



Grand Lodge of New Hampshire  
Kenneth R. Dassau  
Grand Master 176

**December 2023 - January 23, 2024**

January 28, 2024

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Our Friendly Order,

I've highlighted several activities and events here that have occurred since my last correspondence sent out in November.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** – I attended the **Annual Heidelberg Christmas Auction**. The auction was attended by Brothers, Sisters, spouses, and friends of the lodge. The auction began after an impressive potluck dinner and was fun beyond belief. The event raised over five -thousand dollars for four local charities. Pause here and give them a well-deserved round of applause!

**December 31, 2023, Sunday.** I attended the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association and the West Lebanon Congregational Church, UCC's ordination of **Daniel Robert Louis Adam** into the Christian Ministry. Dan is a Past Grand Chaplain. Also in attendance were members of Dan's IOOF Mascoma Lodge No.20, and Heidelberg Lodge No.92. Congratulations to our brother and friend, the Reverend Dan Robert Louis Adam.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> is Thomas Wildey Day.** The founder of our order was born on this day in 1782. 242 years ago. We can expect our 250-year IOOF anniversary relatively soon. On that day, I was admitted into the Wildey No. 1 Canton. I should have brought birthday cake.

**January 24<sup>th</sup>,** a public hearing was held in the State House for **Legislation SB 586**.

This legislation proposed a relative tax-exempt status for Odd Fellow Lodges. The bill was requested by our PGM Patrick Doughty. It reads “ IOOF – *The real estate and personal property owned by the IOOF which are incorporated in this state shall be exempt from property taxes. If such property is rented for business purposes, the real estate shall not be exempt.*” In the past, a positive vote on such a bill as this would have saved some of our old lodge buildings that were sold because the Lodges could not afford the taxes.

A positive vote on this bill would support the continuation of our state's history of Odd Fellowship and give some IOOF lodges financial relief to continue our community work. The hearing was well attended and many members who could not attend the hearing wrote letters to the listed representatives supporting the bill. If the Senate passes the bill, then it goes to the House. Pat predicts the opposition there will be more pronounced, especially from lobbyist

groups, such as the NH Municipal Association, etc. Our sincere thanks to Brother Pat for his initiative on this issue. We'll keep you posted.

**Presidential Oaks Odd Fellows/Rebekah Assembly Museum.** At the Home's Incorporators meeting in September. Board President Michael Huse appointed me as chair of the museum committee. I am excited to announce that at the committee's last meeting we settled on a location to host the Museum. That space will be adjacent to the Grand Lodge/Secretary Office which is currently used by the Rebekah Assembly. I will do a separate letter to provide further information as we progress on all that needs to be done to get the museum ready for the public. The committee's priority is to work with the Home's administration and maintenance personnel to build/ modify the identified space. Then we will discuss exhibits, open hours, and of course – funding.

**January 27th** the second annual IOOF New Hampshire **Bowling Tournament** took place at Boutswell Lanes in Concord. Our thanks to DGM David Kilian for again organizing the event. Congratulations to the first place team - White Mountain Lodge No.5, who took the trophy. All proceeds go to the Grand Master's project. Mark your calendar for next year's tournament.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>.** Saturday. Penacook Encampment No 3, Concord will host the first two **Encampment Degrees** - Patriarchal and Golden Rule. 9am coffee. 10am start

**February 24<sup>th</sup> School of Instruction** with Brian McGuire, PGM is planned to be held at White Mountain Lodge, Concord. 10: am. Please plan to attend. Additionally, I encourage all lodges to get a copy of the Odd Fellows Primer by PGM Michael Greenzeiger of California. The book is available on Amazon.

#### **Monthly Meetings:**

**The Odd Fellows Home dba Presidential Oaks** holds its monthly Board meetings on the fourth Wednesday. The Museum Committee meets after the Board meeting at 1:00.

**IOOF Grand Lodge Executive Board** meets the first Monday of each month.

**In Conclusion.** I continue to thank you for your support and all you do to promote our Order of Odd Fellowship. If you noticed I left something out of this report, or have an upcoming event to share, please let me know. Each lodge has a member with internet access who may wish to report activities on the Grand Lodge Secretary Face Book.

Stay healthy. Be safe.  
Blessings in Friendship, Love, and Truth.



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