

## **Suggested Election Talk**

*Once again the time for election is near. Many questions are not answered in the Constitution, Manual of Rules and Regulations, or the Uniform Code of Bylaws. Therefore, the following has been compiled to help the Bethel members.*

*The Associate Bethel Guardian reads the following at the meeting prior to Election.*

Job's Daughters has five elected officers: Marshal, Guide, Junior Princess, Senior Princess and Honored Queen. These five stations are usually referred to as “the line”. A member who has passed her proficiency test and has no unexcused absences during the entire term is eligible for election.

### **1. Who is eligible for election to office?**

a. Our Supreme Bylaws state the election shall be from members present except in case of sickness or other unavoidable absence. In which case the Executive Members of the Bethel Guardian Council present shall decide upon and announce the eligibility of the absences.

b. To be eligible for any elective office, a Daughter must have satisfactorily passed the Proficiency Test.

c. She must have been a member of the Bethel, and have been in regular attendance during the entire term in which elections are held. This means she must be present at all regular meeting unless excused by the vote of the Executive Bethel Guardian Council.

d. Any girl who has fulfilled these eligibility requirements is eligible for election to office. The Bethel Guardian will read a list of those eligible. No girl is asked to, or declares that she will run for office.

### **2. What constitutes electioneering?**

a. Electioneering of any kind is forbidden. Electioneering is a fancy term for campaigning and incidents of electioneering are subject to discipline by the Executive Bethel Guardian Council.

b. Do not discuss your choices with other girls in the Bethel. This is not a popularity contest. Do not try to influence any girl to vote for or against anyone. Each girl should make up her own mind and do her own voting. Remember – you have the precious right to vote for yourself. Vote by yourself for the good of the Bethel and Job's Daughters. Be especially careful about your own personal remarks — they could easily be construed as electioneering.

c. Do not vote for girls for higher offices for purpose of suggesting them for Marshal in a later ballot — this is a subtle form of electioneering. The normal procedure is for Line Officers to advance up the Line. The reason for this is that each stations helps to prepare the girls for the next higher office by giving her the necessary experience and confidence which will enable her

to be a good Honored Queen. Only after the Senior Princess has been elected to Honored Queen, the Junior Princess to Senior Princess, the Guide to Junior Princess, and the Marshal to Guide, should you vote for your choice for Marshal.

### **3. Can a girl be voted out of office?**

a. Yes. If a line officer has not fulfilled the obligations of her office, or if she is not being obedient to the laws, teachings and Ritual of Job's Daughters, she may be removed from office by the Executive Members of the Bethel Guardian Council or voted out of office by the Bethel members who have the privilege of voting for anyone who is eligible. However, this is an extremely serious step, and can have a severe impact of the reputation of the girl herself and that of the Bethel. Moral misconduct or persistent refusals to do her work are the only legitimate reasons for voting a girl out of office.

b. When selecting a Marshal, your vote may go to any eligible girl in the Bethel. Once a girl is in office, your loyalty belongs to her, even though she may not have been your first choice.

### **4. What should you consider in making a choice for Marshal?**

a. Remember that the girl whom you elect as marshal will most likely be your Honored Queen in two years. So, think carefully about your choice and vote for the good of the order.

b. Pick a girl for her merits, maturity, leadership and participation. It is natural to want to vote for your best friends, especially if you know she really wants it. It requires little thought to pick a girl who is popular. What is most important is whether she has the qualities of leadership needed to lead our Bethel. Keep in mind that our Bethel is active, and the leaders are expected to attend many activities, as well as assume many important responsibilities. There are many demands on line officers, and they are expected to enthusiastically participate.

c. Will she learn her memory work each term and be an example for the girls?

d. Is she an enthusiastic Job's Daughters?

e. Is she loyal to the Bethel, to the girls and to the activities of the Bethel, or does she participate in talking about the Bethel and the members in a negative way?

f. Will she give up other things in her life to make Job's Daughters her top priority? Will she devote more time to the Bethel than she has in lesser offices? Will she be willing to participate in the Bethel's fund-raising projects, fun activities and other projects that are important to the Bethel?

g. Can she work in harmony with all the other girls, and not just her friends? Can she work with the Bethel Guardian Council?

h. Keep in mind that the order in which a girl was initiated into our Bethel should not be a significant point in your consideration about whom to vote for. Nor should an appointed office be viewed as an indication of whom to vote for.

i. As you cast your vote for Marshal, try to think in terms of what is best for the Bethel.

