

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S PROGRAM

STAYING ON THE LINE IN 08 AND 09

MEMBERSHIP – Changes that are necessary to increase our membership are not really changes in themselves but rather a return to basics and a change in our attitude. We as Royal Arch Masons have a very desirable product to sell and we should approach membership with a business sense. Having an outstanding product, we need outstanding salesmen. Every Chapter must have representatives “ambassadors” assigned to every Blue Lodge in their district or zone, and this ambassador should be appointed because of his enthusiasm and knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry and he should be looked up to by members of the Blue Lodge as a respected and knowledgeable Mason. This ambassador must have an excellent working relationship with the elected and appointed officers of the Lodge. The Chapter needs to monitor their ambassadors and give them recognition that is due them, i.e., letters of appreciation, a dinner in their honor, etc. In the same vein if no petitions are coming forth from a Lodge, the Chapter should seriously consider changing ambassadors. It is not out of the question to expect one candidate from each Lodge in the district or zone per year. Every member of a Chapter is an ambassador unto himself and should always have a petition on hand and be willing and able to talk about Royal Arch Masonry.

The Grand Lodge of Florida has all ready provided a proven program on this subject, i.e., Masonic Renewal, and can be easily adopted for any Chapter such as Companion Bring a Friend Night.

There are over 100,000 sojourning Masons in the state of Florida. This resource needs to be tapped.

Losses due to NPD should and must be reversed. This is the only area in membership where we exercise any control. We have to make every Companion feel welcome and at home in his Chapter and he should at all times have the feeling that he is really needed. I plan on issuing an executive order for every Chapter secretary to contact their NPD's for the last five years and offer them reinstatement by just paying the current year's dues.

FRATERNAL – As 100% of our membership is derived from the Blue Lodge, we must continually endeavor to improve our relationship with the Grand Lodge of Florida by attending as many of the Grand Master's district meetings as possible and other Grand Lodge functions as representatives of Royal Arch Masonry. We should constantly inquire of the Worshipful Masters of every Lodge “What can we do to assist you?” And ensure that an invitation is extended to the Blue Lodges for any functions that they may attend. One of the best ways to show the Lodges our support is to serve as color/honor guards at the Blue Lodge installations.

ADMINISTRATIVE – It is necessary to upgrade our computer programs at the Grand Chapter office. I have therefore proposed \$1,000 in our 08-09 budget for this purpose and the Grand Council and Grand Commandery have agreed to do the same.

To create a dues card that will be consistent for all Chapters to be issued by the Grand Chapter office. At the present time each Chapter is responsible for creating its own dues card. This should not and cannot continue. In consultation with the Grand Council and Grand Commandery, we are all three in agreement there should be one official dues card and one only issued out of the Grand York Rite office. The Grand Secretary is endeavoring to set this in motion.

It has long been realized that the Grand High Priest can never get accomplished what he wants to in one year, therefore, it is necessary that a five year plan be established by your Grand Chapter Officers. So as to start planning for their year, I have appointed a five year planning committee consisting of the Grand King, the Grand Scribe, the Grand Captain of the Host and the Grand Principle Sojourner with a charge to bring to you next year a five year program.

FINANCIAL – I will endeavor to ensure that the Grand Chapter is meeting its fiduciary responsibility to the Craft by maintaining a careful watch on our investments and those who are charged to oversee them. Last year it was verbally agreed among the officers that all of our operating funds would come under the category of “The Administrative Endowment Fund” and that this fund would be frozen for five years so as to build it up. After five years, that only 25% of the interest and capital gains could be used from this fund. It is my intention to get this in law agreeable to the Craft.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CIVIC DUTIES – Every Royal Arch Mason should let it be known to the public who he is and what he stands for ever remembering that each of us is a recruiter for Freemasonry. It is our duty to become involved in our local civic activities. We should support those political figures in our communities who expound the principals and precepts of our fraternity. Yes, and even run for public office. We should watch our school boards’ very closely bearing in mind that one woman was responsible for removing prayer from our public school system. We as Royal Arch Masons should ever support the return for nonsectarian prayer in our schools. Whereby giving our children a sense that there is a higher being to assist them in any of their troubles. One only has to look at the terrible tragedies that have occurred in our schools since prayer was removed.