shadow.

The weekend is planned and hosted by General Military Council Military Advisor Canada BG Wayne Geurts and his wife Sue. It consists of a Friday social evening, a Saturday banquet and Sunday bus trip to the War Memorial for formal ceremonies and wreath laying. The service at the Tomb is very interesting and of course is different from ours in its traditions, with bagpipes playing a significant role in the ceremony. For the first time Pennsylvania was represented with a wreath, being placed at the Tomb by LTG Hanby. This wreath is now permanently part of the ceremony, placed by a Pennsylvanian or, if none be present, by a representative. It is an honor to have our wreath be part of this service from now on.

Canada and the US celebrate and honor each other's national heroes because we have worked together to protect our mutual North American freedoms. We are united as Brothers and Sisters in Odd Fellowship, with all of us respecting each other's heroes and traditions. The Canadian War Memorial Weekend is well worth attending. It is a moving experience and you will have the honor of representing Pennsylvania by laying our wreath at Canada's most hallowed ground.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...

HONORING COLONEL CHARLES SHORTEN, PDC

The beautiful grounds of Lawnview Odd Fellows Cemetery in suburban Philadelphia was the setting for a solemn ceremony to remember our twenty-fifth Department Commander, Colonel Charles Shorten - an Odd Fellow that is very special to our history in Pennsylvania. Colonel Shorten led the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant from 2016 to 2017.



Charles M. Shorten was born 1940 in the Fairhill section of Philadelphia to Ezra and Irene Engle Shorten. His father was one of the many hard working men of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and his mother worked for the Philadelphia Board of Education. He was the youngest of six siblings and was Baptised at Eden Methodist Church in Philadelphia. In 1963 Charles married Delores O'Donnell in Trenton, remaining together for 54 years. They had 5 sons - William, Michael, James, Joseph and Charles. He lived his life in Philadelphia - starting in Fairview and making his way to the Somerton section where he was active in the local civic association. His career was in the transportation industry and he honorably served in the US Army.

Brother Shorten joined our order in 1982 as a member of Walker Lodge #306 and an associate of Variety #37 and Mystic #270. He was elected Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, serving from 2012 onward. In 1982 Patriarch Shorten was Exalted to Royal Purple in Perseverance Enc. #135. He was later chosen by GP Haussler to serve as Grand Marshall of the Grand Enc. for 2006-7. He joined Letitia Penn Rebekah Lodge #173 (now with Lady Harmony #86) in 2006.

Charles received the Chevalier degree in 1999 and became a member of Patriarchs Militant Canton Philadelphia #1, rising through our ranks and serving in various Department Council offices. He actively participated in our Decoration of Chivalry ceremonies and served in the Honor Guard at the Pilgrimage to the Tomb. In 2016 he was promoted to Colonel and became the twenty-fifth Department Commander of Pennsylvania, serving until we lost him in February 2017. He was in office for about 7.5 months, the second shortest term of any of our Department Commanders (MG Perry served for only six months in 1964).

Colonel Shorten's greatest contribution was his work with the Educational Pilgrimage For Youth. All of us know the legendary status that he achieved as "Pops" to countless participants in this outstanding program. His name is still frequently mentioned when the United Nations trip is discussed and it truly is his enduring legacy. At Sovereign Grand Lodge he is a celebrity for his legendary leadership and he was presented the Medallion Award by SGM Chuck Renninger for his work. One person summed it up nicely in the comments on Charlie's online obituary by saying,

"I had the honor and privilege of working with Charles on the United Nations Pilgrimage For Youth through the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. His personal dedication and commitment to this program was extraordinary. Across the many years, he positively affected hundreds if not thousands of impressionable youth who will never forget him. He helped to mentor me for which I am exceedingly grateful. Always wishing you the best Pops."

