

SUPREME CHANCELLOR PROGRAM

2014-2016

Celebrating 150 years of Pythianism



L. Keith Stooksberry, Jr.
Supreme Chancellor

Mission Statement

It is our desire to make the world a better place by practicing the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence, through community service. Unite the Pythian Order by promoting cooperation between the Knights, Sisters, Nomads, and Dokies. Continue to support our military, both home and abroad. Save the future of the Pythian Order by stopping the decline in membership.

Motto: Making a difference TOGETHER.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP, IT'S CRITICAL	Page 3
MEMBERSHIP COINS	Page 3
MEMBERSHIP CHAMPIONS	Page 3
M.A.P. INCENTIVE PROGRAM	Page 4
NEW LODGES	Page 5
RANK WORK	Page 5
AMERICAN & CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY	Page 5
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS	Page 5
POSTER/VISUAL ARTS CONTEST	Page 6
HONOR LODGE PROGRAM	Page 6
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	Page 6
PYTHIAN INTERNATIONAL	Page 7
DEPUTY SUPREME CHANCELLORS	Page 7
RATHBONE HERITAGE SOCIETY	Page 7
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Page 7
BOY SCOUTS CONNECTION PROGRAM	Page 8
JUNIOR ORDER	Page 8
READ AND RIDE	Page 8
MEDALLION PROGRAM	Page 8

MEMBERSHIP, IT'S CRITICAL

For many years, we have made a promise to increase the membership in the Knights of Pythias and have failed to do so. The time now is critical. We now must make a **COMMITMENT** to increase our membership. We need to save our Beloved Order so that our children and grandchildren will be able to experience the same type of fraternal friendships that we have been so fortunate to have experienced.

We can achieve this goal by practicing the "3 R's" of membership (Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate).

Recruit: ask a friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker to join. If they say yes, congratulations, you have a new member. If they decline, ask them again in a few weeks.

Retain: be certain to include new members in lodge activities. Make your lodge meetings fun and interesting by incorporating the "3 F's" (fun, food, and fellowship).

Reinstate: this should be the easiest of the 3 R's, because at one time, they thought enough of the Order to join. At the very least, talk with the former members and find out why they no longer wish to be a member. If you can not reinstate them, perhaps you might save other members.

I have asked Alan Krell, SVC to be the international membership chairman. He has done an extraordinary job with membership in the past. I am confident that with your help, Alan will lead our membership drive into the future.

MEMBERSHIP COINS

In the days of old when Knighthood flourished, any Knight who wanted to challenge another, threw down his gauntlet. To accept the challenge, the other Knight picked up the thrown gauntlet. As Supreme Chancellor, I challenge each Pythian Knight to actively fight one of our Order's greatest enemies -**DECLINING MEMBERSHIP** by recruiting at least three new members during my term. By accepting my challenge, you will pick up this gauntlet, which will be on one of my specially minted coins. **WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE?** In addition to coins being given to those who sponsor 3 candidates, a coin will be given to all new members, with the understanding that they owe us 3 new members.

MEMBERSHIP CHAMPIONS

Each Grand Domain will be asked to select a Domain Membership Champion (in any manner they decide upon) taking into consideration the number of new Knights and reinstatements the member has been responsible for, new lodges he has helped institute and other membership work done during the 2014-2016 term of the Supreme Lodge. The Deputy Supreme Chancellor will report this to the Supreme Lodge on a form provided, by July 1, 2016. Using the information on these returned forms, the Supreme Chancellor, Supreme Membership Chairman and the Supreme Secretary will select the International Membership Champion. This member will receive \$1000 towards a trip to the 2016 Supreme Lodge Convention, where he will be officially recognized.

M.A.P. (MEMBERSHIP ACQUISITION PROGRAM) INCENTIVE

The purpose of this program is to provide an incentive in the form of "Reimbursement Funding" to qualifying subordinate lodges, groups of lodges or Grand Lodges, for membership recruitment and acquisition, by way of approved membership drives, contests, etc.

