

## **RE-ENGAGING MEMBERS PRELUDE**

Begin contacting your Sisters and Brothers today to make them feel that they are worthy and wanted because NOW IS THE TIME TO DO THIS. Start with the member with whom you feel most comfortable. Success! Feels good, yes?

Now make a list of the preliminary tasks you need to accomplish before you can continue contacting your remaining members and get help quickly if you need it. Perhaps you need an updated copy of your Chapter's Roster, so reach out to your Chapter Secretary or Membership Committee to get one. Also, you may discover how to use iMember as a resource for some of the latest member contact information.

Divide your Roster into smaller segments to allow you to contact every person in your Roster at least once during the year. To diversify your weekly efforts, perhaps you can group the members together by the types of outreach you plan with them. Challenge yourself to get to know everyone, at least a bit, and take personal ownership for your Re-Engaging efforts.

Be faithful to your efforts and FOLLOW UP, FOLLOW UP, FOLLOW UP. Whether your goal is to contact 4 members each week or to send a Thinking of You card to an absent member, add follow up reminders into your phone or onto sticky notes posted on your refrigerator door to remind you to do so.

Next, plan a fun and safe project or activity that will enhance your members' interests and abilities. Most importantly, expand your activity to include MANY members. Remember to schedule activities that allow members to attend who cannot always participate in Stated Meetings. Discover additional activities that are fun and successful by interviewing the overlooked resource of 50-year members. They will value you taking the time to visit with them and to make their opinions important once again.

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# CONTACT MEMBERS

## IN-PERSON VISITS

- Drop by member's home to say, "Hello," and to chat for a bit.
- Drop off a small treat such as homemade cookies, homegrown fruit, or a puzzle at a member's home or residence. This can be a great outreach for confined or travel-challenged members.
- Meet with a member for coffee or lunch at a nearby restaurant.

## REACHING OUT BY PHONE OR COMPUTER

- Make a phone call to a member to chat for a bit and catch them up on the latest happenings in your Chapter. While Membership Committee members are an obvious choice to lead these efforts, consider finding a member who is homebound and would love to do this outreach.
- Make a video call to a member to chat for a bit and to "see" them when you cannot stop by for a visit.
- Create a personal Zoom Room\* and video chat with a group of other members
- Use text messages to engage in a conversation with a member to check in on how they are feeling and what they have been doing. Get creative and share a photo as an attachment.
- Send a text message to a member on their birthday. Birthdays can be found in your Chapter Roster or in iMember.
- Use Messenger on Facebook\* to hold a virtual conversation with a member.
- Create or revive a phone contact tree. Send out happy and informative messages to keep your members up-to-date on Chapter events and activities.
- Create a Facebook\* posting on your Chapter's Facebook Page to communicate with many members at the same time. Include photos and GIFs to increase the impact of your posting. This also creates a historical record of Chapter activities.

\* These contacts can also be created using computers

## CARDS

- Send personal note cards to members for happy occasions or simply to keep in touch. Use iMember as a resource for mailing addresses and labels. To enlarge

member participation, consider a faithful sideliner or a team of members who like to make cards or to write notes for this outreach.

- Send personal note cards to welcome new members into Chapter.
- Send personal note cards to members who are unable to attend Stated Meetings expressing your sincere concern that they were missed by you.
- Send free e-card notes. A member who is adept in creating these or a member who is willing to learn this technology are resources for this outreach.
- Send personal Birthday cards to members on their special day.
- Send personal Thinking of You cards to members to members who need your understanding and support.
- Send personal Sympathy cards to members who have lost someone close to them.

## **GIVE MEMBERS A REASON TO GET TOGETHER**

### **COOKIE BAKING DAY**

- 2 members of your Phone Tree Committee contact nearby members and ask them to bake cookies at their homes for inclusion in doorstep deliveries to all the members of your Chapter. Possibly, this can be a group activity with everyone cooking in one home.
- Expand participation with 3 persons supplying baking goods, 5 persons baking the cookies, 1 person collecting the cookies and assembling them into bags, and multiple persons delivering the cookies to members' doorsteps.
- Add a tag to the package saying something like, "We are so glad you are a part of our Chapter. We can't wait to see you again!"
- Expand deliveries to include care packages to college students and out-of-towners.

### **VIRTUAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

- Hold virtual gatherings to play BINGO or HEADS UP, or to wear funny costumes, or to hold a scavenger hunt, a virtual paint party, or an ice cream social on a day that coordinates with lots of members' schedules.
- Schedule these on a day of the week that is different from that of your Chapter's Stated Meeting; for example, if you normally meet on the first Monday of the month, schedule the social activity on the second Thursday of the month.
- Try not to schedule these in conflict with other activities that need your support for your Lodge, your Youth, and nearby Chapters.

## **VIRTUAL CRAFT NIGHTS**

- 2 members of your Phone Tree Committee contact members and ask them to participate in a Virtual Craft Night.
- Several members pick up craft kits (perhaps Explosion Boxes similar to Russian nesting dolls) and deliver them to members.
- Plan the event far enough in advance to allow out-of-area members to receive their craft kit by mail.
- Set up the craft class using ZOOM.

## **DRESS SALES OR DRESS EXCHANGES**

- Collect unused dresses and set appointments for members to stop by and shop safely, or sponsor a luncheon with onsite Dress Sale or Dress Exchange as a participation incentive.
- This can be either a fundraiser or a social event that spruces up a member's dress collection or allows for members to swap out old dresses for new favorites.
- Use email and Facebook to advertise the event, and send fliers via US mail to members who do not use technology.

## **WELCOME MEALS**

- Set up a committee of members to prepare simple meals before Stated Meetings at no cost to encourage attendance.
- Include the costs for these simple meals in your Chapter budget and make dinner hosts aware of spending limits that they must adhere to when shopping.
- If ongoing costs are challenging, consider a small donation for the meal since this is not meant to be a fundraiser.
- During Stated Meetings, give small prizes to 2 participants to encourage attendance.

## **COMMUNITY TOURS**

- Contact members to coordinate virtual tours of local attractions; for example, a local museum may sponsor guided tours. Perhaps your members would prefer to visit an attraction in-person, so to plan and implement this may take more effort from organizers and reliability from participants.
- Have members bring a lunch so that you can share thoughts about the location and socialize after the tour ends.

## **PRE-MEETING EDUCATION EVENTS**

- Have technology-informed members available before Stated Meetings to help interested members learn technology tidbits and to answer their technology questions.
- Print copies of a Technology Tidbit-of-the-Month for distribution near the sign-in Register.

## **OES BOOK CLUB**

- Start a Book Club for members and non-members.
- To liven up the event, have participants bring their brunch, dessert, or favorite beverage to the event.

## **DINING AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT**

- Ask members to meet as a group for a tasty evening out.

## **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING EVENTS**

- Have technology savvy members or volunteers meet with members to instruct them about Zoom, Zoom Chat, Facebook, and other new technology.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

- Start a community service project that appeals to members who joined our order to focus on others as they grow individually. Help your community to see that Eastern Star is an essential partner. Include non-members to provide an opportunity to better know your members.
- Contact local schools and non-profit agencies to find needs your members can fill. Do they need your time (distributing packages to needy families), your skills (tutoring children in reading), your resources (donating canned food items), or your talents (port pals or fidget/activity quilts)? More ideas are found in [Reviving Community Service](#).

## **OUTDOOR EXERCISE ACTIVITIES**

- Plan walking dates or exercise events with members and non-members in a neighborhood park. Coordinate with working and retired members, perhaps with various days of the week and times of the day.