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## ENGAGE EACH MEMBER: THE THOUGHTFUL BRIGADE

### What is the Thoughtful Brigade?

A small group of Auxiliary members dedicated to making all members feel welcome and valued in the organization. This should be a group of volunteers who are friendly, creative and organized.

The Brigade ensures that members' special/personal occasions are recognized. These occasions can include: birthdays, anniversaries, personal milestones, illnesses, funerals or sending a sympathy card to relatives. The Brigade should select which occasions they will honor for all members and collect this voluntary information from each member who would like the unit to recognize their special days.



Showing Auxiliary members consideration for their special occasion can be as easy as a phone call, greeting card or, more elaborately, a cake or party/memorial. Units can keep track of occasions by being organized with dates and staying updated on their members' health.

### How does the Thoughtful Brigade operate?

The extent of honoring members' special occasions depends on if the Thoughtful Brigade has a budget for celebrations. A collection could be taken up at each unit meeting for the Thoughtful Fund in order for the Thoughtful Brigade to fund activities. Phone calls are free, cards can be handmade or printed by computer and making a cake or hosting a small party may be kept low budget. Be creative!

### Where do we start?

To begin, the Thoughtful Brigade should consist of a reasonably small amount of members (less than 10). Members may alternate duties between themselves, or work as a group to accomplish tasks. The first order of business is to collect a voluntary list of member phone numbers and birthdays. Please, do not demand information or money from members who do not wish to be contacted by the Thoughtful Brigade.

The Brigade can begin by simply calling members on their special occasions in order to wish them well. If the Brigade would like an operating budget, they should set a reasonable amount they wish to collect from members, an appropriate occasion where they wish to solicit the amount (such as unit meetings) and frequency of solicitation.

From these basic beginnings and operating budget, the Thoughtful Brigade can expand to incorporate more special occasions to honor its members, or more elaborate celebrations. We suggest a yearly rotation of members into the Thoughtful Brigade such that no one tires of the responsibilities, but if a member shows great love and aptitude for the volunteer position, carry on!