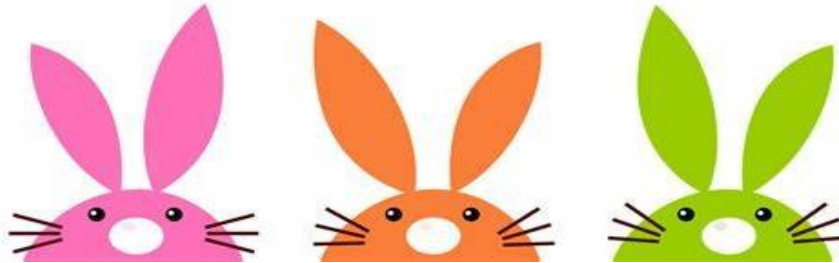


# Texas Rebekah News

April 2026



## In This Issue

Calendar of Events

Texas Rebekah Lodge Directory

Code Talk

Rebekahs in Service

Fundraisers

News from Ennis

This and That

2026 Session

Sick and Distressed

Officers Addresses to Assembly

### **Rebekah Assembly Secretary**

Pam Isenhower  
27210 Kendall Ridge Lane  
Cypress, Texas 719/775-9726

### **Retirement Center**

Lavonne Cannaday, Director  
2302 S. Oak Grove Road,  
Ennis, Texas 75119  
972/875-8641 or director@ofrc.org

### **Grand Lodge Office**

James Curtis, Secretary  
3440 W. Second Avenue  
Corsicana, Texas 75110  
james.curtis@gliooftx.org

Rebekah Assembly of Texas

[www.texasrebekahs.org](http://www.texasrebekahs.org)

President, Arlene Martin

Vice-President, Mari McDonald

Warden, Micki Jones-Hollaway

Secretary, Pam Isenhower

Treasurer, Amy Cantrell

# *Calendar of Events*

April:

4 Garage Sale, Smithville Community Wide  
11 W & O Meeting  
26 Ex-Student's Homecoming

May:

9 W & O Meeting  
10 Mother's Day

June:

5-7 54th Annual Canadian War Memorial Weekend  
13 W & O Meeting  
21 Father's Day

July:

16-29 Pilgrimage for Youth

August:

14-20 Sovereign Grand Lodge Session, Frisco, Texas



**Rebekahs!** Let us know what is happening in your lodge. Are you having a fundraiser, are you doing a service project? If it's scheduled, we will put it on our calendar of events. These items should be sent in as soon as they are scheduled by your lodge. If they have already happened, send photos and some information so that we can share your work with other Rebekahs.

Items should be emailed to [texasrebekahnews@gmail.com](mailto:texasrebekahnews@gmail.com) no later than the 20th of each month. **Items received after the 20th, will not be included in that month's newsletter.**

## CODE TALK

Sovereign Grand Lodge Code of General Laws;  
Chapter 8, Section 2C:

Purpose of Rebekah Lodges.

- to have general supervision over Rebekah Odd Fellowship in its area
- To make recommendations to the Rebekah Assembly for legislation and such other matters that will improve the order
- To provide fraternal support and assistance to its members
- To promote Rebekah Odd Fellowship in the community
- To be an active participant in the community and offer support and assistance where needed in the community

## Ex-Students Homecoming

There will be a Homecoming of the Ex-Students of the Corsicana Home on April 26th at the IOOF Grand Lodge building at 3440 W. 2nd Avenue, Corsicana.

The cost, to be paid at the door, is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family.

The celebration will kick off with a meeting at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Bell Tower Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m. then a picnic from noon until 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch. Water and desserts will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Becca Haglin at 817/313-0504

## From Arlene Martin, President

### Rebekah Assembly of Texas

Happy April to you all! I hope you didn't get too many April Fools jokes pulled on you.

The first thing I want to say as your president is, Thank You! Thank you for believing in me. I promise to you all that I will be a responsive and truthful president to you all.

If you need anything do not hesitate to call me. If I don't know the answer, I will find the answer and get back to you as soon as possible.

Our order is based on Friendship, Love, and Truth. Let's all work on these three words in our lives. If we do the Rebekahs will be a sought-after organization again.

I love you all and hope that this will be a good year for us all. Remember if you believe in yourself, others will believe in you too.

## *Did you know?*

If you have ten years continuous membership as a Rebekah or Odd Fellow, you are eligible for the lowest rates available at the IOOF Retirement Center in Ennis!

