

PARLIAMENTARIAN CORNER DEC 2016

We belong to the largest patriotic women's organization in the world. That being said we have to ask why we have lost so many members over the years.

As Parliamentarian for several years, the majority of referrals I receive boil down to lack of knowledge of our Constitution, Bylaws, Programs, Policies, and most definitely personality issues, a lack of respect. We need to educate ourselves on the foundation on which we stand. We also need to know how to handle criticism and confrontation, it is critical to our existence. Many members are offended by outbursts and never return.

We cannot change any one but ourselves, however how we handle confrontations or criticism can change the outcome of many situations. Often we become defensive which is a natural response, but we can change. The first action is to STAY CALM and not overreact. LISTEN to what is being said. DO NOT INTERRUPT. When the person is finished, then respond. WATCH OUR TONE, this can have a calming effect, it can also add fuel to the fire. Sometimes it is better to not respond immediately. Most times the situation can be handled to the betterment of all parties if they sit down and have a civilized conversation. Often this needs to be accomplished at a later date.

If your unit is one that experiences outbursts or have some other issues, consider New Year's resolutions to apply new tactics for interactions with others. Also have some means of becoming better informed about our organization whether it be by attending workshops or addressing our documents during monthly meetings. A change for the better in just one individual can make all the difference in the world. We may just be helping our organization grow in harmony.

I wish for you happy holidays, renewed energy, and harmony in the New Year.