

LODGE LANTERN

the Mighty Voice of Pueblo 8

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ANTHONY PALMER JR. INSTALLED NOBLE GRAND IN HISTORIC FIRST

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOBLE GRAND IN THE HISTORY OF PUEBLO 8, PERHAPS ALL COLORADO



by:
John Jones
Editor in Chief
Past Grand
Pueblo 8

On a landmark evening for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Pueblo Lodge #8, Brother Anthony Palmer Jr. was formally installed as the 158th Noble Grand, marking a moment of profound historical significance for the lodge, the city, and perhaps the entire jurisdiction of Colorado. In a hall rich with tradition and illuminated by the symbols of the Order, Palmer accepted the Noble Grand's collar with dignity, humility, and a deep sense of purpose. His installation represents

not only a continuation of leadership but a milestone that will be remembered for generations: Palmer is the first African-American Noble Grand in the history of Pueblo Lodge #8, and possibly the first in the history of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Colorado.

The ceremony, steeped in ritual and symbolism, reflected the enduring values of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows—Friendship, Love, and Truth. As officers and members gathered in regalia, the atmosphere carried both reverence for the past and excitement for the future. When the ceremonial collar was placed upon Palmer's shoulders, the moment resonated far be-



2026 Noble Grand, Anthony Palmer Jr.

yond the lodge room. It was a testament to the evolving story of Odd Fellowship in Colorado, a story that now includes a new chapter of representation, inclusion, and progress.

Brother Palmer has long been recognized within Pueblo Lodge #8 for his steady leadership, thoughtful presence, and unwavering commitment to service. His contributions to

lodge activities, charitable outreach, and community engagement have earned him the respect of both new initiates and seasoned members.

His installation as Noble Grand is not merely ceremonial - it is a reflection of the trust and confidence the lodge places in his ability to guide Pueblo #8 into its next era.

Odd Fellows Kitchen
2026 SEASON GRAND OPENING
FRIDAY, MARCH 6



ODDFEST 2026: Planning the Most Peculiar One Yet

The Lodge Lantern
IOOF Pueblo #8
Official Newsletter

Editor in Chief
John M. Jones

Production Manager
John M Jones

Contact
john@mooncandymedia.com

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®IOOF, Pueblo #8



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As the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Pueblo Lodge #8, enters its 159th year of service, excitement is building around the upcoming ODDFEST 2026, scheduled for Saturday, July 25. Under the leadership of Noble Grand Anthony Palmer Jr., the festival promises to be the most creatively “odd” celebration the lodge has ever hosted.

Planning meetings began in early January, with Palmer setting the tone: “Let’s lean into the odd. Let’s make it unforgettable.” His vision is bold—more eccentricity, more spectacle, and more community engagement. While the location is still being finalized, the lodge is exploring venues that can accommodate both indoor screenings and outdoor festivities. The RSMR Center remains a strong contender, but Palmer has hinted at the possibility of a more unconventional space to match the festival’s evolving identity.

One of the most exciting developments is the



ODDFEST 2025 brought the heat to Union Avenue as Steel City Championship Wrestling took over Presley’s Lunchbox on July 26, delivering body slams, high-flying chaos, and fraternal flair in the heart of downtown Pueblo. Photo by JC Salazar

potential addition of a full-scale carnival. Discussions are underway to include vintage rides, sideshow-style booths, and interactive installations that celebrate the quirky spirit of Odd Fellowship. The carnival would run alongside the youth film screenings, creating a dynamic, multi-sensory experience for attendees of all ages.

Feature events are still in development, but the planning committee is considering a mix of film blocks, live performances, and immersive storytelling

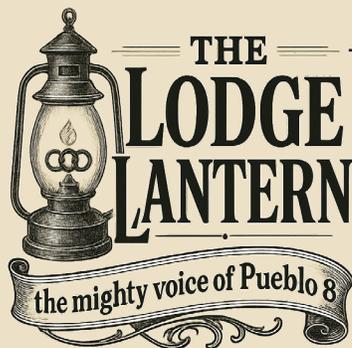
zones. The goal is to showcase student creativity while honoring the lodge’s legacy of community, curiosity, and transformation.

With Noble Grand Palmer at the helm, ODDFEST 2026 is shaping up to be more than a festival—it’s becoming a celebration of identity, imagination, and the beautifully bizarre. As Palmer puts it, “We’re not just hosting a festival. We’re building a world where odd is honored, creativity is king, and Pueblo #8 shines brighter than ever.”