For more information, call Lavonne Cannaday, Director at 972/875-8641

## Youth News

We are happy to report that the IOOF Texas Youth have a new Facebook page! Please go to **Tra Jr Oddfellow** and join their page.

Check back with us to see how our youth groups are revived and progress.

Without our youth, our Order cannot survive. Let's follow them on social media to see how we can help them and the Order.

## Warden's Musings

Happy Easter everyone. How wonderful to know our Lord is Risen!!

I just wanted to thank the Rebekah Assembly for honoring me with your vote. I'm truly thrilled and will work to serve not only the Rebekahs, but the entire Order to the best of my ability. Have a blessed month, until we meet again.

Micki Jones Hollaway

## Obituaries

- Sister Lou Blahuta, passed away in early March. A celebration of life was held in her honor on March 28th at Balch Springs Lodge. Anyone wishing to send a card to Brother Henry Blahuta, can send one to: 933 N. Winnetka, Dallas, TX 75208
- Carol Findlay, mother of Brother Darren Findlay, passed away on March 19th in Ontario, Canada following a battle with cancer. Cards may be sent to Brother Darren and his wife, Rena Healy at: 3114 Pathfinders Pass, Spring, TX 77373

## IARA Fundraiser

Texas' own Pam Isenhower, 2025-2026 President of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, is selling plush ladybugs, ladybug timers and pins, and ladybug and cardinal magnets. If you are interested in supporting our IARA President by buying any or all of these items, please email Peggy Idom at [perkypeggy34@yahoo.com](mailto:perkypeggy34@yahoo.com)



# KENTUCKY DERBY NIGHT

Submitted by Barbara Chapman

It was off to the races with the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows lodges of Texas on Saturday night, March 14, 2026. Attendees attired themselves in festive hats and derby duds while some chuckers came in western togs and boots! Assembly President Christina Jones-Holloway and her team created a memorable night with horse decor on each table, decorated hats and bowlers, plus sweet cupcakes in Christina's turquoise blue theme.

If you weren't there, you missed a fantastic pulled pork meal rivaling any luau meal ever eaten on the beaches of Hawaii!!! The night was capped off with "steeplechase races" with members on walkers and wheelchairs, dancing and more for trophies. Really a fun time. Bravo to the winners of this derby night!



# Address to the State of Texas

## By Tom Calabrese

### Sovereign Grand Master

I bring the Greetings of the SGL, and my own personal greetings. It is with great honor that I stand before you today---- to share my message.



My Theme is **Passin' Through: We have a job to do**

My symbol is a Lighthouse for Odd Fellowship

Brothers and Sisters,

We are all just "Passin' Through." --This life, this moment, is passing. -But what we \*do\* during our brief passage, the impact we leave behind passage, far beyond our individual time. I want to talk about our roles within the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the responsibility we carry, and the legacy we have the power to create.

Think for a moment: What if Thomas Wildey had never placed that initial ad in the paper, planting the seed for Odd Fellowship in America? ---What if the founders of \*your\* lodge had decided against that first meeting, dismissing the call to brotherhood and mutual aid?

The answer is clear: This vibrant, historic organization, dedicated to Friendship, Love, and Truth, might never have existed. This begs the question: what if \*we\* don't do the job we have to do, right now, in the present moment?

Odd Fellowship offers us a unique opportunity for personal growth and social contribution. How has your life changed because of Odd Fellowship? --Perhaps you've forged deeper friendships, bonds that extend beyond the casual acquaintance. Maybe you've experienced the profound satisfaction of helping someone in need, knowing you made a tangible difference in their life. Perhaps you have found unwavering support within your lodge, a shoulder to lean on during times of hardship. These are the fruits of Odd Fellowship, the tangible benefits of our shared commitment. But these benefits, this Order, will not sustain itself. We are all just passing through, and what are we going to do while we are here? Are we going to let the light of Odd Fellowship dim and fade? Or will we actively cultivate it, ensuring it shines brightly for generations to come?

We need to be a guiding light of Odd Fellowship, ensuring the Order lives on. And that means going out into the community, sharing our values, and demonstrating the positive impact we have.

Think of it this way: Are we a foghorn or a lighthouse? A foghorn aids, but is often unseen, unheard beyond immediate danger. People acknowledge it, but they don't seek it out. A lighthouse, on the other hand, stands tall, a beacon of hope and guidance, visible from afar. People are drawn to lighthouses. They travel to explore them, to understand their purpose, their history, and to experience the view from the top. We need to be lighthouses for Odd Fellowship!

