

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Deputy Newsletter

October 2006

Mike Rossi, Deputy Program Director (408) 267-0527 mmrossi@mindspring.com

MESSAGE FROM MIKE ROSSI

I have been Chairman of the Deputy Program for one year. I look forward to working with all of you on another successful year for the I.C.F.

Keep sending your Deputy Report each month and let me know if you see problems in your District or Branches. As you know, our number one problem is declining membership. We are pretty good at attracting new members, but we continue to lose more members than we gain. Retention is the key. Please let me know if a Branch is in danger of closing and needs help. We must do everything we can to retain members.

Let me know if I can help you in any way. I would be happy to visit and put on a Workshop for your Deputies. I also encourage you as District Deputies to share the In Touch newsletter with your Deputies. In Touch is also available online at www.icf.org

I can be reached at my home at (408) 267-0527 or e-mail at mmrossi@mindspring.com or by mail at 1838 Schooldale Drive, San Jose, CA 95124.

I look forward to working with you.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each Branch should elect Officers in October. Refer to you Branch By-laws Book, Chapter XI. Here are some reminders regarding Elections:

- Each office is nominated and voted on one at a time. Do not let the Branch vote on a "slate" of officers.
- The Nominating Committee nominates a candidate for each office.
- The President must also ask three times for nominations from the floor for each office.

- Nominations do not require a second.
- Contested offices must be voted on immediately by secret ballot before continuing.
- Candidates must be present to be nominated and elected, or a letter declaring their intention to run is acceptable.
- Candidates must be in good standing with their dues.
- New officers assume office on January 1st.
- Branches are allowed to combine Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and they may elect one to three Trustees.
- If Branches have trouble electing officers, contact me for advice and ideas.
- The new officers should plan a Calendar of Events for the coming year.
- Remind Branches to send a list of their new officers to the I.C.F. office by December 1st.

MEETING PROCEDURE

All Deputies should have a copy of the most recent Branch By-laws and the I.C.F. Ritual Book, which may be obtained from the I.C.F. office. Deputies may also get a copy of Roberts Rules of Order from any book store. Chapter XVI of the By-laws book contains Rules of Order for the Branches to follow during meetings. The Ritual Book is designed to assist the Branch in running an effective meeting. It includes advice on meeting room set up, use of regalia and an agenda guideline. Use common sense in using the Ritual Book, that is, do what works best for the Branch.

Wishing you God's blessings as the end of the year approaches.

WORKSHOP

Deputy Workshop - Please contact Mike Rossi (408 - 267-0527 or mmrossi@mindspring.com) if you would like to schedule a Deputy Workshop for the Deputies in your District. It is a great way to build camaraderie with your Deputies and help to answer their questions about the Deputy Program.

I.C.F. CALENDARS

Now is the time of year when those I.C.F. Calendars should be selling like "Hotcakes." The Branches have received their allotment of calendars. They make great Raffle Prizes and Stocking Stuffers. Make sure to encourage the Branches to sell all of the calendars that were issued to them. If they need more calendars, please have the Branches contact their District Calendar Representatives. Remember - the Branches keep \$5.00 for every calendar sold.

WANT TO BE A DEPUTY?

Deputies are needed. Please ask your Branch and District members to encourage volunteers. It truly is a rewarding experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPUTIES TO SPEAK ON AT BRANCH MEETINGS

- Hopefully, Delegates returned to their Branches and reported on the events at the great Convention held in Sacramento. Emphasis on the Charitable Programs is important. Our I.C.F. National Charity remains Cooley's Anemia - encourage donations.
- Encourage members to accept an office, especially new or young members as elections are held. Encourage the use of a Nominating Committee to seek out qualified officers.
- New Presidents should be encouraged to try to secure Committee Chairpersons early and begin forming a yearly Calendar of Events.
- Encourage sales of the Calendars.
- Congratulate Branches on their participation in this year's Scholarship Program. Always encourage Branches to also participate in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year programs as well, even if they can only make partial donations.
- Please urge Branches to actively recruit and retain members. Each member should bring in a new member this year.
- If a Branch does not already have a Christmas celebration, encourage them to consider holding one. Christmas is an excellent time to introduce families to the Federation.

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 9/30/06 BY DISTRICT

		Gain/Loss since 6/30/06
Santa Clara Valley	1576	+ 2
Central Coast	1449	+ 1
San Mateo	1158	+ 9
Fresno	1126	+12
Santa Rosa	940	- 1
Los Angeles	779	- 1
Contra Costa	701	- 12
East Bay	673	+ 1
San Francisco	672	- 1
Blessed Sacramento	571	- 4
San Diego	552	- 5
Stockton	517	- 2
Chicago	478	- 8
Santa Barbara/Ventura	288	+10
San Fernando Valley	286	- 7
San Gabriel Valley	284	- 1
Marin	275	- 1
San Bernardino	242	0
Orange	237	- 3
Reno	78	0
Las Vegas	72	+ 2
Tucson	58	0

Total membership as of 09/30/06 **13,012**

New members	152
Reinstated	11
Cancelled/Non Payment	109
Deceased	63
Delinquent 6 – 8 months	15
Delinquent 9 – 12months	453

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Encourage Branches to participate in the Membership Drive. Effective January 1, 2006 a Branch will receive \$25.00 for every 5 new members they sign up. Please encourage the Branches to take advantage of this program to earn cash for their treasury and grow their membership at the same time.