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Chapter Development Handbook

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by Elias Alias , December 27, 2014

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The following outline is to be used as a prototype guideline only. Each part of the nation has unique characteristics which vary, so leaders will want to adapt the below suggested outline to best suit the particular characteristics of a given area. If you have something to add, please send to “contact” at Oath Keepers dot org.

Chapter Development Handbook

I. Objective & Goals

A. Provide strategies for developing local, county and state chapters

1. reaching out to new and existing members
2. teaching Constitutional principles and civil responsibility
3. inspiring devotion to our Nation’s founding principles

B. Provide strategies for members (RT&I, CPT)

1. General preparedness
 2. Physical security
 3. Economic security
 4. Personal, State and national sovereignty
- C. Maintain freedoms and liberties currently enjoyed

D. Release the shackles stifling

1. life
2. liberty
3. the pursuit of happiness

E. Secure for future generations these freedoms and liberties

II. Building a chapter

A. introduce yourself

1. join the state forum (<http://www.oathkeepers.net/>)

2. contact the chain of command

- a) county director, or if none
- b) state president, or if none
- c) board of director member

B. plan a Meet and Greet

1. pick a location

- a) restaurant private room
- b) home
- c) church meeting room
- d) business conference room
- e) outdoor space

2. pick a date and time

3. prepare announcement

a) email

(1) contact chain of command to release to OKers in your area

(2) use your personal email list

b) Meetup.com

(1) check with chain of command for access

(2) piggyback on a group that is already in your area

c) newspapers

d) radio

(1) we are a education group, your local station may broadcast public service announcements (PSAs)

e) local personal sales flyers

(1) place an ad

(2) some have a community calendar for free

f) OK State Forum announcement

(1) start a new thread on the state forum

(2) occasionally update thread so it remains near the top

g) Facebook or Twitter announcement

h) flyers

(1) sporting good store bulletin boards

(2) barbershops, hardware stores, etc

4. conduct the meet & greet

a) use meeting guidelines (see chapter III)

b) introduce Oath Keepers as an organization

c) introduce the “10 orders”

d) allow each attendee to introduce him/her self

(1) name

(2) any service (military, law enforcement, 1st responder, etc)

(3) year they took the oath (at least first time)

(4) related interests or organizations

e) avoid straying off OK message (see chapter ##)

f) collect names, email address, phone numbers & addresses

g) have a plan for a follow-up meeting

III. Introductory Meeting

A. Purpose

1. Introduce Oath Keepers mission

2. Establish Oath Keepers as a “go to” source for info

3. Promote fellowship and trust

4. Encourage participation

B. Typical Meeting

1. Welcome and Leader Introduction

2. Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer (Optional – Know your folks)

a) recommended if location and group size is appropriate

3. Brief intro of attendees

- a) name
- b) city
- c) service (if any)
- d) when they first took their Oath (if any)
- 4. Explanation of OK mission and goals
- 5. Brief overview of “10 Orders We Won’t Obey”
 - a) verbally
 - b) dvd
- 6. Q & A

IV. General Meeting

A. Goals

- 1. Disseminate information
 - a) in a timely manner
 - b) tailored to the group
- 2. Develop trust and camaraderie in the group
- 3. Encourage participation in additional OK activities
 - a) recruitment
 - b) public events
 - (1) gun shows
 - (2) parades, rallies, conferences etc.
 - c) private events
 - (1) picnics
 - (2) additional training
- (a) prepping
- (b) communications
- (c) weaponry
- (d) survival
- 4. Air viewpoints and concerns

B. Guidelines

- 1. planning
 - a) make it periodic
 - (1) monthly is most common
 - (2) bimonthly if urgency dictates
 - b) stick to a schedule
 - (1) meeting should have a set time length
 - (a) 2 hours is typical
 - (b) start on time, end on time
 - (2) limit topics to 20 min with 10 min of Q&A
 - (3) allow space for members to talk after end of meeting
 - c) guest speakers
 - (1) preview topics and points of view
 - (2) insure speakers are competent in
 - (a) delivery
 - (b) knowledge
 - d) disseminate agenda to attendees
 - (1) email to list
 - (2) post on forum
- 2. prepare agenda
 - a) introduction
 - (1) Welcome everyone
 - (2) Introduce yourself and any OK officers
 - (3) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (4) Founding Father Quote
 - (5) Invocation
 - (6) Announcements

(7) Read or pass out meeting schedule and end time

b) topics of discussions

(1) Founding Documents

(a) Declaration of Independence

(b) US Constitution w/ Bill of Rights

(c) Federalist/anti-Federalist papers

(d) other documents of that time period

(2) Historical Events

(a) Wars

i) showing sacrifice

ii) general interest

(b) Social, & governmental milestones

i) important legislation, executive orders, court decisions

ii) trends of thought, social movements

c) Personalities

i) Politicians, Military Leaders, LEOs, Heroes

ii) Authors, Activists

(3) Current Events

(a) OK Forum topics

(b) Local, State & National issues

(4) Preparedness

(a) food/water storage

(b) fuel storage

(c) emergency medical care

(d) communications

(5) Physical Security

(a) neighborhood watch

(b) community service organizations

(c) other like-minded groups

(d) sheriff and emergency organizations

(6) Economic Security

(a) bartering techniques

(b) sound money

(7) State Sovereignty

(a) nullification

(b) non-enforcement of non-constitutional orders and laws

(8) Approaching current servers about Oath Keepers

(a) how and when to approach a LEO

(b) how and when to approach a soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine

(9) Explaining the Oath Keeper goals to non-members

(a) 10 Orders I Will Not Obey

(b) Operation Sleeping Giant

(c) ice breaking techniques

(d) simple examples of Oath Breaking

c) speakers

(1) find experts (formal and informal) on each topic

(a) gives validity to the topic

(b) varies the tenor of the meeting

(c) gives a greater sense of community involvement

(2) encourage community leaders to speak

(a) sheriffs, fire chiefs etc, to enlist their support and show support for their organizations

(b) politicians with specific topics

(c) candidates for office

i) campaigning not allowed

(1) they may bring literature to hand out

(2) they may speak to attendees after the meeting adjourns

- ii) interpretations of Founding Documents
- iii) how existing or proposed laws relate to the Constitution
- d) vendors
 - (1) invite local vendors
- (a) demonstrate
 - i) latest technology
 - ii) low-tech methods
 - iii) skills to master
 - iv) resources
- (2) no selling during meeting
- e) videos
 - (1) preflight equipment so it is ready to go
 - (2) preview video for appropriateness or necessary editing if too long
- f) questions & answers
 - (1) allow 10 minutes for q&a at the end of the meeting
- g) maintaining discipline
 - (1) promote proper decorum and politeness at meetings
 - (2) avoid topics that detract from Oath Keeper mission
 - (3) promote our nonpartisan, nondenominational spirit
 - (4) do not allow racism or calls for violence to be part of the meeting
- C. Typical meeting:
 - 1. 7:00 Call to order, welcome, introduction of officers, pledge, quote, prayer
 - 2. 7:15 US Constitution 1.8. "The Powers of Congress" by Jim Madison
 - 3. 7:45 "Methods of grinding grain both with and without electricity." by Betty Crocker
 - 4. 8:15 "NDAA 2012 What happened to Posse Comitatus?" by Matt Dillon
 - 5. 8:45 Q & A and Announcements
 - 6. 9:00 social time

V. Special Events

- A. OK Family/Community oriented
 - 1. Picnics/Barbeques
 - 2. Hiking/Orienteering
 - 3. Gun Range Outings
 - 4. Patriots Day Celebrations (April 19)
 - a) Purpose
 - (1) celebrate the Founding of Oath Keepers
 - (2) reach out to the community in an Patriotic Celebration (open to public)
 - (3) recount the events of April 19, 1775 at Lexington & Concord
 - b) Schedule
 - (1) Call to Colors, Pledge, National Anthem, Invocation
 - (2) brief history of the events leading up to and including 4/19/1775
 - (3) Reading of the Declaration of Independence and/or Bill of Rights
 - (4) Oath Ceremony
- B. Community Events
 - 1. Parades
 - a) Independence Day (7/4)
 - b) Veterans Day (11/11)
 - c) Armed Forces Day (5/19)
 - d) Other
 - 2. Commemorations/Memorials
 - 3. Sporting Events
 - a) Halftime Events
 - b) Rodeos
 - c) Car Races
 - d) Walk/Runs/Marathons
 - e) Bike Races

- f) LEO & Fireman events
- 4. Farmer's Markets/Art Festivals
- 5. Motorcycle events
- C. Private Events
 - 1. Gun Shows
 - a) set up booth
 - b) as an educational group, the booth may be free
 - 2. Sporting Goods/Recreation shows
 - 3. Veterans Groups
 - a) VFW
 - b) Marine Corp, Navy, Army & Air Force Leagues
 - c) Afghanistan & Iraqi Vets Assoc
 - 4. Service Groups
 - a) Rotory
 - b) Elks, etc.
 - 5. Patriot Groups
 - a) Tea Party
 - b) 10th Amendment Assoc
 - c) PANDA, etc.

VI. Organization

- A. Purpose
 - 1. to ensure flow of communication throughout chapter
 - 2. to fill needs of individual members
 - 3. to increase awareness and membership of Oath Keepers
 - a) through general presence in the community
 - b) billboards at military bases
 - 4. increase revenues
 - a) to participate in more activities
 - b) to increase advertisement (billboards)
 - c) establish caches of supplies
- B. Basic Organization (optimal)
 - 1. State President
 - a) Vice President
 - b) District Directors (made up of several counties)
 - c) Secretary/Treasurer
 - d) Membership Chairman
 - e) Communications Chief
 - f) IT Chief
 - g) Military Service Liaison Officer(s)
 - h) Peace Officer/1st Responders Liaison Officer(s)
 - i) Public Relations Officer
 - j) CPT Leader
 - 2. County Director or Coordinator
 - a) Assistant Coordinator
 - b) Secretary/Treasurer
 - c) Communications Chief
 - d) Membership Chairman

VII. Conduct

- A. Leadership
 - 1. Appearance
 - a) dress in a manner appropriate to the type of organization you want to portray
 - (1) new attendees are looking for information and leadership
 - (2) Body language, poise, demeanor, bearing, attitude etc.

2. Manner

- a) Promote a general condition of good order and discipline
- b) Redirect conversation if it gets off course, stay on track
- c) Take notes on agenda sheet to follow up later
- d) Summarize key points

B. Group Dynamics

1. Take Control

- a) it is your meeting
- b) members should raise hands for questions
- c) stay on message

2. Read your audience

- a) if topic is unclear, undefined, or boring, redirect
- b) if disagreements arise, insist on civility

3. Watch for agenda hounds

- a) persons who want to change the subject to his topic
- b) persons who dominate the conversation

C. Off Limits

1. Calls for violence against individuals, groups, or governments

2. Racism

D. Topics to avoid

1. Calls for organizing private militias

2. Conspiracy theories

- a) especially those which do not relate to our mission
- b) these dilute our message

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About Author



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