The goals are to achieve a net gain in membership for every lodge (year ending 12/31/14 to year ending 12/31/15), and to reward lodges that participate in the MAP. by way of reimbursement funding.

The rules for obtaining reimbursement funding are as follows:

- 1) The lodge or lodges seeking reimbursement will describe, on a form provided by the Supreme Lodge, the membership activity involved (membership booth at community function, etc.) and the specifics (date, location, estimate of amount to be spent, etc.). This form, verified by the Deputy Supreme Chancellor, must be received by the Supreme Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the start of the event.
- 2) The lodge will complete a 'post-activity' report, on a form provided by the Supreme Lodge, verified by the Deputy Supreme Chancellor, within 30 days of the completion of the event. The report will include a complete listing of the prospective members that have submitted a completed application for membership to the subordinate lodge.
- 3) Once the applicants are elected and have received the Rank of Knight, the lodge will be eligible to receive the MAP. incentive of \$10 per new Knight to help offset the costs of the original activity.
- 4) To be eligible for the MAP. incentive, the activity must be held between the dates of September 1, 2014, and April 30, 2016. Items 1,2 and 3 must be followed. The cut-off date for completion of item3 (to still be eligible for funds) is June 30, 2016.
- 5) The maximum amount reimbursed will be \$250 per lodge,, not to exceed the total cost of the Membership Acquisition Activity.
- 6) The Supreme Lodge reserves the right to discontinue the MAP Incentive Program at any time, due to budgetary or activity restraints.

NEW LODGES

Each Domain is asked to start at least one new lodge. The founder of a new lodge will receive \$200 to be used at his discretion to help cover his expenses involved in setting up this lodge. This money will be presented at the time the new lodge is instituted. Each newly chartered lodge will receive \$250 for expenses, a complete set of officers' jewels, plus a set of office supplies, provided by the Supreme Secretary. A new brochure is now available from the Deputy Supreme Chancellor giving details and suggestions on how to start a new lodge. If available, a Supreme Lodge Officer will attend the institution of each new lodge.

RANK WORK

Lodges are encouraged to do Rank Work (even if the approved Short Form Ritual must be used) and initiate new prospects promptly.

If a substantial number of new members are being initiated, a lodge or Grand Lodge may request to use the Rathbone Bible by contacting the Supreme Secretary.

AMERICAN & CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

Once again this will be the official Supreme Lodge Charity. We all know a family member or friend who has been a victim of cancer. Participate in a Relay For Life held in your area. Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges could plan a fund-raising function benefiting the Cancer Society. Be a part of the FIGHT to eliminate cancer in this decade. PSC Dan Cowan has once again graciously accepted chairing this committee.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This program has shown great success over the years. We as Americans and Canadians have shown our support for the young men and women who risk their lives for our countries. Continue to send packages such as soaps, toiletries, snacks, etc., to individuals and units. Let us welcome and thank those returning home from harm's way.

POSTER/VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

Any two dimensional medium may be used. (computer graphics, photography, stenciling, drawing, painting, etc.)

The theme for submissions for 2015 will be **"Stay Alive, Don't Text and Drive"**. This is a very serious problem for drivers today.

Lodges are encouraged to contact the schools and teachers early in the school year. Not only art teachers, but guidance counselors, computer graphics teachers, drivers education teachers, and club sponsors can help promote this contest to their students.

The Supreme Secretary will distribute the rules for this contest well in advance of the start of the school year.

HONOR LODGE PROGRAM

Subordinate lodges are of prime importance to our Order. There are many subordinate lodges throughout the Supreme Domain that are doing an outstanding job. They are participating in many community activities and are giving much to charity. These lodges are increasing in membership and promoting favorable name recognition for our Order (two of our important goals). The Honor Lodge Program is designed to honor these lodges and their hardworking officers. They can spread the word to other Pythians of what great lodges are doing who may learn from these examples and to give subordinate lodges an incentive to overview their entire program.

