



Legion of Mary Arlington Regia

November 2003

Reminder on Regia Meeting Attendance

As the burning lens is to the rays of the sun, so is the meeting to the members.

--Legion of Mary Handbook, page 70

The Handbook reminds us of the importance of attending meetings whether at the praesidium or council level. The attendance at meetings is an individual Legionary responsibility. The Arlington Regia fully supports the mandate of the Legion system regarding attendance at meetings.

Praesidium Officers

Officers of directly attached praesidia are required to attend every Regia meeting. Officers who have an excused absence, e.g. sickness, work, school, family commitment or vacation, are to contact the Regia Vice President and ask to be excused from the meeting. Praesidia officers that are not present at a meeting and do not have an excused absence are marked as "Absent", i.e. AWOL. AWOL is a military term/acronym reflecting the fact that a soldier is missing and there is no known reason for the soldier's absence. Members, of course, do their best to keep the excused absences to a minimum and should abhor the term AWOL.

Members who miss a meeting, miss the opportunity to rejuvenate their Legion zeal, to learn from and comment on Legion reports, and share in Legion camaraderie. Missing two or more meetings in a row or in close proximity to each other is a cause for concern.

Council Officers

Council officers have a responsibility to attend Regia meetings four times a year, at least once a quarter, i.e., once in January to March, once in April to June, once in July to September and once in October to December. A few councils, because of the distance involved, have been given permission to attend the Regia meetings less frequently. If a council officer does not attend a meeting within a particular quarter, the officer is to attend the first meeting of the next quarter and another meeting within the same quarter to meet the requirement to attend four times a year. A council officer is not meeting his/her responsibility by attending four meetings in a row and then considering that he/she does not need to attend any more meetings for the rest of the year.

Attending council meetings can of course be a sacrifice at times. As Legionaries, we welcome the opportunity to sacrifice for our Blessed Mother. "I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is yours." Do not these words bring joy to *our hearts*?