If we are seen reaching out into our communities, organizing charity events, supporting local initiatives, people will become curious. They will want to know more about us, about what inspires us, about what makes Odd Fellowship unique. They'll want to explore what's inside, what values drive us, and what perspective we gain from standing atop our principles.

This leads me to the very essence of our organization. We are a society built upon deep-rooted beliefs and a commitment to our unique rituals, and a belief in a supreme being. These are not just traditions, they are the very foundation of our values and principles. They embody our mission to foster friendship, love, and truth. The Odd Fellows thrive on a shared commitment to our ideals, and we welcome those who share our purpose.

To follow up on PSGM Workman's motto, We have not come this far, just to come this far. Let us remember that we have not come this far, to just give up the beliefs that unites us as a fraternity. It is through these shared convictions that we create a lasting impact in our communities and in each other's lives.

In closing, let us embrace our roles as lighthouses, shining brightly with the values of Friendship, Love, and Truth, guiding those who seek a more meaningful path. Let us be the ones that ensures Odd Fellowship not only survives, but thrives, for the benefit of all.

Thank you.



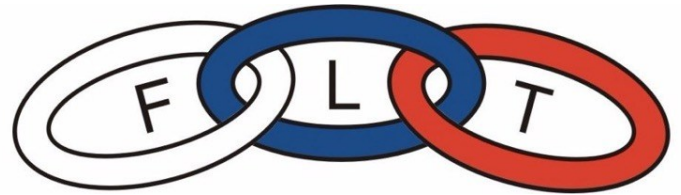
**If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send us your email address at**

**[texasrebekahnews@gmail.com](mailto:texasrebekahnews@gmail.com)**



Pictured at right:

Tom Calabrese, Sovereign Grand Master and Pam Isenhower, President of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies.



Pictured below: Newly elected officers of Grand Lodge of Texas: Left to right:

Grand Treasurer Robert Galla

Deputy Grand Master Karen June Bays

Grand Master Jason Ottwell

Grand Warden Brian Dodson

Grand Secretary James Curtis



# Harlandale #179 in Service

Submitted by Yvonne DeLuca

On Friday, March 27, 2026, Harlandale Rebekah Lodge #179 members Yvonne DeLuca and Robin Cloberdants met in Somerset, Texas to deliver the monthly gifts to the family we adopted for a year starting in January 2026. Every month we provide them with gift cards, birthday gifts, special occasion gifts or holiday gifts.

The family consists of a single mother, Delana, and her three children—MJ (Mikey) is 10 years old, Ryan is 6 years old, and Aubree is 3 years old. We presented them with a gift card to Walmart for March and Easter baskets and treats for April. Pictured at right: Yvonne DeLuca, Aubree & Delana



From Somerset, we traveled to Pleasanton, Texas to visit our member Edie Cassaday, who has been home-bound for most of last year and this year due to her bout with cancer. She must be on oxygen 24-7 and is unable to attend meetings. Edie was in good spirits, looked good and was very happy to see us. We took her flowers, a fruit tray and a vegetable tray. The visit with Edie was very enjoyable. Thanks to her daughter, Gina Kelly for arranging the visit.

Pictured at left: Yvonne DeLuca, Edie Cassaday and Robin Cloberdants



## *Ramblings of Your V.P.*

Well, the last year flew by much faster than the last few but, here we are at the start of a new term. When I was encouraged to run for office, I thought I had a pretty good idea of what was ahead of me. Paperwork, travel, making appearances, that's all old hat for most of us.

What was unexpected was the tough decisions that had to be made and the sheer volume of work. Some of our Sisters have undertaken unimaginable tasks in order to make our Order a better functioning order. And so many of them are balancing home, children, work, and parents in addition to the heavy responsibilities they have volunteered to do.

I had the idea that everything is easy enough because we have a code book. This was way too simplistic. Even though legislations had been passed, brought forth and/or tabled for some years, we somehow dropped the ball and those changes didn't make it into the actual code books. Because, the books weren't updated, we weren't up to date on our policies and procedures, thus making us not as transparent as we would like.