Even with all of this, Colonel Shorten found time to be a board member of both the Philadelphia Home for Orphans and the Odd Fellows Home in Middletown. He was also well known for his proficiency and leadership in our degree and ceremonial work. Colonel Shorten served as Degree Master and Installation Staff Director where he ably conducted the various teams. His unique talents, hard work and popularity made him well known throughout our jurisdiction and beyond. He was a leading figure in Pennsylvania Odd Fellowship and the respect that our Brothers and Sisters had for him is evident. His name is still reverently spoken within our Lodges.

Colonel Charles M. Shorten, PDC died in 2017, age 77. He left behind a huge family, some of whom are Odd Fellows. He is fondly remembered by friends and family for enjoying good times playing poker, hunting and camping, particularly with his sons. His funeral was attended by many fraternal Brothers and Sisters, including SGL Officers. Services included US Army honors, a Patriarchs Militant Honor Guard and IOOF memorial ceremonies by Walker Lodge. It was a funeral service full of respect for a man that was so important to us. How can it be almost 10 years since we lost Charlie? His name is spoken so often, his memory so vivid, it is as if he is still here, energizing and entertaining us with his wit and humor. He is well remembered in Philadelphia, the state and even internationally. When the



Youth Pilgrimage is discussed he is mentioned, when I tell people at SGL that I am from Philadelphia they ask if I knew Charlie - and on and on. He was one of the best Odd Fellows that we ever had and he lived up to the sacred principles of our Order.

On this beautiful late May day, under a blue sky and a gentle breeze, I was joined by a large group of multiple generations of Charlie's extended family. Chevaliers of Canton Philadelphia joined with Department Council Officers and the Grand Master to conduct this solemn ceremony. We came together at Colonel and Mrs. Shorten's final resting place to affirm our commitment to carry on his good work. We honored and remembered his many good deeds - we made this trip to let Colonel Shorten know that the great fraternal Order, that he so selflessly committed much of his life to, will always cherish his memory. He will never be forgotten.

Lieutenant General William F. Hanby
Department Commander

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Department council of Pennsylvania ended their term on a very high note. We had 30 of our Chevaliers present at our annual Department council session, all eight of our cantons being represented. We had several dignitaries, mainly our GMC commander, General Marion F. Owens Jr. As well as several others. Our Department Commander, Lieutenant General William Hanby, ran a wonderful session. He reported on his project, which was to visit and report on every deceased Past Department Commander. He brought history back to us and back to our Department, which we thought was long gone. When he was presented with his Past Department Commander Jewel, he was also presented with a sword which bears his name. He has become a shining star in the history of our Department. With his installation as Adjutant, he will continue to shine. We now move onward to our new term and welcome at Brigadier General Michael J. Wallis. General Wallis is an extremely knowledgeable Chevalier, and we know, will do well the next two years. Congratulations to all those chevaliers and their officers, we look forward to a wonderful term!



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PHILADELPHIA CITY

Philadelphia Encampment #1 – consolidated 1960
 Progressive Encampment #3 – defunct 1898
 Lafayette Encampment #5 – consolidated 1901
 Mount Olive Encampment #6 – consolidated 1914
 Walhalla Encampment #7 – consolidated 1918
 Siloam Encampment #17 – consolidated 1921
 Corona-Siloam Encampment #17 – consolidated prior to 1935
 Cincinnatus Encampment #18 – defunct prior to 1900
 Marathon Encampment #19 – consolidated 1900
 Harris Encampment #22 – consolidated 1934
 Howard Encampment #33 – consolidated 1901
 Fredonia Encampment #36 – consolidated 1901
 Brotherly Love Encampment #38 – defunct prior to 1900
 Apollo Encampment #38 – consolidated 1903
 Ashland Encampment #45 – consolidated 1960
 Mt. Carmel Encampment #49 – consolidated 1904
 Palestine Encampment #51 – consolidated 1903
 National- Palestine Encampment #51 – consolidated 1929
 Morning Star Encampment #53 – consolidated 2012
 The Temple Encampment #100 – consolidated 1942
 Coaquanock Encampment #105 – defunct 1872
 Pennsylvania Encampment #111 – consolidated 1901
 Chilion Encampment #112 – defunct prior to 1900
 Good Samaritan Encampment #112 – consolidated 1951
 Fidelity Encampment #120 – consolidated 1903
 General Peter Fritz Encampment #137 – defunct 1909
 Naomi Encampment #146 – defunct 1908
 Falls of Schuylkill Encampment #185 – defunct 1907
 Mount Pleasant Encampment #242 – consolidated 1921
 Penn Township Encampment #255 – consolidated 1932
 Ivy Encampment #257 – defunct prior to 1900
 Cypress Encampment #257 – consolidated 1966
 Venable Encampment #282 – consolidated 1929
 Corona Encampment #287 – consolidated 1921

