



Grand Council

VENERABLE CLAMPATRIARCHS OF

E Clampus Vitus®

INCORPORATED

A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION FOUNDED 4005 B.C.

P.O. Box 2044, Columbia, CA 95310

OPEN LETTER TO ALL CLAMPERS

Fellow Brothers of Equal Indignity,

I am writing you to address a recent surge in comments and activities on social media regarding inappropriate behavior by elements within our organization. I feel it is time for me to address this issue, and others, to dispel rumors and claims by certain individuals and groups who seem hell bent on tearing down our Ancient and Honorable Order. Throughout this letter, I will be unashamedly plagiarizing letters, comments, and articles by the founders and those who have gone before me.

I include myself and my fellow Board of Proctors as well as all past Proctors and X Noble Grand Humbugs in the category of Brothers of Equal Indignity. Some would like you to believe we feel we are above you, that is simply not true.

We are truly equal with everyone who wears a red shirt. We are not paid, we travel on our own dime, we pay the same rub as anyone else in this organization, and we go to the back of the chow line at a Doins' just like everyone else.

We are however in a position of leadership as with any organization. All organizations must have leaders. Even the unauthorized groups within our midst have leaders. Without leadership, an organization is doomed to failure. Are leaders invincible? Absolutely not. Speaking for myself and the rest of the Board of Proctors I can tell you that each one of us, as well as those that have gone before, are dedicated to the principles and ideals set forth by the Founders of E Clampus Vitus® Recidivus. In 1955, one of our founders, XSNGH Carl I. Wheat, pretty much summed it up. Wheat said, "The chief function of the Corporation of E Clampus Vitus® is to preserve inviolate and unsullied, the name and style of the Order, protecting it from all and sundry unauthorized, unbecoming, indecorous or unprivileged use, whether by non-Ciampers or by ill-advised or imprudent brethren. The Corporation is the legal holder of the name E Clampus Vitus® and may lawfully prevent any unauthorized use of those words. Secondarily, the Corporation has an important function to protect the Order from the impolitic actions by anyone, including any acts that may be deemed inconsistent with the high name of E Clampus Vitus®. The governing body of the Corporation is a

representative group, selected because of its members individual sagacity, erudition, learning and Clampatience, as well as because of their joint experience in the Order, the Proctors should be able to sustain the Order securely, on its Ancient and Honorable plane and to preserve it intact and unsullied for Clamposterity" (You may want to look up the meaning of some of these words, it had to myself.)

When I joined E Clampus Vitus® in 1977, my sponsor enlightened me into the ways of ECV®. Unfortunately this is not always the case and herein lays the problems we're facing today. Not all PBC's are given the education needed to become a worthwhile Clamper. Either they haven't been educated in the true meaning of ECV® or they just don't care and go about embarrassing their sponsor, their Chapter, and themselves. If you are a Clamper and bring in a new member, educate him to what we are. We are not gang bangers, we are not outlaws, we are not racist, we are not an evil breed of ill-mannered hooligans as some of us portray. We are supposed to be men who are respectful of each other, our Chapter, Chapter's events we attend, the history of our organization, and how we are to portray ourselves in the public. For those of you, who want to act like a juvenile on his first drinking outage, grow up. You are not a teenager anymore. You are at least 21 years old and need to start acting like an adult. Turn your hat around, pick up your pants, and get with the program. This is an organization with a purpose, and that purpose is not to act like an idiot, either at a Doins' or at a Clamper Watering Hole. If that is your intent, leave your redshirt at home and cover your ECV® tattoos so you don't embarrass us or bring discredit upon ECV®. If you go to a Doins', stay at the Doins'. Don't wander off to a nearby bar in your redshirt and do stupid stuff. Stay at the site, sit around the campfire. Talk to your fellow brothers and you may just learn something about ECV®.

We are losing too many good, longtime Clampers who are sick and tired of seeing the actions of some and don't want to come to a Doins' and put up with it. All Clampers need to do their part to make the Clampin enjoyable again.

Your PBC is a person to be molded into a Clamper and understand the true meaning of E Clampus Vitus®. If you don't want to, or are unable to do this, don't be a sponsor. Know the person that you are sponsoring. Make sure he is worthy and won't embarrass you. Don't just meet the person in a bar and think he should be a Clamper. Consider this, would you bring this potential PBC home to meet your family or let them spend the night in your home? Hopefully not. I go to several Doins' a year and inevitably I see some moronic person sponsoring another moronic person and I see this trend continuing. It is time to put an end to this. If you go to an overnigher and bring your PBC on a Friday night, let him enjoy the night too. Show him the camaraderie that exists around the campfires of Clampers. Don't pre-initiate him. Let the Vigilantes, White Coats, etc. handle the initiation of the PBC in a safe manner the next day. I encourage Chapter Officers to be the leaders in this endeavor. When I spoke to the Chapter leaders at Grand Council this year, I stressed upon them to take charge of their Doins' if they hadn't already. If you see these issues arising take control of the situation. That is why they were put into the leadership position. No one wants to go to a Doins' and have a bad time. When certain elements cause disruption, disrespect, and confrontations, get

