

Drill Team

I was at one time the president of a local mens' club that struggled with political correctness while I became progressively more fed up. We'll call it the Abracadabra Mens' Club. Meetings had a simple format. Arrange a dinner in a local restaurant for maybe 15 of us and invite someone interesting to speak for their dinner. It worked very well, and a variety of interesting guys and girls took up our offer, each providing an interesting after-dinner program.

Turns out the word "Mens'" in our name was anathema to the feminine element that infiltrate our schools, newspapers and other institutions. These folks insist everything be safe and moderate, equal and comfy, sometimes even warm and squishy. In fact, in one club member's obituary, the local newspaper refused to correctly list his affiliation with us. Instead, they called us the plain old Abracadabra Club, dropping the key ingredient, "Mens'."

We invited wives and other consorts to one meeting each year ... I'm not sure why ... until some men began to argue for more "coed" meetings and topics that might also be of interest to women. After-dinner discussions about killing things while hunting and fishing would be interwoven with topics such as safe baby seats. Those ladies particularly attracted to our meetings were, of course, the younger ones, since they more often needed an evening out away from the kids and were the least reticent to be with the guys. Older women seemed to know better. So, at least we would be treated with young and pretty

women in our midst. But, you know, women can cast a pall over male conviviality at times and soon the older men began to drop out, while the younger guys appeared edgy in the combined presence of their wives and their friends. One woman asked me why our club never involved ourselves in service to the community. "Do you mean," I ventured, "other than providing a place for guys to just sit around and burp and fart?"

At one such "ladies" meeting, where club business was discussed openly and tradition held that women didn't offer opinions ... they being there strictly for their own entertainment ... a member suggested we march as a group in the local 4th of July parade in the village. "We'll call ourselves 'The Abracadabra Mens' Club Drill Team," he said.

"Why the word 'drill'?" asked a young woman who appeared at least 11 months pregnant, as other ladies began to mumble, "why the word 'Mens'?"

"Isn't 'drill' what you do with GUNS?" piped up another young mother. "Guns KILL people!"

At the end of the evening, I had made up my mind to leave the club and pursue other interests, perhaps in a monastery. And the membership of the erstwhile Abracadabra Mens' Club had decided their 4th of July "Drill Team" would carry portable hand drills as a joke. True story. Some joke.

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