This opens up a can of worms because, we have followed some outdated procedures for so long that it comes down on the person/ persons doing the job to have to start anew. And, as we're all human, we get frustrated, hurt and angry. Under leadership that is not strong and resolute, this could create a big enough rift in our Order to fracture us permanently.

There were some tough calls that had to be made this last session. There were many called emergency meetings, a lot of agonizing and quite a few tears. I'm told that these decisions are rare but, there I was smack in the middle of "hardly never happens". And, I learned so much from our officers through all of this. I watched our President of the Texas Assembly and our IARA President, stand with grace, dignity and panache. I watched the two Parliamentarians research carefully to be sure that all was handled by regulation. I saw absolutely no meanness of spirit, no joy in the tasks to be done, no rejoicing when they were done.

I have learned a lot from these ladies. My hope is that I can serve the Rebekahs of Texas with half as much grace as the women under whom I am serving now. I give you my word, I will do my best.

In F, L & T

*Mari McDonald*



# Pictures to Make You Smile!!



Connie & Torrance Baker



Dorothy Dare



Thomas Roberts & Preston Hollaway



Liz Cook



Amy Cantrell



Crystal Baker



Arlene Martin & Dorothy Sumpter



Robin Cloberdants

# Directory of Rebekah Lodges in Texas

## **Andrews Rebekah Lodge #148**

206 NE 5th, Andrews, TX  
Pat Richards, Sec  
[prichards413@yahoo.com](mailto:prichards413@yahoo.com)

## **Athens Rebekah Lodge #23**

1301 Cayuga, Athens, TX  
Barbara Curtis, Sec  
[jmcurtis162@gmail.com](mailto:jmcurtis162@gmail.com)

## **Balch Springs Rebekah Lodge #78**

12001 Crumpton Drive, Balch Springs, TX  
Micki Jones, Sec  
[godschild\\_000@yahoo.com](mailto:godschild_000@yahoo.com)

## **Casa View Rebekah Lodge**

meets @Cotton Patch Restaurantl, Rockwall, TX  
Peggy Smith, Sec  
[peggy111749@gmail.com](mailto:peggy111749@gmail.com)

## **Cypress Rebekah Lodge #22**

meets at VFW, 21902 NW Frwy, Cypress, TX  
Rena Healy-Findlay, Sec  
[renahealy@outlook.com](mailto:renahealy@outlook.com)

## **Denton Rebekah Lodge #18**

1415 Eden, Denton, TX  
Karen June Bays, Sec  
[kalenajune@yahoo.com](mailto:kalenajune@yahoo.com)

## **Harlandale Rebekah Lodge #179**

no physical building at this time  
Yvonne DeLuca, Sec.  
[yvonedeluca@aol.com](mailto:yvonedeluca@aol.com)

## **Home Rebekah Lodge #128**

3440 W. Second Ave. Corsicana, TX  
Nancy Chew, Sec  
[nancy.chewglioofx.org](http://nancy.chewglioofx.org)

## **Loyalty Rebekah Lodge #166**

400 W. Terrell, Burleson, TX  
Linda Swanson, Sec.  
[lindaswanson1953@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaswanson1953@yahoo.com)

## **Palmer Rebekah Lodge #25**

no physical building at this time  
Amy Cantrell, Sec.  
[aboxofjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:aboxofjoy@yahoo.com)

## **River Oaks Rebekah Lodge #467**

1501 Hemphill, Fort Worth, TX  
Vicky Fluty, Sec.  
[mytxnanaf@yahoo.com](mailto:mytxnanaf@yahoo.com)

## **Silver Leaf Rebekah Lodge #75**

1501 Hemphill, Fort Worth, TX  
Arlene Martin, Sec.  
[arlenemartin1955@gmail.com](mailto:arlenemartin1955@gmail.com)

## **Smithville Rebekah Lodge #180**

406 Turney, Smithville, TX  
Calley Harris, Sec.  
[lilbaby233377@gmail.com](mailto:lilbaby233377@gmail.com)

## **Tyler Rebekah Lodge #142**

220 1/2 W.Erwin, Tyler, TX  
Vivian McElligott, Sec.  
[vnicklessmcelligott@gmail.com](mailto:vnicklessmcelligott@gmail.com)

## **Waxahachie Rebekah Lodge #381**

208 1/2 Rogers, Waxahachie, TX  
Savannah Williams, Sec.  
[savannah.o.williams@gmail.com](mailto:savannah.o.williams@gmail.com)

