



**Supporting the Fight  
Against Cancer**

# *Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias*

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TO: All Subordinate Lodge Secretaries  
Re: Official Communication

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM**

Benevolence is defined as an act of kindness or of charitable nature.  
Charity is defined as an act or feeling of generosity; goodwill toward humanity.  
Volunteerism is the act of a person voluntarily undertaking a service of Benevolence or Charity.

Six months ago, as Supreme Chancellor, I challenged our membership to achieve the modest goal of donating **2 MILLION HOURS** of Benevolent and Charitable service through Volunteering their time to their local communities. Since that time, many Lodges are now reporting their successes of their volunteer efforts within local communities throughout the United States and Canada. As of the end of February, 21 Domains have reported their Volunteer hours, totaling **28,388** hours. The Pythian Sisters have also had 5 Jurisdictions report a total of **7,860** hours. Many Subordinate Lodges are reporting their totals collectively, which embraces my earlier plea that ALL Volunteer hours be reported, even if they are reported anonymously. Currently, over 70 Brothers have or will receive a Supreme Chancellor's Certificate of Honor in recognition of having volunteered a minimum of 100 hours to their communities. Will you be the next Brother to receive a certificate?

April 19 through 25, 2009 is being recognized as National Volunteer Week. What better time than now for our members to start planning ways to volunteer their services to the various community outreaches available, such as these:

**Elementary Schools;** many children are still struggling with their basic reading skills up to the ages of eight and nine years old. Many local programs exist that accept seniors (retired or not) and all adults willing to donate one hour or more a week of their time to read with a student.

**Senior Centers;** many centers are in need of volunteers that will read to, play cards and board games with, or just talk with the seniors. Just one hour a week can brighten their (and even your) day.

**Little Leagues and Community Centers;** now that Spring is here, both of these organizations are in dire need of volunteers. What better way do you get to watch exciting sports action and

help shape the youth of your community at the same time? Remember, 'we're doing this for the kids'.

**Homeless shelters and Women's and Children's shelters;** during these trying economic times, extra volunteers are always welcome to help feed our nation's homeless, and those women and children that are in need. Remember, our first charity after the American Civil War was to take care of our Widows and Orphans, and those with no place to call home.

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, all Brothers that are eligible to receive the Supreme Chancellor's Certificate of Honor for having volunteered a minimum of 100 hours to their communities will be listed alphabetically by name on the Supreme Lodge's Website. Remember, qualifying volunteer hours will be accepted when performed between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2010.

The Volunteer Hours Form accompanying this letter is for use by your Lodge in reporting their volunteer hours to your local community. Please send a copy of this form monthly to your Deputy Supreme Chancellor.

Fraternally,

*Dan Cowan*

**Dan Cowan**

Supreme Chancellor

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS**

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