



State Retention Chairman's Message September 2012



Remember the saying "Time flies when you're having fun"? Well... the harvest season is upon us, the leaves are turning, October is nearly here and although we have done terrific things throughout the state, we are about to close the first quarter of the Columbian Year with somewhat disappointing reviews in the areas of Membership and Retention.

Statewide we have recruited 26 members this Fraternal Year and have lost an astounding 37 members (33 suspensions and 4 withdrawals) resulting in a Statewide % of Quota YTD equal to -3.05%. This is a trend that must be reversed if we are to flourish as a State Council and meet the challenges ahead.

Brothers, we live in a time when the secular world is unrelenting in their efforts to conquer our personal rights and freedoms all the while ignoring the very values our Country and Church were founded on. This is a time in our history when all Catholics and especially we Knights must stand firm in our convictions and true to our course. We need to be the light to others keeping God in the forefront of all we do.

But, in order to achieve these things and truly be the "Strong Right Arm Of The Church" we need to build our numbers in Maine. In the words of our Supreme Knight "If we make the Knights stronger, we make the Church stronger. If we make the Knights stronger, we make our communities and our country stronger. That is our mission and we are going to grow and accomplish that mission".

As we begin the second quarter of the Fraternal Year, resolve to reduce the number of suspensions and withdrawals by increasing your participation in the many Programs our Order offers. These Programs play a vital role in the Retention of our members. All too often we fail to involve members in Council activities allowing them to become bored or inactive, both of which lead to member loss. Vibrant and active Councils are far less likely to lose members than less active Councils.

As you continue your "Power of One" Recruitment efforts, I urge you to practice Charity within your own Councils when it comes to suspensions. If a Brother Knight is behind in his dues, consider forgiving the arrears or simply arrange for payment to be made in some way. After all, our members are our most valuable asset, for it is through our members that we are able to perform the countless hours of volunteerism that have become our hallmark. I am confident that with a renewed sense of charity, enthusiasm and conviction we can achieve our Membership goals and rebuild our great State Council.

To help you achieve your goals, we are about to begin scheduling Membership and Retention Workshops throughout the State. Considerable emphasis will be given to the Power of One and other existing membership plans as well as techniques for large volume recruiting focusing on the events of the day.

Fraternally,

Edward Cochran, FDD
Maine State Retention Chairman
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