

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

Peter H. Johnson, Jr., P.G.C., Editor
1524 Smith Drive
Holbrook, AZ 86025
(928) 524-3248



johnson618@cablone.net

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Some time ago, a group of students asked me what I thought about Britain's latest position on an issue. Trying to sidestep the politics, I replied, "I don't know about the British. You know they all drive on the wrong side of the road over there." To my surprise, my well-traveled military kids in Sierra Vista quickly replied, "The right side of the road depends on what country you are in", poking holes in my country humor.

The same perspective can be applied to our Commandery meetings. The definition of a good meeting in one part of our state can be totally different than what is considered a good meeting in another part. Larger Commanderies have the luxury of more than the minimum number of members which allows them to have many simultaneous activities taking place. Smaller Commanderies may consider their focus on only a few events to be a successful endeavor.

What number of members constitutes a "good meeting"? A large number, so the full dynamics of Templary can be developed? Everyone benefits from a larger body, especially since these Commanderies are trying to include those who don't have this degree of development. A large Commandery can put on festivals, banquets, balls, and more.

How small a number can we go to and still have a good meeting? I remember being at a dance class, dancing with my future wife, and saw that I needed to leave soon to make Commandery 75 miles away. As I left, some creep was asking her to dance. When I arrived at the meeting, the Commander said, "We don't have 12 members. I guess we have to cancel." You can imagine how I felt. (Fortunately for me, the creep was a lousy dancer.) A year later, we developed the 10-man opening; and technically, we only need nine.

Are we having good meetings? Some of us remember the larger opening however, and they were nice if everyone was there. Is there a cut-off number below which the meeting is no longer a good meeting? Probably; but is it as high as ten?

For a struggling Commandery, or theoretically one soon to start, are 10 members impossible? How about a smaller number, at least for a span of time? The point is, how far will one drive each month to a meeting, and for how many years? By having smaller, regional Commanderies, our outreach becomes more inclusive. Though the dynamic may not be as large, it still is the promotion of our Knighthood. Two or three gathered may be good enough for Jesus, but a few more would be better for our meetings.

SK Robert C. Richards,
Grand Captain General

* * * * *

Look for opportunities to do favors for other people. Shopping for a neighbor, offering someone a lift in your car, and helping a child (not necessarily your own) with homework are included in the commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Other suggestions that will help make love of a neighbor and the Golden Rule a part of our daily life include the following: Picking up trash from the sidewalk and putting it where it belongs; Giving up your seat to an elderly person or someone who might need it; Helping someone walk across the street; Allowing another driver to merge into your lane on the highway and doing so in a pleasant way; Speaking with a homeless person on the street and really listening to him or her; Giving your old clothes directly to homeless people; Finding someone doing something good and praising him or her; Encouraging your children to donate their old toys that are still in good condition to children who might need and appreciate them; At a social gathering, initiating a dialogue with someone who appears left out. Similarly, in a public setting, paying attention to the less popular individuals present rather than the popular ones who are already receiving more than their share of attention.

--Excerpted from A Code of Jewish Ethics, Volume 2, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin (2009).