

Niantic Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows seeks new members

Niantic Lodge No. 17 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is recruiting new members. The Niantic Lodge meets at 7:00 PM on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Fairview Home on Lestertown Road, Groton.

Odd Fellows is an international Fraternal Organization of men and women who believe in Friendship, Love, and Truth. Odd Fellows believe these to be the basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all mankind. Odd Fellows strive to improve and elevate the character of mankind. Worldwide, the Order has over 10,000 lodges in 25 countries. The name Odd Fellows is derived from the fact in 18th century England it was odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those belonging to such organizations were called "Odd Fellows".

Odd Fellows are actively involved in a variety of civic and philanthropic efforts on a local, national and international level. Annually together with the Rebekahs, a sister organization, the Odd Fellows spend over \$775 million in relief projects.

In Connecticut, the Niantic Lodge, in conjunction with other Lodges, supports many ongoing programs and emergent needs. An Educational Foundation with a scholarship program provides substantial low interest loans and grants to students for furthering their education. In Groton, Odd Fellows maintains the Fairview Nursing Home and Fellowship Manor Housing Facility located above the Thames River. Odd Fellows supports the Connecticut Eye Bank & Visual Research Foundation located at the New Britain General Hospital. Annually a weeklong student visit to the United Nations in New York is supported. Major projects include the Arthritis Foundation and their research work, the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, as well as scholarships to medical students wishing to participate in Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine research projects. The Living Legacy focuses on planting trees and enhancing our environment. Annually in May Lodges make a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to honor and pay respects to those interred there and elsewhere who served our country. Odd Fellows is an annual sponsor of a Rose Parade float.

Any person of good character, who is loyal to his or her country and believes in a Supreme Being, the creator and preserver of the Universe, is eligible for membership. Odd Fellowship strictly forbids any interference with one's religious beliefs or political opinions.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Odd Fellows or seeking membership should visit www.ioof.org for more information. **The Odd Fellows has a Lodge or organizational element for all family members. Come join us!**