

Rebekah Assembly President's Letter...

“**L**OVE THY NEIGHBOR”

The Chaplain's charge is to "Live peaceably, do good unto all as we have opportunity, and obey the Golden Rule.... Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." And the Noble Grand's charge is "Let all our duties one to another be faithfully performed." I want to reflect on these two charges and



*Rowena Whitney, President
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would like to invite you to take time to reflect more fully on them yourselves.

We have a dying order; one that it seems we are all caught up in and can't break out of the rut to turn the tide. In my visits around the State over the last two years, and so far this year, what I see in most lodges, and hear from many members, is that the hostility and antipathy in our order is the major issue bringing us down. Much of the hostility and antipathy that has been prevalent the last four years, and especially in the last six months, has stemmed around the issue that the members of this

order spend their time discussing matters that do not pertain to them. Instead, we need to work on preserving our order and stop the hearsay and rumors. Negate

the hearsay and rumors before they start. Remind yourself that retelling and spreading the stories tend to make the hearsay and rumors grow out of proportion.

Hearsay and rumors are products of idle time. Idle time should be put to good use, not wasted on furthering the hearsay and rumors. Our membership could spend idle time usually spent on the phone to call members who haven't been seen at lodge for a while and find out what their needs and desires are. Perhaps the remaining idle time could be used to assist that member with their burdens, and could help them return to lodge and being a productive member. Too often we would rather spend our time on the phone spreading hearsay and rumors, condemning others about the way they live or the things they do.

It was recently said to me, "It takes one person overhearing a remark made in jest to make a federal case." My personality is such that I like to joke and have fun. Life is too short to be serious all the time. Life is certainly easier to deal with when we have a positive attitude. Yes, some people think my jokes are not funny, but I don't think all of Jay's jokes are funny either. I would not consciously hurt anyone or belittle him or her for any reason. My actions are such that I want to do good for the order, not for praise and recognition for myself. Being the President does not give me any more privileges than it gives any one of you. It is a title, a

word used to denote someone who has attained a position in which they are recognized as being the chosen leader. Envision for a moment, the shepherd with his flock of sheep. The shepherd must lead his flock to green pastures and cool water, and keep them from harm. We place upon that chosen person, with the leadership ability, the responsibility of guiding the flock in the right direction to find greener pastures and cooler water. In order to keep the flock intact and healthy, the enemy cannot be allowed to invade the flock. In the case of our order, the enemy has been allowed to invade our flock. You have allowed it by allowing idle time to be misspent with hearsay, rumors and hostility to enter into the fold. The solution is to wipe out the enemy. In our case, we need to remember the tenets of our order: Friendship, Love and Truth.

We all have weeds in the gardens of our lives. Daily tending to our own weeds would make for a lodge full of beautiful gardens instead of a large weed patch. Join me in weeding our Lodge garden by wiping out all negative words and actions, and begin to allow our gardens to grow. Remember to Bee Happy, Bee Healthy and Bee Terrific.



Fraternally,
Rowena Whitney
President
Rebekah Assembly of California

FUNDS RAISED HELP THE CAUSE...

MODESTO – At the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly dinner, Jeanette Hughes, IARA Representative 2002-2003 presented checks totaling over \$5,000 to Children's Services, the Three Line Camp - Chapel Fund, the Saratoga Building Fund and the Meadows Endowment Fund. These funds were raised by the efforts of the President's Project through the Jewelry and Coin March.



Jeanette again wishes to thank everyone this past year as she served as International representative for all the cards, gifts, smiles, the purchase of the pins and magnets, and all courtesies extended. Everything that all of you did for her was greatly appreciated. The friendship that was extended will remain always in her heart. Thanks for a great time! - *Jeanette Hughes, PPR*

Problem Solving...

One way to become enthusiastic is to look for the plus sign.. To make progress in any difficult situation, you have to start with what's right about it and build on that.

- *Norman Vincent Peale*