CANTONS & AUXILIARIES

Canton Philadelphia No. 1 – PA's first Canton!
 Canton No. 12 – consolidated 1895
 Canton Quaker City No. 21 – defunct 1898
 Canton Stokes No. 26 – consolidated 1898
 Canton Sheppard No. 38 – consolidated 1901
 Canton Ashland No. 41 – defunct prior to 1900

Philadelphia Auxiliary No. 11, LAPM – instituted 1925.
 Renumbered 1967 to Auxiliary No. 1 – defunct 2018

1st Encampment – Philadelphia Encampment No. 1 - 1829
 1st & last Canton in Philadelphia – they still have both Charters, one from the Grand Encampment in 1882 when they were known as a Uniform Degree Camp, and one when the Department Instituted in 1886.



NEXT MONTH – Bucks County

SOAPBOX DERBY 2026



Clover Lodge had Winnie Wagner as our driver, third year driver. And we also sponsored the Baden American Legion SAL car this year and was driven by Alex Young, first year driver.

Winnie went to the finals through the winner's bracket with no losses. She was undefeated going into the Championship race.

Alex who went to the loser's bracket had to race all the way through the loser's bracket, she ended up racing 12 races to make it to the Championship.

Since Winnie had not had a loss so she would have to lose twice to the Alex coming out of the loser's bracket.

Alex ended up beating Winnie in the first race of the championship so they had to race again.

Winnie ended up winning by 2 tenths of a second to take the championship.

Alex ended up racing 16 total races and Winnie raced 10 total races.

Winnie got a big trophy and a check for \$500 from the Soapbox Derby, Alex also got a nice trophy and a check for \$300 from the Soapbox Derby.

One of the Clover Lodge 2026 Scholarship winners, Brody Yurkovac was in attendance to work the event to satisfy one of the criteria for the Scholarship which is to work and IOOF event. Brody received \$1000 Scholarship from Clover Lodge.

~ Jason Stuebgen, NG

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



PGP James and PCP David Sellers receiving a special recognition certificate. PGM Jami of Iowa presenting it

Good friends get to unite again. David and SGL Dignitary, PSGM Michelle Heckart



Periodicals

JUNE DONATIONS

SUICIDE PREVENTION - GM LAUTENSCHLAGER

762	Vincent	1,240.00
Odd Fellows Home of Western PA/ Meadville		1,000.00
306	Walker	500.00
J-P Lautenschlager		150.00
Colette Raebiger		100.00
192	Jordan	<u>100.00</u>
		3,090.00

VISUAL RESEARCH

Grand Lodge Session Collection		133.00
Rebekah Assembly Session Collection		105.00
192	Jordan	100.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		363.00

PA VISUAL ASSISTANCE

270	Mystic	750.00
2	Unified	<u>25.00</u>
		775.00

● ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

● 192	Jordan	100.00
● 488	Aluta	100.00
● 2	Unified	50.00
● 1004	Hampton	<u>50.00</u>
●		300.00

● PA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

● 2	Unified	50.00
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● PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW & REBEKAH MAGAZINE

●	Rebekah Assembly	200.00
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