

Well here I am again. I guess I didn't do it right the first time. But you can bet I will read the Grand Counselor manual this time because three strikes and you're out! Although I've been here before, it is still an honor to serve as your Grand Counselor.

First, I want to thank my installing officer brother Past Supreme Counselor James Walsh and installing marshal, Past Grand Counselor Robert Blanchard for a great job.

Also thanks to brother John LoBello who was going to stand in for me. When the time comes, John will make a great Grand Counselor.

Next I want give my congratulations to out-going Grand Counselor Angela Goff for the fine job she has done this year.

As most of you know, I wasn't supposed to be here. I was supposed to be at my grandson's graduation at Bryant University. But because they were only given 5 tickets to the event the two grandmothers are going. I will be leaving right after the Installation to go to a dinner party tonight and tomorrow I have to be at URI for my other grandson's graduation.

As you know every one gets up here and talks about membership. We all know about the membership problem, I know that everyone does their best. Senior counselor Angela Goff had a good year. Providence held an open meeting and it was a big success. Sister Sandra LoBello had photos and a wonderful poster display at the open meeting. We had a couple of new members that signed up some members which added to our total membership for a total of 19 new members! Out of 19 new members we probably have 5 or 6 that want to help with our projects. I know some councils don't even have meetings so an open meeting won't help much. Just do your best. I hope I can have half of that number this year.

We need some Past Counselor's to step up and run for the Grand Line. And if the fundraising committee has some kind of raffle or whatever, please support it. All the councils did a great job in support of the calendar raffle, those funds helped out the Grand Council.

As you can see by the visitation schedule, because of the low turn out at the visitations and the cost of them, some councils don't want to have them.