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF
ODD FELLOWS



2026 GRAND MASTER SCHEDULED VISIT
GRAND MASTER CASSIE CONGER
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 10AM



The Raw History of Odd Fellowship in Colorado

ODD FELLOWS LODGES PLAY HUGE ROLE ACROSS COLORADO AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN 1860's



by:
John Jones
Editor in Chief
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Odd Fellowship began in the United States in 1819 with the founding of Washington Lodge No. 1 in Baltimore. As the nation expanded westward, the Order followed, carried by miners, merchants, and settlers who relied on mutual aid and ritual fellowship to survive the uncertainties of frontier life.

By the late 1850s, Odd Fellowship was already taking root in the Rocky Mountain region.

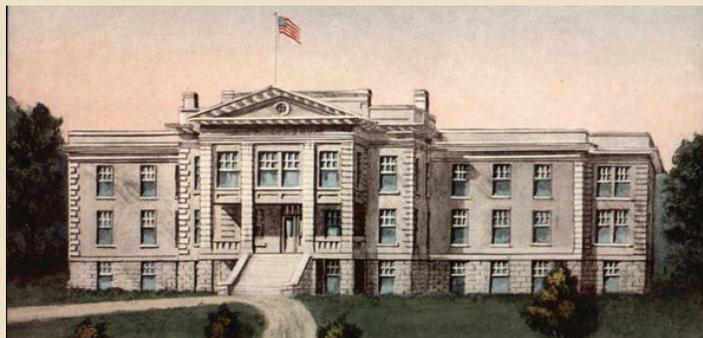
Colorado's first lodge - Peak Lodge No. 12 - was instituted in Denver City on December 24, 1860.

This marked the formal beginning of Odd Fellowship in the territory and set the stage for rapid

growth as new communities formed along mining routes, river corridors, and emerging towns.

The years that followed were marked by the American Civil War. Denver held a few unofficial Odd Fellows gatherings during this time until the institution of Union Lodge No. 1 on August 18, 1864. The dispensation for this lodge was given by the Grand Sire James B. Nicholson to "the five founders of Colorado Odd Fellowship": Luther R. Boxley, Birks Cornforth, Herman H. Heiser, Jabez H. Vanderverter, and John Voght.

On March 23, 1865, Grand Sire Isaac W. Veitch signed a dispensation authorizing the institution of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 2 in Central City, Colorado Territory. However, the actual institution was delayed on account of how difficult trav-



el was during this era. On June 13th that same year, the District Deputy Grand Sire Jabez H. Vanderverter showed up in the city with his officers to officially institute the lodge.

Odd Fellowship reached Pueblo remarkably early. Historical accounts show the Order active in Pueblo as early as 1865, only five years after the first lodge opened in Denver. This makes Pueblo one of the oldest Odd Fellows communities in Colorado, predating many mining-camp lodges and establishing a long tradition of civic involvement that would later be embodied in Pueblo Lodge No. 8.

Following the institution of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 2 was Colorado Lodge No. 3 in Black Hawk (instituted May 16, 1866), and Denver Lodge No. 4 in Denver (instituted September 29, 1866). In 1867, representatives from these three lodges, plus Union Lodge No. 1, petitioned to form the Grand Lodge of Colorado, which was instituted on November 30, 1867. By the time it held its

first regular annual session the following year on October 21, 1868 in Central City, the total number of lodges in Colorado had grown from four to eight.

Following the creation of the Grand Lodge, Odd Fellowship spread rapidly. Mining towns, railroad hubs, agricultural settlements, and emerging cities all established lodges. By the time Colorado achieved statehood in 1876, Odd Fellowship was one of the region's most influential fraternal networks.

Throughout the 1900s, Colorado lodges built halls, cemeteries, orphanages, and community programs. Many became anchors of civic life - supporting families, hosting events, and providing stability during times of hardship. Population shifts and economic changes led to consolidation in some areas, but the Order remained active and resilient.

Today, Colorado Odd Fellowship continues to evolve. Digitization and historical preservation efforts are helping ensure the legacy.



Pueblo ELECTED OFFICERS Contact Information

Noble Grand

Anthony M Palmer Jr. - 5581 Eagle Feather Lane, Pueblo, CO, 81004 719-551-2963

Vice Grand

Cass Lee Rupp - 798 S Dante Dr., Pueblo West, CO , 81007 719-404-6075

Recording Secretary

Jonathan Wessel - 798 S Dante Dr., Pueblo West, CO , 81007 719-404-6158

Financial Secretary

John M Jones - 420 West 14th Street, Pueblo, CO , 81003 580-222-9503

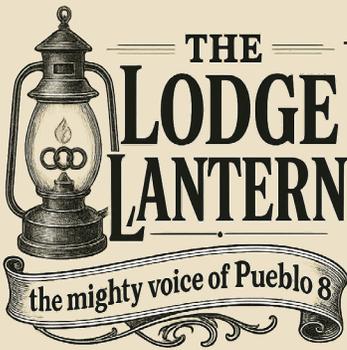
Treasurer

Dannette Christensen - Information Private -Information Private

District 21 Installation of Officers



On Saturday, January 3rd, Salome Rebekah Lodge #7 initiated 15 new members! We are so excit-ed to have all these new members! Thank you to Pueblo Lodge #8! Our initiation crew of Jerry Horton, Marilyn Horton, Tanya Wolf, Ken Leonard and Sharon Leonard, with the help of Stacy Mortenson and Margaret Morten-son was able to put on the de-gree. Then we practiced giving the honors to our state elected officers:



GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Contact Information

Grand Master: Cassie Conger (116) 1650 E. 3rd Delta, Co 81416	(970) 209-2514
Deputy Grand Master: Jim Colpo (9) 3105 19th St. Boulder, CO 80304	(303) 444-0111
Grand Warden: John Jones (8) 420 West 14th St. Pueblo, CO 81003	(580) 222-9503
Grand Secretary: Chad Parker (38) 1545 Phelps Ave. Canon City, CO 81212	(719) 275-1606
Grand Treasurer: Robert Hamby (7) 1545 Phelps Ave, Canon City, CO 81212	(719) 275-1606
Jr. PGM: Lewis Brighthouse Headrick (36) 4011 Burr Oak Dr. Loveland, CO 80538	(970) 391-7220
SGL Rep(2026-2027) William Goetsch PGM(16) 124 E. 5th St. Leadville, CO 80461	(713) 448-0475
Grand Marshal: Terry Dalpiaz PGM (116) 856 1600 Rd Delta, CO 81416	(970) 216-0174
Grand Conductor: Bill Redd (116) 190 SW 13th Ave Delta, CO 81413	(720) 495-3473
Grand Chaplain: Ken Leonard (98) 870 Zona St. Canon City, CO 81212	(719) 431-2647
Grand Guardian: Toni Conger (116) 337 1st St. Olathe, CO 81425	(970) 258-4921
Grand Herald: Matt Hartley (116) 1108 County Rd 220 Durango, CO 81303	(970) 946-8662
Grand U.S. Color Bearer: William Goetsch PGM(16) 124 E. 5th St. Leadville, CO 80461	(713) 448-0475
Grand Canadian Color Bearer: Grant Hogarth (29) 213 Gay St. Longmont, CO 80501	(801) 815-8353
Grand CO Color Bearer: Ted Biderman (9) 1922 Tyler Rd. Boulder, CO 80304	(303) 618-9407
Grand IOOF Color Bearer: Chip Grandits (9) 4725 N 26th Boulder, CO 80301	(720) 412-5472
Parliamentarian: Glen Conger PGM (116) 14238 Deer Run Rd. Delta, CO 81416	(970) 216-3080
Grand Musician: Jerry Horton (98) 2116 Settlers Dr. Pueblo, CO 81008	(719) 371-2083
Grand Soloist: Faith Benefiel-Schutt (36) 8121 Hallett Ct. Ft. Collins, CO 80528	(970) 529-3275
Sound Technician: Jerry Horton (98) 2116 Settlers Dr. Pueblo, CO 81008	(719) 371-2083
Goodwill Ambassador:	
Advisor to Grand Master: Joyce Conger PGM (116) 14238 Deer Run Rd. Delta, CO 81416	(970) 216-7350
Officers at Large: Dottie Brenner (2) 6638 Vivian Arvada, CO 80004	(303) 421-6462
Grand Lodge Trustees:	
President: Jay Fernandez (29) 3190 Endicott Dr. Boulder, CO 80305	(303) 772-8900
Vice President: Glen Conger PGM (116) 14238 Deer Run Rd. Delta, CO 81416	(970) 216-3080
Member: Terry Dalpiaz PGM (116) 856 1600 Rd Delta, CO 81416	(970) 216-0174
Member: Lou Brenner PGM (1) 6638 Vivian Arvada, CO 80004	(303) 421-6462
Member: Chip Grandits (9) 4725 N 26th Boulder, CO 80301	(720) 412-5472



Pueblo 8 • Fremont 98 Salome 7 • Waldo 10

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

PUEBLO 8

Feb 2 • 5pm • Planning Meeting
Feb 7 • 10am • Lodge Meeting
Feb 16 • 5pm • Planning Meeting
Feb 17 • 4:30pm • Lodge Meeting
Mar 2 • 5pm • Planning Meeting
Mar 6 • 10am • Friday Block Party



FREMONT 98

To Be Determined



SALOME 7

Feb 7 • 11am • Lodge Meeting
Feb 17 • 6:30pm • Lodge Meeting
Mar 7 • 11am • Lodge Meeting
Mar 24 • 6:30pm • Lodge Meeting
Apr 4 • 11am • Lodge Meeting
Apr 21 • 6:30pm • Lodge Meeting



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