

Midwinter Meeting 2017 Leadership Strategy Workshop

* Time to play musical chairs – please move yourselves so that there are not two women from the same council at any table. This is a perfect opportunity to be forced into making some new friends!
* Take a little time to introduce yourselves to each other

This workshop has been included to address a growing issue within our League that is not confined to your council, our Diocese or our Province. We have heard of Councils considering closing because they are unable to get members to serve on their executive, particularly for President/President-Elect. What was initially discerned to be an issue for *small* councils, has clearly become an issue for ***any*** council. Your Diocesan executive has raised the issue with our Provincial executive who has charged us with beginning the process of finding ways in which we may creatively respond to this in a life-giving manner. The process of discernment which we will begin today will look something like this:

1. Today we will ask you to respond to four questions. Each table will have a recorder whose task will be to concisely, and as completely as possible, record the key points of your discussion.
2. The information gathered today will be collated then sent out via email to all presidents who will be asked to collect additional responses to the questions.

The deadline for submitting this information will be **MARCH 1st**

1. This additional information will be sent to myself, as the Communications officer and will be added to the key points gathered today.
2. Your Diocesan executive will prepare a workshop session that will take place at our upcoming Convention where we hope to be able to present some specific strategies and/or suggestions to assist our Councils in this most important process of ensuring continuity of quality leadership within our Councils

For our discussions today, I remind you of the following guidelines:

* To ensure comfort in sharing, we dedicate ourselves to confidentiality of what is shared. Do not presume that it is acceptable to tell a friend what was shared in your group.
* Ensure that everyone has a chance to speak – time is limited and we want EVERYONE to have the chance to share their ideas.
* If you are sharing a personal story, please do not use a person’s name. Instead to protect their confidentiality, say something like “Someone I know . . . “

We are asking you to Brainstorm = think outside the box. We are here to create a new future. There is no such thing as a “silly”, irrelevant or unacceptable answer. Be creative, let yourself go, dream dreams, let God’s Spirit speak through you!

Guidelines for Recorder:

1. quick one word answers (if possible) from each participant
2. Record number of yes/no answers.
3. Divide answers between roadblocks and brainstormed solutions.
4. List actions/suggestions.  For each one, identify if the action is one that the Council can take or if it requires Diocesan, or Provincial action.
5. List suggestions.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Why did I originally join the CWL? Why am I still a member?
2. Is your council struggling to find women who will assume leadership positions? Yes or no.
   * Brainstorm things that might be done to make it easier/more likely for women to step into leadership positions. Include if you have time, roadblocks that make women hesitate or decline when invited to lead in their Council.
3. Brainstorm ways in which we might invite women to discern and/or assume leadership. Think of new ways to do this – remember, God’s Spirit is here to speak through you!

Please send additional information collected from your councils by March 1, 2017 to edmontoncwl.communications@gmail.com