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I met the Odd Fellows at Krome Fest in Wind Lake and thought it was pretty cool what they do. If you or your group does something interesting to help out the less fortunate feel free to send us a story on who you are to preacher@freeriderspress.us Greetings Preacher,

My name is Ron Schrader and I had met you in Wind Lake, WI at Kelly's Bleachers 1st annual Bike Show. I am head of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Richmond, IL and I was one of the guys who was collection donations for our Hurricane Relief Fund. You had asked me to email you with the amount of donation brought in last Monday from the show and here it is. The total amount of donations made on Labor Day at Kelly's was \$785.32.

Let me give you a little bit more info about us. Yes some of us do own Harleys, tattoos and long hair but that's what people see at a glance. They see bikers and don't look any more than skin deep. The Odd Fellows is not a bike club though what so ever. We are a non-profit fraternal/charitable organization that dates back to possibly 1500's according to some research.

According to most Fraternal Groups, The Odd Fellows is one of the oldest Fraternal Groups known. The Odd Fellows has been around so long that in fact the date that it was founded goes unknown. The oldest Charter found dates back to 1537 as Lodge No.4. Today's Historians in England feel that The Odd Fellows were derived from the ancient Trade Guilds of England. A lot of people now believe that small villages with very few craftsmen would form a Guild consisting of Odd Trades. Therefore they were named as The Odd Fellows Guild. In the 1700's we do know that The Odd Fellows grew rapidly. In 1819 Thomas Wildley came to America to form the first American Lodge named Washington Lodge No.1 in Baltimore Maryland. As in the "Old Days", Odd Fellows have Visited The Sick, Relieved The Distressed, Buried The Dead, and Educated The Orphan and still do so today locally, nationally, and world wide.

Besides The U.S. Military, The Odd Fellows is the only group who has the great honor and privilege to stand guard over The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C. This is due to the fact that during The Civil War, so many Odd Fellows from both the North and South were granted special privileges because they were well known for helping each other out, along with others no matter what they're beliefs were. If an Odd Fellow was captured they got the best medical help known to man at that time, they were fed great meals, held in open jail cells or at houses where they could sleep knowing they would be left unharmed and many times set free with a safe passage back home. The Odd Fellows were the first group in America to form Orphanages and Elderly homes.

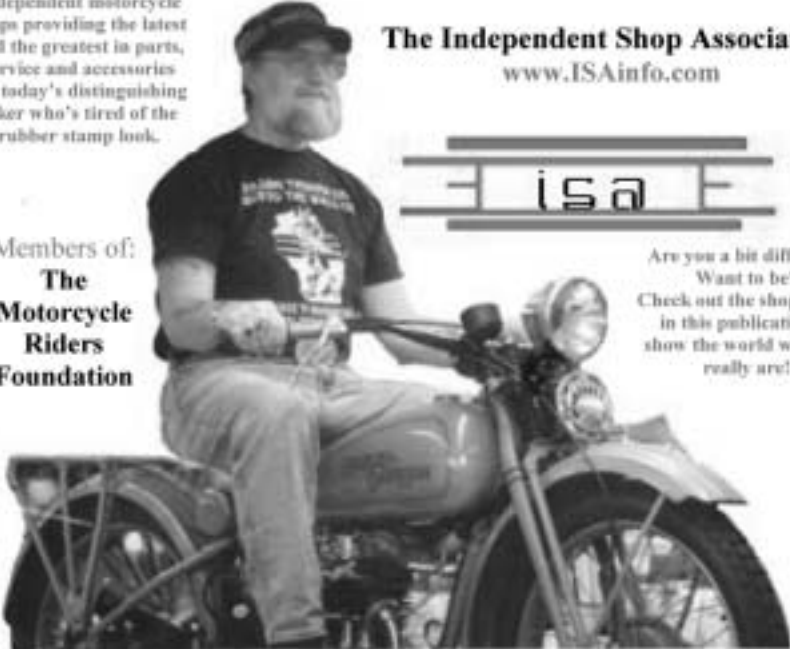
The Odd Fellows have their own World Eye Bank with many Visual programs. There are also many different programs such as Educational, Arthritis, Hunger & Disaster, Youth Pilgrimages to The United Nations, Joint Youth Committee, Community & Living Legacy, Odd Fellow & Rebekah Homes, and much, much more on the local levels as well. The Odd Fellows Visit The Sick, Relieve The Distressed, Bury The Dead, and Educate The Orphan. Through different programs, fund raisers, & benefits, The Odd Fellows seem to help out when others cant. So if you see an Odd Fellow, a Rebekah or hear of one of their many events, please support them in any way you can as their work to better the community in one way or another is very important to EVERYONE! The Odd Fellows world wide has many websites you may want to see. www.ioof.org www.ioofwi.org http://www.ioof-il.org our home lodge website www.oddfellowslodge870benhur.com In Friendship, Love, & Truth along with Faith, Hope, & Charity
Ron Schrader-Noble Grand

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PICTURES, IDEAS, JOKES, ETC.
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