A Knight who feels that his lodge is doing an outstanding job may fill out a form summarizing what the lodge has done in the past year. This must be Signed by the lodge Secretary or Chancellor Commander and submitted to the Supreme Lodge Honor Lodge Program Committee Chairman. If the committee agrees that the lodge deserves the distinction of being designated an Honor Lodge, the lodge will receive a certificate and a letter of commendation from the Supreme Chancellor. Periodically, one or two of the Honor Lodges will be featured on the Supreme Lodge website. An honor roll of outstanding Lodges will be published. The Honor Lodges will also be recognized and congratulated by the Supreme Lodge Officer visiting officially at their Grand Convention.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We shall continue to track volunteer hours; however, for the next two years, we shall focus on the volunteer hours submitted by the subordinate lodges. Please submit your volunteer hours to your subordinate lodge secretary who will forward to your DSC. Every subordinate lodge who contributes 500 volunteer hours will receive a certificate of appreciation from the Supreme Lodge. Thank you for your continued service.

PYTHIAN INTERNATIONAL

The New Pythian International is published 3 times yearly. Five copies are sent to each subordinate lodge, for whom we have a current mailing address. The PI may also be viewed electronically on our website, pythias.org. Please submit current newsworthy items to the following address: KeithS848@aol.com. Pictures are always welcome.

DEPUTY SUPREME CHANCELLORS

The roll of a Deputy Supreme Chancellor is much more than an honorary position. DSCs will have important leadership and communication duties. DSCs should be very familiar with the programs of the Supreme Chancellor and are responsible in seeing that this information is properly sent to Grand and Subordinate Lodges.

Each DSC is required to make a full, complete, fair and honest report of all activities involving membership acquisitions.

RATHBONE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Rathbone Memorial is located at the burial place of our Founder, Justus H. Rathbone, in Utica, NY and is a shrine to our Pythian Order. Please consider adding your name, or that of a devoted Knight or Sister, to the newly created Wall of Honor. This is an excellent way to memorialize a Brother, Sister or loved one who was a Pythian Member.

Brochures are available from the Supreme Secretary's office.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Strive to improve name recognition of the Pythian Order in our local communities.

Participate in local events such as parades, fairs and festivals. (Be sure to properly display the Pythian name).

Seek local publicity for all charitable activities performed by your lodge.

Contact the Supreme Lodge Public Relations Chairman, Joel Fierstien SP, for assistance.

BOY SCOUTS CONNECTION PROGRAM

The Supreme Lodge will continue to provide a certificate and patch for Eagle Scouts at a cost of \$5.00 per set plus postage. The Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Program will be funded by the Supreme Lodge. No funds for Boy Scouts will be provided by the Supreme Lodge Foundation.

JUNIOR ORDER

A Junior Order Chapter can be a big asset for any lodge. These young men can help with Pythian projects and are good prospective members. Brochures are available from the Supreme Secretary. \$100 start-up money will be given to each newly initiated Junior Order Chapter. SMA Bruce Brown will once again chair this committee.

READ & RIDE (New Program)

This program was borrowed from the great state of Texas, where they have had huge success. Today they have over 10,000 children participating in the program. Simply put, this program gives chances to win bicycles to those students who read a predetermined number of books.

It is our hope that this program will enhance the reading skills of young students. We also hope to promote the image of the Knights of Pythias throughout the communities. Children are our future. We need to do whatever we can to further their education.

I have asked Brothers Joe L. Bennett, SR and Roger Fangman, GT of Texas to co-chair this committee. They are both happy to provide support to all that desire it.

More detailed information will be sent to all Grand Secretaries for distribution to subordinate lodges. Contact information for both Joe and Roger is available through the Supreme Chancellor.

MEDALLION PROGRAM

Bronze and Silver Pythian medallions are available from the Supreme Secretary.

Presentation of one of these medallions is an excellent way to honor a local hero, police officer, fire fighter, teacher, or outstanding citizen. This can help gain recognition for the Order. These medallions can be used to recognize outstanding Pythians as well.

"If fraternal love held all men bound, how beautiful this world would be"