# NSS Active Assembly Growth Program

NSS Life®
*Family Matters...*

## - Rationale -

The Model Fraternal code mandates that a Fraternal Benefit Society stands on two basic legs: A Lodge System and a Representative Form of Government. Without either, we would not be able to continue as a viable and legal fraternal benefit society. The activation and maintenance of our assembly structure is one of the highest priorities of our National Assembly. In 1995, an Awards Program was adopted to recognize our assemblies for fulfilling our fraternal mandate. In 1998, the current Assembly Growth Program was set in motion to give both programming and fiscal support to our assemblies.

The NSS Constitution and By-Laws outlines what an assembly must do in order to receive any kind of financial aid for their fraternal and administrative programs, in the place of the collection of dues from their members. Since its inception, the Assembly Growth Program has used this constitutional mandate to define whether or not an assembly is "Active".

In November 2002, the National Fraternal Congress of America issued a final report of its Fraternal Vision Subcommittee which, among many issues, addressed the role and structure of the local lodge system among member societies. Their conclusions were that, a) the lodge system, as a structural element of the fraternal benefit system, faces serious questions of relevancy; b) service and volunteerism opportunities offered through the lodge system today lack emphasis on meaningful and measurable outcomes; and c) serious attention should be given to redefining the individual lodge systems in a way that facilitates greater relevancy for members with measurable performance outcomes.

With the above mandates and findings in mind, the National Assembly established the following guidelines for an NSS Assembly to be designated as "Active" and entitled to all benefits as outlined in the NSS Constitution & By-Laws and directives of the National Assembly, to assist them in their fraternal efforts to their membership.

## - Responsibility -

The NSS Constitution & By-Laws mandates:

"That each assembly shall be responsible for the filing of the following annual reports:

1. Elected Officers Report.
2. Annual Financial Report, including name of bank and authorized signatures.
3. National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) Lodge Activity Report.
4. Local Assembly Meeting Reports which require a minimum of four (4) meetings annually.
5. Any other report which may be required in the future.
6. All Meetings, Fraternal Fund activities and Matching Fund. activities must be advertised in the "National News" sixty (60). days prior to the event..

Any local assembly, **NOT** in compliance with the above shall forfeit their right to any monetary benefits granted by the National Assembly, and may be subject to being dissolved as an assembly."

In addition to the above constitution mandate, the National Assembly put into effect a fraternal participation "tracking" system that alllows your assembly to achieve a "Diamond" or "Platinum" level for exceptional fraternal service and participation.

## - Fraternal Activity Tracking System -

The National Assembly requests that our assemblies become more involved in fraternal programs on a national, regional and local level. Our "Platinum" and "Diamond" fraternal levels allow our assemblies to become more fraternally active and also receive additional funds for their treasury.

By achieving a score of Seventy-five (75) points, the assembly will be designated as a "Platinum" Assembly; and if the assembly achieves a score of One Hundred (100) points, the assembly will be designated as a "Diamond" Assembly. Those assemblies achieving the Platinum and Diamond levels will have their names placed on a plaque in the lobby of the Home Office in addition to receiving the additional financial awards for their treasury.

Quarterly reports will be sent to each assembly showing the points accumulated toward the Platinum and Diamond levels.

The scoring of points for fraternal activities in the assembly are outlined below.

| Fraternal Events | Point Awards & Designation |
|---|---|
| Youth May Art Contest | Two (2) points for each participant |
| Youth Poetry Contest | Two (2) points for each participant |
| Photo Contest | Two (2) points for each participant |
| Christmas Ornament Contest | Two (2) points for each participant |
| First Year Scholarships | Two (2) points for each scholarship |
| Senior Scholarships | Two (2) points for each scholarship |
| Youth Achievement Award Nomination | Two (2) points for each nomination |
| Fraternalist of the Year Nomination | Two (2) points for each nomination |
| Attendance at a Region Meeting/Event | Five (5) points for each event with a maximum of fifteen (15) points. Each assembly in the Region-At-Large will receive five (5) points |
| National Bowling Tournament National Golf Tournament | One (1) point for each participant or banquet attendee (Maximum 10 pts) |
| Matching Fund Event | Ten (10) points for each event Maximum of thirty (30) points |
| Fraternal Fund Activity | Ten (10) points for each activity that is reimbursed from the Home Office for a maximum of forty (40) points. |
| NFCA *"Join Hands Day"* Event | Fifteen (15) points for any approved event by the NSS Fraternal Director |
| NSS National Fraternal Project | Fifteen (15) points for any approved event as selected by the National Assembly |

*NOTE: Please be mindful of the reports you send in for each fraternal event to ensure that your assembly receives the proper credit. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office.*

*The NSS Active Assembly Growth Program Platinum and Diamond Level details are highlighted on the back of this form.*