

Every year since the birth of the Uniform Rank there has been a large net gain in the membership of the Knights of Pythias, until now we have a membership of almost half a million.

When the Uniform Rank was born the Order of Knights of Pythias had no way of presenting itself to the public and was therefore scarcely known. The members of this Rank by their handsome uniforms, by their military display, and by their soldierly bearing as they travelled from North to South, and from West to East in attendance upon Grand and Supreme Lodge conventions, attracted the attention of the public in the most favorable manner, and the young men of the country flocked to our standards. This Rank was organized to assist the subordinate Lodge—and it has done so, as above shown, in the wonderful increase of membership. The young man who is attracted to the Uniform Rank, can come into this Rank only by coming through the subordinate Lodge, he must first become a Knight of Pythias before he can become a Pythian Knight Loyal. Without adding expense to your Lodge the Uniform Rank will attract the young men to your altars. It can be used as a most attractive feature in conferring the ranks in your Lodge. It may bring support to your Lodge by stirring up the pride of your citizens in a well-drilled and disciplined company.

The Uniform Rank teaches through its ritual the highest type of honor, of justice and of loyalty to friend and country.

This rank has been honored by the President of the United States in the appointment of many of our members to important military positions in the Volunteer Army of the United States. Four of the brigadier-generals appointed for the Spanish-American War were from our ranks. The Rank has been complimented on many occasions by the officers of the United

States Army and Navy, and this has brought additional strength and influence to the entire body of Pythians.

First.—You ask, what shall we do in order to organize a company?

I answer, write to the Brigade Commander in your State, or to Major-General James R. Carnahan, Indianapolis, Indiana, for an application, and you will receive a blank application, a copy of the Rules and Regulations, and full instructions. At the time you write give a full statement as to the prospects for organizing the company; whether anything has been attempted in that direction, and how far the effort has progressed; also give the names of those most interested in the success of the movement; together with all other information that may be of interest in such connection. At the same time do not hesitate to ask any questions that may be pertinent to the subject, upon which you may desire further information or advice.

Second.—Having obtained the blank application, proceed at once actively to secure the signatures of the brothers who will enter the Company. It will be necessary to obtain the names of not less than twenty-nine members of the Knights' Rank who are in good standing in a subordinate Lodge of the Order. It is not necessary that all the applicants belong to the same lodge. Sometimes the members of two or more neighboring lodges unite to form one company.

[N. B.—By special dispensation a company may be organized with a minimum of twenty-one applicants. This provision will expire with the next Convention of the Supreme Lodge.]

Third.—As soon as a sufficient number of names have been signed to the application to

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