

NO EXCUSES, JUST SOLUTIONS

As our membership has seen sharp declines over the past several years, we all are asking the question, "What can we do to stop this trend?" It was at least heartwarming to hear the reports at Supreme Sessions in 2016 and 2017 that this trend may begin to level out. That certainly does not mean that we can now sit back on our laurels and stop pushing forward into the next decade.

But where are we at today? When faced with the question above, the more common response from our members includes a whole host of excuses:

- We are getting older.
- Young families are too busy.
- I don't know anybody who is eligible.
- I put in their petition, but I guess they are not interested.

Let us address some of these excuses and debunk them.

Yes, we are all getting older. The truth is we all start dying the second we are born. Thank goodness that our parents were not defeated by that very bold statement; but nurtured us, fed us, clothed us, provided shelter and warmth for us, and a menagerie of other things.

But there is good news behind that statement as well. In 1900, the average life expectancy in the United States and Canada was sixty-four (64) years of age. In 2015, women lived an average of eighty-one (81) years. I repeat, an AVERAGE. That means you can't quit living just because you reach a certain age. And it is true, a body in motion stays in motion. Staying active in your daily life will keep you young. NO EXCUSE!

Young families are too busy. Today's society is constantly on the go. There are so many activities one can become involved in. Schools offer more and more sports and clubs for children to participate in. But have you never heard the expression, "If you want something done, ask a busy person?" They MAKE the time. NO EXCUSE!

Social media has taken over socialization. How many of us are attached to our smart phones constantly checking out Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and all the other venues? It is okay to stay in touch, but try a phone call to someone you know. Let them hear your voice. Go visit a shut-in and share your time. NO EXCUSE!

I don't know anybody who is eligible. When I was invited to become a Daughter of the Nile, it was through my marriage to a Shriner. Over the past several years, we have extended the membership eligibility to family of Masons, Shriners, Daughters of the Nile, Majority girls of Masonic bodies (i.e. Rainbow Girls, Jobs Daughters), and former Shriners Hospitals for Children® patients. Bring up a

conversation with the people you work with, or your golf buddies, or anyone else you associate with. Invite them to a Nile social function. It is amazing how quickly you will find that eligibility is met. What about your sisters, your mother, your nieces, or granddaughters? If they live in another part of the country, get that local Temple information from your Princess Recorder to get them invited to a Temple in their area. And, just think of the LEGACY you will be creating. NO EXCUSE!

I put in their petition, but I guess they are not interested. Once your Princess Recorder has sent the initial letter of invitation to your proposed candidate (within ten days of balloting), call your proposed candidate and let her know how much you would enjoy having her in your organization. Invite her to a social function so that she can meet other members. Let her know you will be there to guide her or answer any questions. NO EXCUSE!

It is quite evident we must get past the excuses and take action. By doing so, we will inherently move to the solutions and help our organization grow.

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Charlyn Coleman, Past Queen

Aquarius Temple No. 138

Supreme Temple Membership and Public Relations Committee