

Spring has finally arrived and that means it's basketball season! The Final Four! But, something unexpected happened on the way to the Final Four this year. Those teams that always vie for a slot just didn't cut the mustard this time. And, out of those last standing are three Cinderella Teams for sure. Gonzaga in Spokane, Washington has NEVER been and no one even knows where Gonzaga is! They have come close several times but never made it. The Oregon Ducks haven't been since the very first championship tourney was held in 1949 and it hadn't been named the Final Four. Besides, it's a football school. South Carolina is going for the first time too. (Their girls team is also playing in the Women's Final Four.) These three teams were not the ones chosen by the sports writers and all of the powers to be. But, they are the ones that played the games and worked their way into the Big Dance known as the Final Four.



Figured out where this is going yet? You bet, I can't lose this opportunity. We have Temples who haven't been to the Big Dance in years. They have no elective line officers and their membership numbers are constantly going down. No one wants to memorize the work. They say they can't memorize, but the truth of the matter is they just don't want to take the time to learn it. So, they say they will just read it well; but, they don't even do a good job of that. When words are mis-pronounced, you know they haven't even read it enough to know what it says. How sad!

Then, there is the excitement of a new Temple being Chartered. New members just too eager to learn and become the best Daughters of the Nile they can be. There are Temples having multiple Ceremonials, creating many new members so their Temples will grow and prosper. New Units and Clubs within existing Temples are being formed, promoting fellowship that creates lifetime friendships. These are the Temples headed to our Final Four, our Championship.

I'll just bet you that when the membership numbers get to me, and I am looking to see who gets the awards this year, there will be some Cinderella Temples and most unlikely winners. Some of the Temples who have many members, or who are in large cities, or who have Shrine Temples supporting them, or meet in the day time, or meet in the evening, or on Saturdays or Sundays, or have high numbers or low numbers.... they may NOT be in the hunt for the awards. The Temples that are full of energy and enthusiasm, with a cooperative spirit, will be the ones having the best numbers. Those with more than one Ceremonial will probably be reeling in the awards too. Your Temple can't grow if you only initiate once a year. That is a proven fact! How long are you going to make a lady wait after she is elected to initiate her?

Working for the children by having multiple fund raisers promotes fellowship while generating funds. Social events with our Nobles generate excitement, because the more we play together the harder they will work for our fraternity. These are all givens in the true sense of the word and ways to make our Temples more productive.

Where does your Temple stand in the Final Four this Season? Are you a Cinderella or an also ran? Were you expected to do well and just didn't deliver? Or, did you just not try very hard? The Queen could easily be considered the coach, and we all know success starts at the top.

Was your coach a good leader? The game has to be played with a victory as the goal. We know what our goals in the Nile are. New members, sustained members, and reinstated members are all important. A positive attitude that we CAN do the work well is a necessity. We must not settle for second best. We must win, for the children, for the Nile.

Next week, we will know who the best college basketball team is this year. In June, we will know who our best Temples are. Is yours in the game? If not this past year, then how about this new year we have just begun? Grow, Gather and Give. Grow your membership and Gather your ladies together for the good of the Order and Give of your time and talents. Then Success will be ours. We WILL win the Membership Game. I love sports! They teach us so much.

See you at the Final Four for Daughters of the Nile.

Alyce Thomas, PSQ, Chairman, Supreme Temple Membership and Public Relations Committee