



Happy New Year

As we begin this New Year, there is no better time to work on the Membership Budget. Why, you ask? I do not know about you, but in our household, my husband and I sit down at the beginning of each year, look at our income for the year, and talk about how we are going to spend our money so that we end up the year with more income than expenditures.

Like my household, your Daughters of the Nile household probably has a budget that you use to decide how to spend your income. Has your Temple ever thought of having a Membership Budget?

What is a Membership Budget you ask? Your current membership numbers are the beginning balance in your budget. For each time you create a new member, the numbers increase in the income side of your budget. For each time a member is suspended for nonpayment of dues, is deceased or requested a Demit, increases the expense in your expense side of your budget. In order to keep your budget balanced, for every minus to your membership, you would need a plus, just to keep your Membership Budget in balance. Just as it is necessary for each member of my household to help balance my household budget, it is necessary for each Lady of the Household to help to keep your Temple's Membership Budget balanced.

To be the most effective, you must **evaluate your budget each month** to see if you will end the year with a balanced budget. Have your Membership Chairman report your Membership Budget balance at each Stated Session. If your Membership Budget is not balanced, that would be the time for you and your Ladies of the Household to find ways to make it balance.

The "Tinderbox of Ideas" that each Recorder and Membership Chairman has received contains many ideas for activities to recruit new members. It also has many ideas to help you retain your members and the new Mentoring Program has great ideas for you to use to keep those new members involved.

Membership does begin with "ME" and "ME" means every member of your Household has a stake in helping to balance your MEMbership Budget. Happy balancing!!

