

**From:** Scott Yenor <syenor@boisestate.edu>

**To:** Scott Yenor <syenor@boisestate.edu>, Amy Yenor <ayenor@theambroseschool.org>

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# SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN CIVIC RENEWAL

## WORKING MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITING GUIDE FOR CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

### I. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Membership in SACR is predicated on political alignment and faithfulness to the Christian religion, combined with virtue and with any of community influence, capability, or wealth. Once a prospective member passes the minimal bar of alignment and Trinitarian identity, he should demonstrably embody the virtuous practice of our faith and possess the qualities that will ensure his ability to contribute meaningfully to our project. Each quality is explained further below; they are in no particular order, and should not be considered exhaustive.

- *Alignment*: To be aligned is to acknowledge “our political and social inheritance, of both America’s founding and of Christendom,” which entails deference to and acceptance of the wisdom of our American and European Christian forebears in the political realm, a traditional understanding of patriarchal leadership in the household, and an acceptance of traditional Natural Law in ethics more broadly.
- *Virtue*: Evidence of long-lasting relationships; restraint and self-denial; household management; leadership and orderliness; and courage in speaking against the injustices of our age.
- *Faithfulness*: Submission to the authority and standards of behavior of a particular Trinitarian Christian body; adherence to traditional Christian sexual ethics; taking ownership as head of the household in terms of leading regular prayer and spiritual reading and reflection; involvement in parish/church ministries; regular tithing.
- One or more of:
  - o *Influence*: To be influential in this context is to possess the ability to make a mark primarily on culture and social discourse but also in politics and business. The positions here can range from equity ownership in productive enterprises to positions of influence in cultural, religious and intellectual institutions.
  - o *Capability*: This entails high capability in skills useful for our organization and the businesses it will be affiliated with (e.g., any skill conducive to the technical work of productive entrepreneurship; lawfare; cybersecurity).
  - o *Wealth*: This is measured in terms of overall financial attainment as well as ultimately, willingness to put such resources to use in our cause.

Levels of membership:

- We conceive of Chapter membership as consisting of multiple levels: “Junior” membership and regular membership, which will be further split into “associate” and “full” membership, roughly corresponding to level of professional and personal experience and abilities as well as demonstrated level of commitment to our objectives.

- *Junior Membership:* Junior Members will be younger (20s to early 30s) men who demonstrate the qualities above, but in nascent form. Dues will be at a reduced rate, and they will not be included, generally in national discussions.
- *Regular Membership:* Regular Members will be men of all ages who demonstrate the qualities above in a matured and accomplished form. Dues will be slightly higher, and they will be included at varying levels in national discussions and have access to information at the national and inter-chapter level. A further distinction should be made between “associate” and “full” Members.
  - *Associate Membership:* The primary distinction between Junior Members and Regular Associate Members will be age (though this is not determinative, and some Associate Members may be younger), experience and accomplishments.
  - *Full Membership:* Full Membership is reserved for those with significant skin in the game with respect to our mission and objectives and demonstrated commitment over time.
- National leadership is reserved for those members the national Board deem appropriate to include in national planning, strategy and operations. In most cases these will be Full Members.
- All members are obligated to pay dues timely, to attend at least twelve gatherings per year, and to adhere to the Rules for Gatherings noted below.

## II. MEMBERSHIP VETTING

- The process of vetting begins with the passive knowledge of or pre-existing relationships with prospects among members.
- The above membership criteria should be distributed among Chapter members so they can internalize it and be on the lookout for prospects.
- Once identified, a prospect should be discussed with Chapter leadership with the following knowledge:
  - Denominational affiliation
  - Profession
  - Marital status
  - Brief description of fitness for membership based on above criteria
- If Chapter leadership deems the prospect worthy of consideration, the prospect should be invited to a Chapter event, where the Rules for Gatherings for all attendees are explained and agreed to in advance.
- At the gathering, the following are some suggested prompts for discussion with the prospect to gauge alignment and fit:
  - What are your thoughts on the Republican Party?
  - What are your thoughts on “Christian Nationalism”?
  - Comment on the Trump presidency and what it entails for the future.
  - Describe the dynamic of your household in terms of your role and that of your wife.

- Describe your church community and your and your family's involvement there.

### III. RULES FOR GATHERINGS

The following rules should be communicated to all attendees at any Chapter gathering:

- All discussion is confidential unless clearly noted otherwise.
- All names of attendees are strictly confidential.
- All opinions shared by prospects and members should be interpreted charitably and if deemed questionable, engaged with courteously and in good faith.

For Chapter members, the additional rules should be observed:

- Never reveal the names of other Chapter members to prospects.
- Never reveal national or Chapter initiatives to prospects – speak only in general terms about our objectives and mission.