rid of them. That is the only way we can take back control of our organization and ensure that we can enjoy ourselves. Several Chapters have already done this by expelling persons who have caused problems. When you do expel someone, take their membership card. If they are from another Chapter, notify that Chapter. The main Clamper website has email addresses for each Chapter. If your Chapter decides to remove a person from your Chapter, let other Chapters know the person's name and the reason. If your Chapter does not currently check membership cards at check in, I highly suggest you do. It's a simple procedure and may keep an unauthorized person from gaining access to your Doins' and causing problems. If a person appears at your Doins' with no proof of membership other than wearing a red shirt, do you let them in? How do you know they are old enough to be there? How do you know if he's even a Clamper? If your Chapter is serving alcohol you could be liable. You have the authority, power and the responsibility to do this. Each Chapter can develop its own rules on this matter. The Board of Proctors does not want to dictate how to run your events. That is up to you. However, I can't imagine a Chapter wanting to continue to foster this mentality among members.

I have followed Facebook and other social media comments concerning this matter lately and I'm enthused by the overwhelming amount of comments from people who have these same thoughts and who are also tired of the activities of a few people. Unfortunately, the actions of a few get all the notice and all the good activities by Chapters are largely ignored. I do not generally comment on Facebook because I do not want to get into a pissing match with some of our detractors. Unfortunately there will be those who will condemn my comments. That's OK, I can handle it and I realize it comes with the territory. My hope is to educate the uneducated and congratulate those who are doing their best to make E Clampus Vitus® better than ever.,

I would also like to comment about unauthorized groups claiming membership in E Clampus Vitus®. Our webpage, (ecvinc.org), contains a list of all authorized Chapters. If you go to a Doins' not on this list you, are hurting the efforts of E Clampus Vitus® to maintain our Order. I realize people have friends in Chapters that have lost their Charter, or unauthorized groups that have persons who have lost their membership in E Clampus Vitus® for cause. Decisions that were made by the Board of Proctors and ratified by Grand Council were not easy. They were made after all the facts were presented and much serious debate. Chapter Charters were pulled because, 9 years of attempting to rectify these issues within Chapters by, putting them on Probation, was not working. Some Chapters wore the fact of being put on Probation by Grand Council, as a badge of honor. I can tell you this, any Chapter that lost its Charter, was due to mistreatment of PBC's. Some Chapters neglected to follow the guidelines put into effect by Grand Council for the protection of PBC's. We do not, and will not, condone any treatment of PBC's that put them in danger of injury or illness.

The E Clampus Vitus® Inc. has only four (4) primary requirements to maintain a Chapter or Outpost:

1. Pay yearly dues, (\$100.00). Not \$200.00 as claimed by some unenlightened souls.

2. Maintain liability insurance for a Doins' and a liquor endorsement if alcohol is served.
3. Be Incorporated.
4. Follow the established Guidelines for the protection of PBC's.

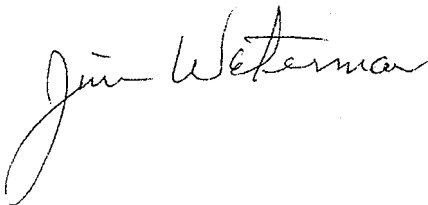
That's it. It isn't that difficult given proper leadership. If a Chapter has difficulty with some of these items, the Board of Proctors has means to help out, if asked.

People ask, "Why doesn't each Chapter have a representative on the Board of Proctors?" Simply because it would be unmanageable with 43 people. It is barely manageable with 15 members. Each member serves a minimum of 5 years, to a maximum of 10 years. Chapters can only have one person on the Board at any given time. This gives other Chapters an opportunity to have someone from their Chapter on the Board of Proctors. Applications to be considered for appointment to the Board are available on our website. Get involved if you are really interested, don't just sit back and complain.

Contrary to what some would have you believe, being on the Board of Proctors is not a 'Good 01' Boy" fraternity. Any person chosen to the Board is carefully screened, vetted, and examined to be sure they are capable of being a productive member. Each person considered for appointment to the Board of Proctors is looked at as having the potential to become the Sublime Noble Grand Humbug.

Recently, the Board of Proctors established a Chapter Representative Program. That means that each Proctor, of which there are 15, including the 3 Sublime officers, is responsible for 2 to 4 Chapters. The program does NOT tell Chapters what to do. If Chapter leadership has a question, they have a Proctor to call. Chapters needn't wait for a meeting of the Board of Proctors or Grand Council to get help or answer questions.

Even with all these issues, E Clampus Vitus® is thriving, despite all the 'BS', we have 43 Chapters in 8 states and 4 Outposts who are enlightening more and more individuals to what we are about. All I ask is that each one of us takes the responsibility to either weed out or enlighten the misinformed so that we may bring harmony back to E Clampus Vitus®.



Jim 'Hightower" Waterman
Sublime Noble Grand
Humbug E Clampus Vitus®,
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