

Role of High Councilors

- “Instruct and assist” Melchizedek Priesthood leaders (MPLs) as needed
- “Communicate information from the stake presidency”
- “Attend meetings of the quorum, group, ward or branch”
- “Serve as advisers to stake auxiliaries”
- “Discuss and sustain” proposed ordinations, callings and other decisions
- “Represent the stake presidency in speaking assignments”
- “Serve on...committees” and “participate in stake disciplinary councils”

Past Usage

- Multiple and changing assignments
- Shifting emphases
- Monthly speaking assignments
- All of this probably impeded high councilors’ performance

The New Approach

- Narrower focus
- Pre-training of high councilors
- Fewer speaking assignments
- More formal reporting

Specifics

- High councilors visit assigned unit twice each month except when assigned to visit another unit
- Each high councilor will be asked to visit Hope or Fordyce or Camden once a year to speak
- High councilors will focus on training MPLs by conducting monthly training sessions with them
- High councilors will receive pre-training to review material

MPL Training

- High councilors coordinate with assigned unit MPLs and schedule a regular time to conduct training sessions
- Each high councilor can tailor the training material to best meet his unit’s needs; however, the assigned training topic needs to be addressed in some fashion
- Training sessions with unit MPLs should last at least 20-30 minutes each month

Other Emphases

- High councilors should attend one bishopric meeting and at least one PEC and one ward council each month.
- They should attend one missionary correlation meeting at least every two months and one MPL presidency meeting quarterly.
- They should also attend quorum and group priesthood meetings when visiting their assigned unit.
- During these visits to unit executive meetings, high councilors will be evaluating and conducting informal training regarding:
 - New member retention and nurturing
 - Reactivation
 - Ordination of Melchizedek priesthood holders
 - Finding new members
- High councilors will submit a monthly report summarizing results of training and observations

Unchanged Roles

- Assignments to support auxiliaries and other functional areas (missionary, family history, seminary, etc.)
- Discussing, approving, calling and presenting for sustaining votes candidates for ‘stake’ positions
- Participation on committees and councils
- Reporting monthly on unit home teaching

Summary

- This new approach should narrow the focus of high councilors (training MPLs, following MP ordinations and missionary work, encouraging improved home teaching as a tool to aid in these areas), provide preparatory training for them, and give them more time in their assigned units.