

Preparing for New Leaders in Your Council

We are now in a new year, and I'm sure that most, if not all, PCCWS will be installing new officers. As the LDCCW Co-Parliamentarian I have two simple questions for everyone.

How are your PCCW officers nominated? How are your PCCW officers elected?

If you were able to quickly and confidently answer those questions, I hope it's because your PCCW has developed bylaws which clearly address both issues.

However, if your answer starts with "We've always just...", chances are your PCCW is governed by what are called "standing rules or customs".

These are practices that are rarely written down but passed on orally, generation to generation.

PCCWS that have formal bylaws may still use some "standing rules or customs ". My PCCW does for things like how funeral dinners are set up, who gets special cards, and other little things.

Relaying on correct oral transmission of important information, that governs a PCCW, is akin to what happens in the game Telephone. The first person says something to

the second person, they repeat it to a third and so on down the line. The more it's repeated the less correct it will become, until no one really know what is right.

How your PCCW officers are nominated and elected is a building block to the success and longevity of your Counsel. The methods used must be transparent and consistent. That is the only way every woman in your Parish can accept, trust and work with PCCW leadership. If the methods are questionable or every changing the officers can be seen as illegitimate. When that happens, the PCCW officers maybe unable to engage with or work with the membership.

In summary, know how your PCCW officers are nominated and elected. Ask your Council if they have bylaws that outline the methods. If not, maybe you could help with writing bylaws. If your Council uses "standing rules or customs " for nominating and elections, and these methods are working for your PCCW, then suggest formal writing them down. This will allow the information to be correctly passed on to future members.

If you are interested or have questions on how to get started with either method, please feel free to contact me.

May God greatly bless all the members of LDCCW in 2026.

Kay Portillo