

Membership Stories

(OR, it's not just another Fairy Tale)

We have each joined our clubs for a reason and whatever the reason, it is the Beginning of our Federation Story where we feature ourselves as the main character. How we write the story is totally up to us, and, to stay true to ourselves and stay happy in our story: we write the Middle and Ends of each meeting, event and committee we are part of. Membership Stories are happy stories and, although they are not just another Fairy Tale, we can insure they indeed do have a happy Ending!

Everything has a Beginning, a Middle, and an End?

Memberships should always come full circle: for better or for worse.

Beginnings and Ends are almost always a given...it's the Middle we have the most power over. Power to change the End for the better.

The most challenging aspects of any Membership Story are:

- Making sure the Story includes every other Member in your group
- The Story stays fresh and exciting
- Every Character in your story is integral to the End
- If the Middle isn't working, it gets changed until it does work
- There is a Happy Ending

Hints for writing a great Membership Story:

- Remember, like any other story, there is an antagonist and its name changes. It can be a difficult Middle, it can be that the Middle is always the same (eliciting the same End we never learn from), it can be heated argument, (and those are just a few).
- Put the antagonist in the position of "Challenge"; make the antagonist something you overcome. Never make the antagonist a person, this action will change your story to a tale that no one wants to be part of.
- Story dynamics differ all the time. Pay careful attention to the characters and the backgrounds introduced into the current story. Each story dynamic is new and should be tackled with that in mind...otherwise we tell the same old story time and time again: Boring!

Workshop Exercises:

1. What is your Membership Story? (individual story)

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

2. Write the Middle of a Group Story: (include all member stories)

Beginning: We 4 form the Fashion Show Committee.

Middle: _____

End: \$8,000.00 are earned to go towards Scholarships.

3. Write a Story that will turn new Members away: (group of 5 or 6)

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

4. Write a Story that will attract your Members to become more active in participating in a fundraiser: (10-member group)

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

So, what's your Membership Story?

Is it a New Story?

Is it an Old Story?

Is it the Same Story Year-to Year?

Is it a Defensive Story with Justification?

Is it a Positive Story?

Whatever your Story is, it is time to write it down and take stock of the Beginning, the Middle, and the End. Adjust and fix the story so it works for you. Only toddlers like the same story over-and-over. Constant Change in a story is a must to avoid stagnating Membership woes. Take your Story and change it to make it work for you because we all love a great Story.

Be the Author of a great Story!

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