

Leadership Commission RESOURCE: LISTENING.

Easy Activities to enhance the listening skills of your AFFILIATION BOARD:

1. Try a fun way to “report” on the Diocesan Convention or the Deanery Meeting. Have the president begin with one sentence. Go around the table and add to the report---if someone REPEATS something already shared, ring a bell and their turn ends. See how much different information can be recalled. Remember---one sentence at a time!
2. Ask a different board member than the one who gave a report to create the bulletin blurb. (Remember---use that bulletin blurb to teach something about the meeting topic or the organization---or both!)
3. At the end of your board meeting, pass out a list of the reports that were made during the meeting, ie: Pres, Vice Pres, Commissions, and Committees. Ask each board member to list 2 things they recall from the report WITHOUT looking at their notes.
 - a. Are their memories accurate?
 - b. Did they recall the MOST IMPORTANT points?
4. Reproduce the questionnaire on page 77 in the NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual and use it to evaluate the listening skills of your board members.

Ice Breakers that Improve Listening Skills:

Don't be afraid to spend some meeting time doing an ice breaker. Allowing opportunities for members to get to know each other is never wasted---it strengthens your organization!

1. Allow 2 minutes to share and then describe the person sitting next to you in just 2 words.
“This is Marianne, she loves painting.”
2. Have everyone sit in a circle of about 10 chairs. (Round tables work great!) Ask a simple question....“What does the color blue remind you of?” and go around the circle, with each person repeating what came before. First person: “Sky”...next person: “Sky and the Blessed Virgin Mary”...next person “Sky, BVM, and my NCCW scarf” etc.
3. Repeat #2 but use names for prayer intentions. First person: “For my son, Michael, who is looking for a job.” Next person: “For Michael and for my neighbor Joan who fell last week. Next person: For Michael and Joan and my niece, Kate, who is expecting, etc.
4. Remember the old TELEPHONE game.....passing a message in a circle? Try it with something meaningful.....a short quote---but not a familiar one!
 - a. "A population that does not take care of the elderly and of children and the young has no future, because it abuses both its memory and its promise."(Pope Francis)
 - b. "...the active and responsible presence of women in the Church must be realized in practice." (St. John Paul II)
 - c. “If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it.” (Mary Engelbreit)
 - d. "We are bid to color all things with hues of faith, to see a divine meaning in every event." (Cardinal John Henry Newman)
 - e. “Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.”(Albert Schweitzer)
 - f. “God's mercy is patient, but we should not let pass by the opportunities he gives us...” (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)