

ASSISTANCE TO CHAPTERS IN TRANSITION (ACT)

MEC TEDDY;

I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DOCUMENT MY ORAL PRESENTATION MADE TO YOU, REC KLEYN AND INSPECTOR BROOMFIELD, IF MY SUGGESTIONS ARE EVER EXPLORED AS A TOOL FOR GRAND CHAPTER TO MAKE A CONCERTED TO HELP OUR STRUGGLING CHAPTERS IN TRANSITION FROM THE OLDER WAYS OF DOING THINGS TO THE NEW QUALIFICATION DEMANDS AND AN ATTEMPT TO REVITALIZE A DEMAND FOR QUALITY.

AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE ATTACHMENT OF INSPECTOR BROOMFIELD'S CHAPTER EVALUATIONS FOR THE 17TH DISTRICT, THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF CONCERN CENTERING AROUND THE NEED OF CHAPTERS TO QUALIFY ALL DAIS OFFICERS AS THE H.P AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST NEEDING TO QUALIFY THIS YEAR WITHOUT THE USE OF THE RITUAL BOOK. THERE ARE OTHER CONCOMMITANT PROBLEMS OF QUORUMS OF 9, MEMBERSHIP, ATTRACTION AND RETAINMENT OF NEW MEMBERS, ONGOING EDUCATION LACK OF DIRECTION, INABILITY TO CONFER AT LEAST THE MARK MASTER DEGREE.

INSPECTOR BROOMFIELD IN PART RECOMMENDS WE IMPLEMENT IN ESSENCE A "DELAY OF EXECUTION" OF THIS YEARS QUALIFICATION MANDATE. IT SEEMS TO ME WE ARE PERHAPS FACING THE CONSOLODATION OF MORE CHAPTERS THAN WE HAVE EVER HISTORICALLY SEEN AND PERHAPS THE FORMULATION OF AN ACTION PLAN MIGHT BE IN ORDER TO ASSIST CHPATERS IN TRANSITION.

I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN ATTEMPT TO HELP CHAPTERS IN A COHERENT, WELL STRUCTURED PLAN PUT TOGETHER, IMPLEMENTED AND ENFORCED BY GRAND CHAPTER. I UNDERSTAND GRAND CHAPTER IS UNDER STAFFED BUT IN MY OPINION, GRAND CHAPTER NEEDS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTION BY DEVELOPING A STANDARDIZED WAY TO DO BUSINESS WITH CHAPTERS BY PUTTING THE 'RUDDER' BACK ON THE SHIP.

1. MEMBERHIP ATTRACTION AND RETAINMENT.

- CONTACT EC NIGEL GALLIMORE TO PROVIDE GRAND CHAPTER WITH A MASTER LIST OF EDUCATION PIECES FOR WHICH HE IS FAMOUS, STARTING WITH EDUCATION ABOUT THE CHAPTER, COUNCIL AND CONSISTORY, FOLLOWED BY INTERSTING PIECES OF A MORE GENERAL MASONIC NATURE. GRAND CHAPTER COULD ARRANGE A MASTER LIST TO BE USED BY ALL CHAPTERS IN CONTROLLED EDUCATION WHICH GIVES US QUALITY CONTROL. THIS WILL ATTRACT AND RETAIN.

2. NEW MEMBER MENTOR PROGRAM.

- REVIEW AND MODIFY IF DEEMED NECESSARY THE GONZALEZ METHOD TO SIMPLIFY IMPELMENTATION. MINIMALLY THE TOP LINE SIGNER OR DESIGNATE BY THE HP SERVES AS MENTOR TO THE NEW MEMBER STARTING AFTER THE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE CANDIDATER FOR OUR DEGREES ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE HP COMMITTEE AND FAMILY PROGRAMS IF AVAILABLE THIS WAY THE HISTORICAL "FALLING BETWEEN THE CRACK" SYNDROME IS NO LONGER IN EVIDENCE. THIS WILL SERVE MEMBERSHIP RETENTION.

GRAND LODGE HAS USED A MENTOR PROGRAM FOR SOME TIME.

3. MEMBER COMMUNICATION.

- FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT SHOULD BE CALLING ALL MEMBERS VIA A PHONE TREE OR BY EMAIL TO ANNOUNCE THE UPCOMING STATED CONVOCATION, DINNER MENU, GUEST SPEAKER IF ANY AND CHECKING TO SEE THAT HE IS NOT IN NEED. ALSO OFFER A RIDE TO CHAPTER BY WAY OF A TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER COMMITTEE WHICH IF NOT FORMED, SHOULD BE. THIS DEALS WITH RETENTION.

4. QUALITY OF DEGREE WORK.

- TO INSURE QUALITY DEGREE WORK WE NEED TO STRESS THE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS OF RITUAL COACHES TO THOSE REALLY COMMITTED TO TEACHING QUALITY WORK. GRAND CHAPTER COULD ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR HAVE A RITUAL COACH TRAINING SPECIFICALLY FOR THE MARK MASTER DEGREE SINCE WE WANT ALL CHAPTERS TO CONFER THIS DEGREE. I KNOW THIS IS USUALLY DONE BY THE INSPECTOR AND DGL BUT I SUGGEST SPECIFIC DIRECTION BE GIVEN BY THE GRAND LECTURER. AGAIN I SUGGEST STANDARDIZATION OF TRAINING AND NOT JUST HAPHAZARDLY. THIS DEALS WITH RETENTION AND WILL CARRY OVER TO ATTRACTION ONCE OUR DEGREE QUALITY IS IMPROVED.

5. DEPARTMENT EVALUATIONS.

- GRAND CHAPTER REQUIREMENT THROUGH DGL'S VIA INSPECTORS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC CHAPTER PROBLEM AREAS THROUGH INSPECTOR EVALUATIONS ADDRESSING SEVERAL UNIFORM ITEMS OF INFORMATION REQUESTED, YIELDING A PROBLEM AREA LIST PER DEPARTMENT GIVING THE HELP APPROACH DIRECTIONALITY. (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREAS NEEDING CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS).

6. EXPLORING THE NEED OF GRAND CHAPTER TO FORM AN A.C.T. COMMITTEE.

- NO NEED TO REINVENT THE WHEEL HERE. I SUGGEST IF WE DETERMINE THERE IS A NEED TO HELP STRUGGING CHAPTERS IN AN ORGANIZED MANNER. GRAND LODGE HAS A "LODGE SUPPORT" COMMITTEE ALREADY IN PLACE WITH ACCOMPANYING MANUALS, LITERATURE AND FORMS. I WAS A MEMBER OF THAT COMMITTEE AND SAW IT HAD SOME SUCCESS. I ASSUME GRAND LODGE WOULD SHARE THIS WITH US IF REQUESTED. THE POINT OF ALL OF THIS IS SIMPLY, CAN WE IDLY SIT BY AND WATCH NUMEROUS CHAPTERS CLOSE WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER TO GIVE MUCH ORGANIZED NEEDED ASSISTANCE? OF COURSE ALL CHAPTERS CANNOT BE SAVED BUT MANY CAN WITH A GRAND CHAPTER PLAN TO HELP. PERHAPS WE CAN BORROW THE MARINE CORPS MOTTO OF "ADAPT-IMPROVISE-OVERCOME. ARE WE WORTH IT? PERHAPS THIS CAN BE DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE

S&F

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