**5. What if you don't want to be considered for an elective office and you receive votes, or if you are elected and don't want to serve?**

a. You must wait until after the ballots are counted and announced. Then, you may stand to withdraw your name from consideration by simply stating, "Honored Queen, I would like to withdraw my name at this time."

b. Because you announce once that you do not want to serve at this time, it does not mean that you cannot be elected in future elections. And, the Bethel members should not exclude you from future consideration for that reason. Any eligible member can be elected at any time.

c. A member may have personal reasons for not wanting to serve a particular office at that time; perhaps she feels that she is not ready for the responsibility and would be better prepared by the next election. No matter how well we think that person could fulfill the responsibilities of the office, we must respect her wishes, but not exclude her from future consideration for office unless she again desire not to be considered.

d. It can sometimes take several ballots to elect an officer. Usually, at some point in the balloting, it becomes obvious that those who are receiving only a few votes in all probability will not be elected. While it is your decision about what you want to do, it may be a good idea to consider announcing that you would like your name withdrawn. This will help to speed the voting along, and speaks well of you.

**6. Should you be chosen for Marshal, what should you consider before you accept?**

a. Are you willing to give up other things for Job's Daughters? Remember, you are accepting an honor which other girls would like to have as well, and they are anxious to do a good job. Therefore, they have a right to expect more of you than when you were a choir member or appointed officer.

b. Two and one-half years is a long time, and all is not glamour and fun. Remember, there will be long hours of work and difficult decisions to make. You must attend as many of the Bethel's activities as possible. You will also learn to take disappointments and learn to see the other person's side. Remember, you will promise to be impartial and just.

c. Can you give your loyalty to all members of the Bethel and to your Bethel Council? You cannot show a preference for certain members of the Bethel. You are elected as a representative of all the members.

d. If you feel you cannot fulfill these requirements, then you should not accept the office. If you turn down the office, don't feel bad about it. You have to do what is right for you and the Bethel. And nobody else should try to make you feel bad.

## **7. What should you do if you want the office of Marshal and you are not elected?**

a. Some girls consider dropping out of Job's Daughters, or they can be very emotional when this happens. However, there is always another chance in a few months. Many times if a girl stays in and works hard, she will gain maturity and the skills of leadership that are necessary to prove to the members that she is worthy of their trust.

b. Remember that when you joined Job's Daughters you took an obligation to remain faithful to the teachings of our Order. Job faced many problems in his life, and because he maintained his faith he received his reward. If you do not remain steadfast to the teaching of the Order, it could weaken our Bethel, and cast a bad light on it and you. It also sets a bad example and does nothing for your reputation.

c. The Bethel needs other officers and choir members who are very important to the success and welfare of the Bethel. Each individual is equally important because without all of the parts working together, the whole Bethel cannot function properly and grow.

## **8. How are appointive officers chosen?**

The appointive officers are chosen by the Honored Queen-elect, and are selected with consideration to attendance, participation in Bethel functions and suitability for office. The Executive Bethel Guardian Council must approve the choices of the Honored Queen-elect. Much thought goes into each selection. Give your Honored Queen-elect your support no matter what position you are asked to fill. *[Bethel Guardian Council option — a sheet may be available after the next meeting for girls to indicate their preference for an office next term.]*

## **9. How do new members know whom to vote for?**

Each member is entitled to cast a vote each time. However, if a member feels that she does not know the girls well enough, she may cast a blank ballot. She does this by not writing on the ballot, folding it and handing it in that way. There will be another election next term, and by that time she should know the girls well enough to make an informed choice. It is better not to vote at all than to vote when you're not sure about whom you're voting for.

Between now and the next meeting when we will have elections, we hope you will give these points your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, see one of the Bethel Guardian or the Associate Bethel Guardian.