

Suggestions for Retaining Valued Members

1. **Welcome**

- a. Be positive in action and word.
- b. Set a good example.
- c. Have new members participate in something basic so they feel included.
- d. Have a Mass and reception for new members.
- e. Distribute Welcome Kits to all new members.
- f. Welcome and introduce new members at meetings.
- g. Create an atmosphere of family and belonging.

2. **Engage**

- a. Encourage members to read *The Canadian League, Be League* and browse the CWL web site.
- b. Have events and social get-togethers, not just meetings!
- c. Set up a carpool to help members who don't drive.
- d. Send e-mails to all members after meetings to keep them informed.
- e. Keep meetings on time, informative and social.
- f. Organize a team-building retreat.

3. **Evaluate**

- a. Know the needs and expectations of your members.
- b. Ask members for feedback.
- c. Ask new members to evaluate their first year experience.
- d. Call those who did not renew and ask what you can do.

4. **Appreciate**

- a. Maintain personal contact with all members.
- b. Contact charter members to let them know they are thought about.
- c. Be adaptable, understanding and open to new ideas.
- d. Learn about the talents and gifts your members have to offer.
- e. Affirm faithful members with certificates or pins.
- f. Celebrate individual member achievements.
- g. Personally connect with elderly members on a monthly basis, through phone calls, lunch dates, etc.

Remember, retaining valued members is equally important as recruiting new members!

"There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread." (Mother Teresa)

Leading The League: A Comprehensive Teaching Manual is an additional available resource that has valuable suggestions for running successful parish councils. Please contact national office via telephone 1(888) 656-4040 or e-mail at info@cwl.ca for more information.