



IT'S TIME FOR ELECTIONS

All members who have paid their membership fee for the current year, with the exception of associate members, are eligible to hold office at the parish level.

The term of office is two years.

Treasurer and standing committee chair who have served one term may stand for another term in the same position, but the committee chair will take another committee.

The nomination and elections committee will be appointed by the parish council president **two months prior to the election**. The committee is made up of the chair (who is not eligible for nomination,) two committee members (who are eligible to be nominated,) and the spiritual advisor.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE DURING NOMINATIONS

- The chair will contact the president-elect (if applicable) to confirm if she will take the position of president.
- The chair will prepare a list of council members eligible for nomination to office. **The current president is not eligible since she becomes the past president and eligible to move to diocesan level.**
- The chair will make copies of the nomination form.
- **One month before elections** the committee will present the nomination forms and list of eligible members to the council members for completion. They will be given time to return the forms. Only one name may be nominated for each position, with the exception of standing committee chair. The committee will decide whether they will mail out forms to members who are not present at the meeting or distribute them at church.

Any member may submit a nomination form.

Eligible members may be nominated for more than one position.

All nomination forms must be signed.

The committee must receive the forms at least three weeks prior to the date of election.

All members nominated must be contacted by the committee to determine if they are willing to stand for the offices nominated. No references may be made to the number of nominations received or the names of persons submitting nominations.

The committee *shall seek* nominees for any office where no nomination or acceptance of nomination has been received by the deadline date.

DIOCESAN ELECTIONS

For those presidents who finish their term this year you will be invited to serve the League at the Diocesan level. The process is a bit different at this level.

Eligible

- Present officers who, at the time of election have served a full term.
- Parish Presidents who, at the time of election, have served a full term.

Officers and council presidents shall remain eligible for three elections following their term last served. These names are kept in the election register and are used to form the eligibility list.

Process

- On or before the **15th of December** a nomination and elections committee shall be appointed by the president.
- Chairperson (usually the past president) and two other committee members who will not be someone eligible for office.
- The chairperson will first confirm with president elect if she is willing to take the position of president. This will determine if a nomination for the office of president will be required.
- On or before the **15th of January** the chairperson sends a letter, which includes the list of offices, to each members whose name is on the eligibility list to ask if she is willing to let her name stand **and** for which position. The letter will request a written reply by a certain date and a brief resume.
- These members reply in writing by the date requested and may let their name stand in more than one position.
- The reply letters are opened by the committee members and the response recorded on the acceptance list.
- If there are still positions left without names the committee members will call those on the eligibility list to try and find candidates.
- The diocesan chairperson will then send a letter to all those who have offered to stand, with a copy of the acceptance list to the president and president elect as a courtesy.
- A copy of the acceptance list and a nomination form is then sent to each parish council and it is completed by the **parish council executive at an executive meeting** and returned to the nomination chair at diocesan.
- It is important to note that you do not have to nominate a person for any position just because they have let their name stand. If you don't think the person is right for the job then don't nominate them.

- The nomination form your parish executive completes then becomes the instructed vote you will carry to the diocesan convention and will identify how you are to vote on the first ballot.
- The diocesan nominations chair will create the candidates list from the nomination forms submitted by the parish councils.
- Election will take place at the end of the annual Arch/diocesan convention and only the voting delegates (parish presidents) may vote on elections. They must follow the instructed vote from their executive on the first ballot.
- The new executive will be installed at the convention closing Mass and will take office at the post-convention meeting.
- If all positions are not filled, members may offer to fill vacant positions and the new president may appoint a member to take on vacant positions, after discussing this with her new executive.

(From Elections Workshop handout)

Who are the women of the executive?

They are spiritual, gracious, humble and compassionate leaders in the church and society today.

How did they get to be who they are today?

- They got involved.
- They served whenever they were asked.
- They served when they didn't feel qualified, lacked confidence to do what they were asked, or were afraid they'd make a mistake or weren't good enough.
- They served when they felt they didn't have the time or were overloaded.
- They prayed for confidence, the ability and the time. With each term of office and each challenge that they accepted (sometimes reluctantly) they became more than they were before. They stepped beyond their comfort zone. There is so much untapped God-given potential within each of us just waiting for an opportunity to be used.

Make a decision to serve. Three deserving beneficiaries will be better because of it—YOU, the LEAGUE and OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.

See SPECTRUM, fall 2016, pages 8-11 for ...
Discerning as a Member of The Catholic Women's League.

The Spectrum Fall 2016 is available on this website.

Steps to Discerning

- ✚ Pray for guidance
- ✚ Listen to your heart
- ✚ Be open to God's will for you
 - ✚ Know your values
- ✚ Be in touch with your desires
 - ✚ Name your fears
- ✚ Pay attention to your past experiences
- ✚ Talk with others who know you well
 - ✚ Gather information
- ✚ Make a list of advantages & disadvantages
 - ✚ Decide and trust in God
 - ✚ Are you free in your decision?
 - ✚ How does it feel "deep down"?
- ✚ Look for confirmation of your decision

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