

I'm the Person

Written by Scott Teeples – Oregon FCE President
4-3-19

Recently, I came across this plea from a person that was involved in some type of an organization. The person's name and the name of the organization they belonged to, nor the place of the organization, was not mentioned nor did it need to be given. I was deeply touched by the words and feeling of this person. After all our efforts to "Find, Recruit, and Retain" new FCE members, how often do we let them fall away by not understanding their feelings and the feeling about us and the organization?

Although this person was probably not in FCE, they very well could have been in FCE or one of many other organizations. We need to all take the opportunity to read this person's plea for help and think about what it really says and what it really means. We may find ourselves as the one giving the plea or one of those that need to look a lot closer at our own FCE members. I quote this person's words.

"I'M THE PERSON

I'm the person who asked to join our organization. I'm the person who paid my dues to join. I'm the person who stood up in front of you and promise to be faithful and loyal. I'm the person who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to. I tried several times to be friends, but they all had their own friends to talk to and sit next to. I sat down several times, but no one paid any attention to me. I hope very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fundraising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered. I missed a few meetings after joining, because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not. The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting, I attended, but no one asked me where I was for the last meeting. You may say I'm a good person, a good family person who holds a responsible job, loves my community and my country. You know who else I am? I'M THE PERSON WHO NEVER CAME BACK. It amazes me how the heads of the organization and the members discuss WHY the organization was losing members. It amazes me to think that they spent so much time looking for the NEW members when I was there all the time. All they need to do was to make me feel needed, wanted and WELCOME!

Unknown Member"

So, what is it that we can do as FCE members to prevent this from happening to any of our members? We need to get know them. We need to love and care for them. We need to make them feel needed and welcome. We need to find out who they are. We need to learn of their strengths, their weaknesses, and their fears. We need to know what we can do to help them become a very important part of FCE.

Every member, without exception, needs three things:

1. Every member, new or old, needs a friend. They need to feel like they have someone to share the joys and the hardships of their lives both in FCE and in their personal lives.
2. Every member needs a purpose. Every member needs to feel needed. We need to find the things that these members can do and what they love to do. Everyone has that special thing that they are good at. Involve them in doing great things and make them feel that they have “self-worth” to themselves and to the FCE organization.
3. Every FCE member needs the rich nurturing of the FCE organization. They need the love and the support of all the FCE members. They need to feel important and feel like they have something to offer in return. We need to keep them involved but not overwhelmed in their assignments. We need to be there to help them and to teach them how to do the things they have volunteered to do, or the assignments have been given. We need to be their friends and mentors. We need to recognize and reward them for their efforts and success. When they start to become lost and start to fall away, we need to “leave the nine and ninety and go and find the one.” We need to be there and to help them as they start to struggle and fall away.

I would hope that each of us can read and understand the feelings of this person as they talk about being “I am the One.” May we all work at doing our best at making FCE the best it can be for the organization and for each member.