Grand Chancellor’s Message

Delivered Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, New Hyde Park, NY

My Pythian Brothers:

We stand now at the threshold of a bright new era in the Knights of Pythias.

I bring to you a surge of genuine love and excitement for our order, which I hope to instill in every brother.

Those who know me recognize my five meeting nights per week devotion to the lodge, while simultaneously sharing life with my beautiful wife, Barbara.

I understand what it means to love purely, give generously and live abundantly with humor and grace. These are the qualities that I bring to the Grand Council this year.

Where I come from, if something is broken, we either fix it or we throw it away and get a new one. So I ask you, my Brothers, are the Knights of Pythias in New York broken? I’ll answer the question for you, Yes we are.

But, are we beyond repair? Can we be fixed or should we hand in our charter to the Supreme Lodge?

If I did not think that we still have life, I would not be here before you. I would be out dancing with my lovely wife or playing with my wonderful grandchildren.

But I am here, because I believe. I need you to believe with me. How am I going to do it? I am not going to do it.

We are going to bring back the Knights of Pythias together. Please listen.
I am appointing three key men to three key positions and I am going to work with them to bring about change.

I am going to be a hands-on Grand Chancellor with a hands-on Grand Council.

**First, publicity.** When I read many of your lodge bulletins, I swell with pride at the many charitable activities and community events sponsored by Pythians. Now, with Brother Michael Horowitz as the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, we are going to spread the word.

We will reach out to the lodges to find out what is going on in their worlds and we will disseminate the information to the media. Raising money for Meals on Wheels and finding a cure for Diabetes; working on Special Olympics and sending kids to camp. These altruistic endeavors should not be a secret.

With the help of my Executive Secretary, PACDGC/ Grand Tribune Corey Bearak, who wears more hats than anyone I know, we will become a more familiar name.

But having a familiar name does not bring in members, it just makes it easier to attract them.

Increasing membership must be done on a one-on-one basis.

That is why **the second element of my program is Recruitment.** We will organize meetings with individuals and groups that may want to be a part of the Knights of Pythias.

My membership Chairman will be Grand Master at Arms, Sir Charles Pakula. He will sit down with the Co-Membership Chairman of Supreme Lodge, PDSC Allan Greenberg, to develop a program.

I anticipate having Brothers go to libraries, to charitable organizations, to religious gatherings to talk about the Knights, to hand out gifts with our name and telephone number on them and to talk up the Knights of Pythias.

And, having a familiar name also does not keep members.
Therefore, I will also start a column, “What Does Grand Lodge Do For Me?” At least once every two months, my Chairman will arrange for an article to be written and sent to all lodges for publication in their bulletins. The Brothers must know that Grand Lodge exists and that it works hard for the Community and for the Brothers and their families.

The third segment of my Program is Friendship. We stand for friendship and now we are going to practice it.

Starting with the Grand Council, we are going to extend our hands in friendship throughout the Order. Grand Prelate Harvey Rosenshein will be in charge. He will divide our 40 lodges among the 10 Council Members.

Each (Grand Council) officer will be asked to visit four lodges during a regular lodge meeting, not an honor night.

And just to put a little pressure on them, at each Grand Council meeting, every Officer will be asked to give a short report about his visits; and at next year’s Grand Lodge Convention, the Chairman will present a summary of the reports. Part of my program for increasing friendship will be coordinating more events with our upstate Brothers and the Pythian Sisters.

The Chairman of my Friendship Committee will be asked to reach out to the upstate lodges on a regular basis, to keep them in the loop and to keep us up to date on their activities.

As far as the Pythian Sisters go, to my mind, behind each successful Brother, there is a successful woman, so let’s make the Sisters a bigger part of our Pythian lives. Grand Chief Rose Coulson is dynamic, energetic, and eager to work with us. I plan to coordinate our recruitment activities with her and the Sisters to yield an even greater success.

Finally, speaking of friendship, I want to emphasize the importance of spending time with each other. I love celebrations and I don’t mean the ones that give gifts to the Grand Chancellor.

I am talking about Deputy Homecomings and Dinners, Life Membership presentations and District functions.
I am referring to the Pythian Humanitarian Fund’s wonderful annual brunch and the March pancake breakfast that raises money for charity and brings us together.

To me, that’s what Pythianism means. If I wanted to stay home and read a book, I would have joined a book club.

The largest gathering of the year will be our 150th Anniversary Dinner. For some reason, I have heard some naysaying and complaining about the Dinner. Everyone loves a party and this one will be great. It is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 28, at the Inn of New Hyde Park. It will be a fundraiser for Grand Lodge as part of our effort to keep costs down. It will be as fabulous as any wedding without the bride and groom. Instead of bringing a present, you will be asked to pay for the meal. (It includes a) Cocktail hour with hot and cold stations, unlimited drinks, fantastic dinner, with a choice of four entrees, or a vegetarian option, full Viennese table, dancing and, if you’re lucky, you will get to hear me welcome you.

Publicity, Recruitment, Friendship.

Three words that will take us along the road to success.

I urge you to support the Knights of Pythias, to support my Administration and to take the path of Friendship with me.

By doing so, you will make us “SECOND TO NONE.”

That’s my motto: “SECOND TO NONE.”

Thank You.

David Stanger
Grand Chancellor