



Presenting
Odd Fellowship

Salem Lodge No. 36
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

to

Sponsored by _____

Presenting Odd Fellowship

This script is designed to assist you as a prospective member of the Lodge, to refresh your memory of the many details presented to you this past evening regarding Odd Fellowship. This will enable you to intelligently and effectively explain to your family and friends the general aspects of this new group that you contemplating to join or have made application to (Odd Fellows).

This book is furnished so that you will have something to show them and help them to understand Odd Fellowship.

Starting with the cover, “Presenting Odd Fellowship”. This is a chance of unlimited opportunities that awaits by working with others. You can improve yourself and the community through (*turn to page 3*) ‘A Family Fraternity’ by taking part in many worthwhile enterprises.

(*Turn to page 5*) You can benefit your community, state, nations, the world at large and become a well informed citizen.

Turn to page 7: The Three Links is the emblem of the Order. The first link stands for **Friendship**, the second for **Love** and the third for **Truth**. Explain that Odd Fellowship is a philosophy of life; that the teachings and application of the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth bring about Universal Justice, peace and harmony among all people.

Turn to page 9: Object of the Order: ‘To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind.’

Turn to page 11: “Odd Fellowship; How did the Name Originate”? Actually, we have no recorded history of how the name originated. We believe that the name came into being in the middle ages at a time when most people lived a “dog eat dog” existence, with every man concerned only for himself. There were a few people, however, who were concerned with helping others. These people were considered “ODD” and we believe that because of the principles of fellowship we teach and follow, we came to be known as “Odd Fellows”.

Turn to page 13: “Odd Fellowship; Where did it originate”? We do not know where the Order originated; but there are traces of it in England for centuries back, and there are traditions that show it extended far back into the mists of antiquity. However, we are not greatly concerned with the past though we are proud of it, we are more concerned with the present and future. The Order in America was founded by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore in 1819, although there were Lodges in America prior to that time.

“The Commands of Odd Fellowship”. The principles of practical wisdom govern Odd Fellowship and Odd Fellows and Rebekahs follow the precepts of ‘visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and educating the orphan’.

Turn to page 15: “Odd Fellowship, A World-Wide Fraternity”. There are over 8,000 Units with over 250,000 members located in every state of the United States, and the territory of Puerto Rico, in every province of Canada, in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Chile, Cuba, Estonia, Spain, Poland and Czech Republic. Many new Clubs that will become Lodges have been instituted.

Turn to page 17: “A Family Fraternity”. Odd Fellowship principles are extended to the families of members, also. Besides the Odd Fellows Lodges for men and women, we have the Rebekah Lodges for the women and men, Junior Odd Fellow Lodges for boys, and Theta Rho Clubs for girls. We are a family fraternity in that our most successful and interested members are those whose families are affiliated with the Order. After you have been a member for a while you wish to advance through our other degrees, such as Encampment, the Canton, the Ladies Encampment Auxiliary, the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarch Militant, etc.

Turn to page 19: “What Does Odd Fellowship Do For You”? You will have an opportunity for leadership training, and will be advanced through the chairs in the Lodge as rapidly as your efforts and dedication indicate. You will find life more purposeful and create enduring friendships within the local Lodge and in other sections of the Grand Lodge. Special community projects that the lodge may participate in such as little league ball clubs, Scout Troops, etc. You will be afforded the opportunity to help orphans and aged people, to assist in the research of the eye bank and to benefit mankind in many ways, providing an inner sense of satisfaction that money cannot buy, you will always find a warm welcome awaiting in strange cities and distant lands.

Turn to page 21: “Odd Fellowship, Do you Qualify”? This title indicates that our members believe in a Supreme Being, the creator and ruler of the universe, but we do not inquire into choice of faith, belief, or sect; nor permit religious or political discussions in our Lodge rooms.

Odd Fellow and Rebekah membership will not conflict with any other civic, benevolent or fraternal organization: and as far as our Order is concerned, we do not inquire as to what church, if any, you may belong to. We are not aware of the requirements of all Churches, but there is nothing in our teachings which is contrary to the moral precepts of any church.

Turn to page 23: “The Application Fee is \$ 25.00”. The Annual Dues are \$ 25.00. Membership entitles the member to:

Our basic message is, “We are Odd Fellows; and we want you to become a member of our Lodge too”. Give others the opportunity of becoming an Odd Fellow or Rebekah.

There are many projects that the Order is involved in: Living Legacy program, the Arthritis Program and other Community Service programs which won us an award from President Bush at the Atlanta Sessions.

Salem Lodge No. 36 meets:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Club House on Park Ridge Circle.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Lodge Hall—422 Trade St.

5th Tuesdays are at the club House.

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