

## OKLAHOMA SILVER HAIRIED LEGISLATURE

### 10 ADVOCATING COMMANDMENTS

1. **Thou shall have a positive attitude. Smile, greeting by name if possible, the Executive Assistance (EA), who will be your first contact with the legislator. The impression you make with the EA can make or break you. Be prepared to wait unless an appointment has been made.**
2. **Thou shall be courteous and professional. Your attitude reflects on your whole group. I know you will be professional. Sometimes it helps to be reminded.**
3. **Thou shall be prepared by acquainting oneself with legislator's schedule and legislator's philosophical position on your issue. In other words, do your homework before hand.**
4. **Thou shall be knowledgeable! Know your issue, have it in print, be prepared to discuss the pros and cons, if asked. Be clear, concise and specific. (BILL PROCESS PAGE)**
5. **Thou shall have substantial facts and statistics to validate the issue to educate the legislator. (COSTS or SAVINGS)**
6. **Thou shall not be rude, demanding, threatening, or use negative body language, (such as arms crossed, hands on hips, or shaking of finger). "That which offends the ear will not easily gain admission to the mind". The tone of your voice is very important.**
7. **Thou shall be passionate when talking about your issue, use a personal story if possible.**
8. **Thou shall have the same agenda as other Silver Haired Legislators, so as not to confuse the issues. Speak from the same page.**
9. **Thou shall be patient, willing to compromise and to make contacts for the author of the bill, communicate by mail, phone, in person or by e-mail. Hand written letters signed by individuals are the best. Do not use form letters. BE YOURSELF.**
10. **Thou shall thank your supportive legislators and always be courteous to those who do not support your issue. Next year there may be a new issue that they may support!!**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO AS AVOCATES FOR OLDER OKLAHOMANS. YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED!!!**