

Membership and the three legged stool

So what we learned from our skit this morning is that **membership** depends on all three legs of the stool being strong and even.

A three legged stool sits very nicely when all three legs are strong and all are the same length.

The seat of the stool represents the club membership. The three legs represent what it takes to have a strong club.

So what are the three legs of your Pilot Club?

Service

Fund Raising

And

Pilot . . . which stands for all the other things:

Personalities

Interaction – or Communication –

Leadership

Oh – Friendship - Sorry, there is no F in Pilot – had to get it in there

Team Work

What happens when one of the legs is too short? It may fall over.

What does this do to the other two legs? Right, it doesn't let them touch the floor right and puts more strain on them.

What happens to a Club when they are having problems with Fund Raising?

Does it affect the Service Projects they can do?

Does it affect the way your members see your club – enjoy your club – interact and communicate with each other – impact the Friendships? Of course it does.

What happens when a club has too many service projects – one (the service) leg is longer than the other legs – does your stool sit straight – of course not. There's too much emphasis on service projects.

What happens if you are just selling – selling – selling to raise money? Or if the Club has its hand out every time a member walks in the door? What if the members start feeling like they are doing nothing but fundraising?

Do you think it is time to stop and brainstorm on how you can turn things around? Definitely.

What happens to a Club when you have – let's say just one person – with a “nasty” or unpleasant personality? When you have clicks in the club and some members don't interact with others? When the friendships are not cultivated or are not there?

When the President has trouble conducting the meeting? When you are not clear on what needs to be done – or one person just

takes charge and Team Work is not allowed? When you have too many leaders going in different directions? The list can go on and on!

I think you can see what I am talking about – if all three legs of your Club are not strong, your club has problems and one leg can eventually wear down and affect all the legs and you loose members – or you get to the point you can't get members and keep them.

This is why our District Officers are using the new format for visiting clubs.

Each Club getting a visit decides whether they want to spend the time with their District Officer evaluating and brainstorming on Projects, Fundraisers, or Membership – your choice.

This is your club and it is you that needs to decide what you want to keep doing and what you want to change in your Service and Fundraising projects.

Now, we know that not all of our clubs have a short leg, or have a leg that is broken. However, if you do not review and evaluate and brainstorm on your Service Projects and your Fund Raising Projects ever so often, you will suddenly find that one of the legs is getting shorter and shorter – because they are not meeting the needs of your current members.

If you want to just do a general review of your projects, let the Governor know and they will do their best to do this with you.

Now while two legs of the stool need to be strong – Projects and Fundraising – the Pilot leg also has to be strong. However, these types of problems – personality conflicts – poor leadership, lack of

teamwork, etc. can't be fixed in a regular club meeting with everyone brainstorming.

So, last year and this year at PI Convention, Laura Keever and Linda Covington did and will repeat a special training session on how to handle these situations.

What we ask of you is that if you are having personality problems in your club, issues that you just can't seem to identify, or if you need any kind of special assistance, that you contact your Governor and ask for assistance.

Unfortunately, most of us like to think that problems will eventually take care of themselves, but you know problems do not tend to go away on their own, they just get worse if you don't deal with them. What we do know is that the sooner you deal with a problem, the easier it is to fix it.

I am just going to say it. How many of you have seen a club die because of one person? (Pause) You know what, that person didn't kill the club . . . it was all the other members who would not deal with the problems that person was causing who killed the club.

So, as you can see these may not be easy situations to handle – but they may not be that hard. What if you have a relatively new Pilot as President and they are having trouble presiding. They don't know how to handle the problem children like the club had this morning. Someone who has been trained can easily work with the President like we had in the skit and help them. All you have to do is ask.

We know that most of our Clubs want and need to get new members. Knowing this is such a priority for our Clubs, we developed this year at the International level tools to help you get new members.

[Headquarters to furnish]

And last, but certainly not least, your District Officers can also facilitate a session on how to get new Members for your clubs. Just like for your projects, you know what is going to work best for your club. So if membership is your top priority at this point in time, when your District Officer contacts you, Presidents, to ask what you would like for them to facilitate for your club . . . tell them the Membership piece.

If membership is a priority for you . . .

If you will let your District Officer facilitate a brainstorming session for you and

if you will use the tools that International has provided for you,

and if the three legs of your stool are strong and sturdy . . .

you will be on your way to getting and keeping those members you need.