

# INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

## What is it?

- A Fraternity — meeting in a Lodge system.
- Striving to make the world a better place in which to live.
- A way of living life, in which you care about your fellow man.

1. What is an ideal Lodge?

- The ideal Lodge is a group of people (Brothers and/or Sisters) who enjoy each others company.
- Men and women who have a common bond, a common purpose to ‘Visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.’

2. What does the ideal Lodge consist of?

- A group of at least 5 people.
- Who spend time and effort with service to their members, family, fellow man, children and community.
- Who reach out to Others.
- Who perform service to/for others, is seen as a useful and needed organization thereby receiving publicity (public relations).

3. How many members does it have?

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4. What does an ideal Lodge do?

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5. Are Lodges different from community to community?

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➤ Your Lodge –

1. What is the number of members in your Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) How many under 30? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) How many over 70? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) What is the average attendance at a meeting? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) How often do you meet? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many Units of Odd Fellowship in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Do they all meet in the same building? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) What is the relationship between the Units? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What community affairs is your Lodge involved in? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) Does your Lodge have a committee or Member who is responsible for Community affairs? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is your Lodge able to confer Degree Work? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) For Odd Fellow Lodges – which degrees? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Does lack of proficiency in the Degree work embarrass you? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the application fee of your Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What are the membership dues? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is your Lodge financially sound? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does your Lodge have fundraising projects? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) If so, what are they? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Are applicable to the project? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Does your Lodge have a committee or member responsible for recruitment? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) If so, is there a developed plan? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) If so, what is the plan? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Did anyone join your Lodge in 2009? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) Are any new members serving on committees or in an office? \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Potential Members – *not names of people*

- ✓ Types of people \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Age range \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Relationship to members \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Interest \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Et cetera \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you enjoy your Lodge meetings? \_\_\_\_\_
    - (a) If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_
    - (b) If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_
  11. Other than the Order of business, what happens in your Lodge meetings?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  12. Has a member stopped attending the Lodge meeting or dropped out who was upset or frustrated at someone or something that took place at a Lodge meeting, function or action taken by the Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Does your Lodge have a visitation committee?
- (a) What is its function? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Does your Lodge have a relationship with the widows and widowers of your deceased members? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Would you be comfortable inviting your best friend, boss or employees, parents, children or other relative to a Lodge meeting as a prospective member? \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Have you invited someone to join your Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Has anyone in your Lodge invited anyone to join? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Why do you belong to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Why do you belong to your Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
18. Do you think the Officers and Committees are doing their job properly? \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) If not, is it an elected or appointed position or both? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Does the Noble Grand have a plan of work for the Lodge term? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Do the same members serve year after year? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Are there members in your Lodge that disrupt the meeting? \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) if so, describe. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. Does your Lodge adopt a budget? \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Do you follow it? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Does your Lodge use the committee method or do you discuss most items that need action in detail in the Lodge meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

#### *Mission Statement — Valediction / Creed / Perspective*

A mission statement describes the goals, objectives and underlying principles of the Order and your Unit. It states simply what we/you are trying to accomplish. An example is the popular Sam's Club. They try to give the members a sense of ownership and belonging. Their stores are not located in shopping centers but are accessible and not obvious. You have to be a member to get in, and you are in on something special.

Any successful organization or business describes the main goal of their planning process as stating their mission. All other aspects of the organization should be aimed at achieving the organization's mission.

You should be able to sum up the basic objectives of your Lodge in just a few sentences. One statement should describe in a condensed fashion the nature of your Lodge, your Lodge's philosophy, your membership goals, your style (*how you are or can be different from other organizations*) and how you expect to have your Lodge viewed in your community. A statement of mission provides focus for your Lodge and should be the guiding principle of your Lodge for the future until the mission is changed by the Lodge.

*A mission statement might be:*

'Tar Heel Lodge' is a spunky group of imaginative men and women that seek to associate fraternally. We see ourselves also as partners with our community and our environment, and we seek a close connection with our Rebekah Lodge and our aging members. We aim to become a recognized organization capitalizing on the need for wholesome family activities and the fulfillment of cheerfully serving others. Our goal is to grow slowly in membership and maintain our sense of humor while giving our membership a sense of belonging and a feeling that we care about them.

To help organize your thoughts for a mission statement, you may want to use the worksheet below to get an outline of what direction you think your Lodge should be headed in. (This would be a group project, using a blackboard or large sheet of paper on the wall for all to see and use in the final phase.)

A. What does and what would you like to see your Lodge offer its members? \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Describe the basic style of what the members in your Lodge should be like (*spunky, imaginative, active, caring, ugly, courageous, lazy, creative, determined, enthusiastic, foolish, happy, kind, benevolent, honorable, helpful, friendly, cheerful, rich, persistent, proud, prosperous, reasonable, reputable, secret, sincere, thoughtful, ambitious, argumentative, charitable, envious, lucky, old, prejudice, wise, etc.*)\_\_\_\_\_

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C. Describe what you think should be your Lodge's philosophy in terms of the following areas:

1. Relationship to members \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Relationship to other units of the Order \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Relationship to the community \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Any other relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Describe how you would like your community to feel about your Lodge \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Statement and Lodge Plan of Work:**

A. Write the Mission Statement for your Lodge as you would like it to be: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Use the following worksheet to develop a plan of work for your Lodge:**

1. Membership chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Community affairs chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Visitation committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Finance committee will present a budget for Lodge consideration by: (meeting before end of the term for the coming term): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Presiding officer of other Units: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Joint projects with other Units: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. The following members joined the Lodge since last election: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Appointed offices and committees offered to new members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Publicity chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Local newspaper that will print news items about Lodge projects and activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact at the newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Plan of communicating with members: \_\_\_\_\_

11. The following work needs to be done on the Lodge building and in the Lodge hall: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Estimated cost of repairs and proposed work: \_\_\_\_\_

Funds on hand: \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising projects as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Recognition of members for outstanding work: \_\_\_\_\_

Recognition of someone in the community for outstanding service: \_\_\_\_\_

14. District meetings are as follows:

	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time/Date</i>
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

15. Planned visits to other Lodges or invitation to Lodges to visit for 'friends, officer's, etc. night' \_\_\_\_\_

16. Plan for Lodge meetings other than the routine business: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Policy with regards to committees handling matters referred to them and matters that are their responsibility. This policy should be explained to the members and then attempt to not allow the Lodge to spend its meeting time in discussion matters that take away from the flow of the meeting. Listen to members concerns about a particular matter; however, if the concern has been referred to committee, the member will be asked to meet with the committee for a resolution of the matter. The committee's recommendation will be addressed at the time it is brought before the Lodge.

18. The following are the objectives for the Lodge for the year and the plan to accomplish them:

Installation of Officers \_\_\_\_\_

Committee assignments \_\_\_\_\_

Officer appointments \_\_\_\_\_

Membership plan \_\_\_\_\_

Community projects adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings planned \_\_\_\_\_

Repairs or improvements to be made to the building or hall \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting with presiding officers of other units \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge communications \_\_\_\_\_

Fund Raising projects \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Work \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance at District meetings \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance at Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

Financial condition of the Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Adopt a Budget \_\_\_\_\_

News items to local media and jurisdictional paper \_\_\_\_\_

Membership retention \_\_\_\_\_

Committee activities \_\_\_\_\_

Replace inactive committee members \_\_\_\_\_

Social activities \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation of non attending members \_\_\_\_\_

Teamwork \_\_\_\_\_

Attitude and behavior in Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_