

**NCCS Convention Milwaukee**  
**Table Discussion Notes from Membership Workshop**  
**September 2018**

**INVITE**

- Have information cards – Give to friends, acquaintances, business contacts
- Shower of Love - to promote membership by inviting potential members
- Get database of church emails from the diocese so you can send notification of CCS events to be put in bulletins
- If you want to attract younger members don't invite them to a "tea", invite them to a party
- Participate in a Community Volunteer Day with a CCS booth
- Members should submit names of potential members, so they can be invited to an informational meeting
- Members should invite their adult daughters and nieces
- Invite potential members to a layette assembly meeting
- Have an informative coffee, or cocktail, in which your Program Chairs explain the different activities members are involved in
- Don't be afraid to just "ask" potential members to join
- Form a Speaker's Bureau within your chapter so they can go to parishes to speak after Mass about CCS
- Go through Newcomers Club to find potential members
- Write hand written notes to people who have showed interest in CCS
- Use a buddy system for potential members who have been asked by a member to join CCS
- Have CCS sponsor donuts and coffee after Mass at least twice a year
- Add CCS to information for the Archbishop's appeal
- Bring a friend to a CCS program
- Use High School students who need service hours to help with projects and invite their moms to also come

**INVOLVE**

- Nominate members for local, city, regional volunteer awards – Get great press
- Engage volunteers immediately – a job, committee work, event planning, etc.
- Use a "Fund Us" approach – fund a specific short-term project
- Nominate a member for an area Catholic Charities Award
- Schedule mtgs at a variety of times – improving availability for members
- Schedule regular gatherings for activities – layettes, knitting groups, Board mtgs
- Connect with similar sized chapters to share ideas about involvement
- Honor life long chapter families
- Host " Baby Bottle" Drive at a parish – great fund/friend /new member raiser

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- Honor milestone years (5yr, 10yr, 20yr, etc.) members with pins, recognition at planned event.
- “Sign up for Something” Campaign - send to members - perhaps with dues notice!
- Co- Membership Chairs – one to recruit and manage new members – other to communicate with established members.
- Plan new member orientation–CCS Mission/Values (involve current members)
- 3 Orientation coffees for new members over 3-5 months
- Mentor new members – especially in 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Give Provisional Class a responsibility/project – Red Wagon Luncheon
- Provisional Class has monthly exposure to CCS projects – both learning @ work and participating
- CCS medals w engraved initials given at end of Provisional year.
- Use Sign Up Genius
- Use ZOOM for better access to group meeting
- Member to member social events – get to know each other!
- Acknowledge members with personal notes
- Monthly mtgs
- Regular social gatherings
- Team up with Knights of Columbus or VFW
- Use awards like Mary Virginia Merrick Award or Red Wagon Award
- Provide refreshments at meetings
- National Volunteer Month in April – send thank you notes
- Masterteacher.com – red wagon lapel pin
- Monday Messenger/Monday Matters – weekly email activity update
- Prayer group online
- Binders for Committee Chairs - Job Descriptions/timelines/etc.
- Encourage succession planning for key roles – Committee Chairs/ Exec. Committee
- Day of spiritual renewal
- Ask new members for input/ reflection on orientation process
- Ask established members for feedback on events, programs
- Regularly assess/evaluate “manpower” within Chapter
- Show appreciation – over and over and over!
- Host a phone-a-thon/calling effort to reconnect inactive members
- Offer carpool to events, mtgs
- General survey to members about chapter activities and level of interest in them – consider electronic option- Survey Monkey
- Host a Homecoming for Welcome Back event for former/lapsed members
- Phone calls to delinquent dues payers

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- Put together a Membership directory with photo of each member
- Specific monthly memo to Provisionals – reminders about volunteer opportunities, report on special provisional activities.

**INVEST**

- Every year offer a FUN (free) event for your members to recognize and thank them
- Don't limit board membership to experienced people, get new members involved
- Invest in a Board Orientation to help the new members get to know the existing board, and know the responsibilities, etc.
- Hold Board meetings in the evening to attract younger working members
- Stagger new board members so not everyone completes their terms at the same time
- Consider term limits for program chairs to avoid being trapped by one person's ideas or resistance to change and to be sure people don't stay in leadership positions too long
- Empower new members with leadership positions
- To get people to step up: encourage co-chairs for every event/program to assure one on one support
- Use a buddy system or shadow program so chairs and leaders can hand over responsibilities
- Once co-chairs are in place, be supportive but don't micro-manage
- Have a job description for every event
- Invest in documenting how-to information for easier transition in program management
- If affordable, hire staff: someone for tech support, finance work, admin asst.
- Thank you cocktail for members or some sort of entertaining event. Invite volunteers who aren't members, lapsed members, etc.
- Hand out T-shirts or aprons with CCS logo – be sure to give one to the Bishop!
- Establish a Legacy society and/or a 20-year club to keep older members involved
- Survey member for their skills and passions, renew it annually
- Use sign-up genius to get members to participate in events, programs, etc.
- Have birthday club, celebrate members' milestone birthdays
- Offer annual training opportunities for members (for tutoring or other programs)
- Have seasoned members get involved with new member mentoring; one on one pairings
- Offer new member orientation dinner or cocktail, include spouses
- Team up the board and Provisionals to host a "sustainer" lunch for non-active members
- Look into groups that fund non-profits in your community, consider having your chapter collaborate with them
- Ask members to get their families involved
- Consider forming a gourmet dining club and include spouses

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- Offer a spirituality retreat day for members
- Organize a monthly mass, or day of reflection, or Stations of the Cross, rosary, etc.
- Have a member appreciation dinner and invite the Bishop or cool community leaders
- Organize Christmas potluck, or a “bring a friend” cocktail party, 12<sup>th</sup> night, etc.
- Regularly share National CCS news with members
- Offer social media training to help older members be on email and Facebook
- Use electronic database, save event details in the cloud
- Get the Bishop to organize a social event inviting all churches, spouses included, no charge (Free)
- Thank everyone who helps, not just the leaders
- Add a personal touch wherever possible
- Have your chapter reimburse members who attend NCCS conference/convention, good investment in generating new ideas (at a minimum the chapter should fund 2 board members participation).
- Honor members on social media using photos of service in action
- Invest in cultivating a relationship with the local Catholic newspaper
- Consider a relationship with local correctional facilities to see if they want to knit blankets, caps, booties, etc.
- Consider including men/spouses
- Invest in a relationship with other Catholic Community groups/Foundations
- Remember, members who are professionals expect a higher level of professionalism from us
- Remind members who step up for leadership that they can use this on their resume!
- Remember everyone’s ideas count