

at Top of Rd. 3993

MEMORANDUM FOR JULIA K HENDERSON AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OF FUSLA

This memorandum is designed to specify some of my thoughts concerning the general subject of membership in FUSLA and the specific subject of the "orientation" program for prospective FUSLA members.

I. Requirements for membership in FUSLA

A. Membership in the URANTIA BROTHERHOOD is achieved by one of two different paths: (1) membership in an URANTIA Society or (2) membership at large.

B. Since membership in URANTIA Societies is the principal method of becoming a part of the Brotherhood, the qualifications for membership in the Brotherhood should be the basis for qualifications for membership in any Society.

C. The qualification for membership in the Brotherhood is prescribed in Art. IV of the Brotherhood constitution as:

- (1) evidencing a desire and willingness to learn and understand the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK; and
- (2) declaring a willingness to accept the Constitution of the Brotherhood.

Anyone meeting these qualifications "shall be eligible for membership" in a Society, hence eligible for membership in the Brotherhood.

D. Article III of the Constitution of FUSLA makes these identical qualifications, plus acceptance of the FUSLA Constitution, the full qualifications for membership in FUSLA. The Article says "shall be eligible for membership."

E. On 26 Jan 1976 the Governing Committee adopted "qualifications for membership" or "membership requirements" which were not only different, but also were far more strenuous than those prescribed by the Constitution. In so doing, it seems to me that FUSLA is now in violation of both the Brotherhood and Society constitutions on this matter.

F. In addition to the legal question involved, I have philosophical questions concerning the advisability of allowing each society to strike out on its own with respect to the qualifications for membership. If there are to be additional restrictions, they should be at the Brotherhood level, and the matter should be raised at the Triennial Conference in June.

II. Proper Role of FUSLA in Screening its Membership.

A. I am wholly in accord with the objectives of the FUSLA Governing Committee to insure that all members are truly "qualified". My problem is with the method used. Instead of making new qualifications, I would focus upon proof that the applicant meets existing qualifications.

B. It is a required function of the Society under both Constitutions to "adjudge" whether or not an applicant meets existing qualifications. Neither Constitution tells the Society how to do this, thus considerable discretion is left to the Society in making this determination. FUSLA should employ this required function to maintain the "quality" of its membership.

Stee to Soto apt for 3 miles to Huntington in Dr. - Pindles to  
 Oxnard - One highway - night left on dry side  
 at Top of Rd. 3993

Rec. meetings - 12 to 2 and 3 to 5

Break 2 to 3

San Bernardino - off Hwy  
Soto

to 1: p.m. at Long at 23rd

C. To be specific, I recommend that FUSLA Governing Committee rescind the additional qualifications for membership in FUSLA adopted 24 Jan 1976 and return to the qualifications prescribed by the Constitutions. In its place it should adopt the procedure to be followed by the Society in adjudging whether or not an applicant meets the Constitutional requirements.

D. It should be noted that this is what has been done by the Brotherhood in prescribing so-called "requirements" for membership-at-large. Each one is a part of existing requirements, broken down for ease of administration.

E. The following language is suggested:

PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN FUSLA: Eligibility for membership is prescribed by Article III of the Constitution of FUSLA. Article VIII (Sect. 8-6(a)) requires the Membership Committee to pass upon the qualifications and eligibility of all candidates for membership, subject to the authority of the Governing Committee. The Membership Committee is requested to certify to the Governing Committee that each applicant accepted: affirmatively evidences a desire and willingness to learn and understand the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK; and declares his or her willingness to accept the Constitutions of the URANTIA Brotherhood and this Society. Among other things, the Membership Committee shall consider the applicant's:

- a. voluntary and regular attendance at an orientation program designed to insure that the applicant is familiar with the format and general contents of the URANTIA BOOK and with the nature and purposes of the URANTIA FOUNDATION, the URANTIA BROTHERHOOD and this Society;
- b. voluntary participation in group study of the URANTIA BOOK over a period of a year; or has been reading and studying the book for a year or more.
- c. being supported by a member of FUSLA who has known applicant for 1 year;
- d. maturity and mental ability to grasp the principles involved;
- e. personal declaration that he or she meets the Constitutional requirements for membership; and
- f. personal conduct not inconsistent with the precepts of the URANTIA BOOK.

None of the foregoing is a requirement for membership, but rather they are evidence that applicant does or does not meet the Constitutional requirements. At any time the Membership Committee is fully satisfied by any evidence that an applicant meets the Constitutional requirements for membership the applicant may be accepted.

prepared by Duane Faw, Professor