



We Have a Tremendous Village

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Everyone has heard the phrase,

“it takes a village.” Several months ago, Mills challenged the P&O and MDR committees to jointly help with one of the biggest challenges to the future of the Federation – a membership that is getting more and more “seasoned” every year. Yes, “seasoned” is the nice way of saying “older,” and “older” means closer to retirement. We need to build and grow our membership to combat a wave of future retirements, and also to bring in younger and more diverse members, including more corporate and industry members. We also set a goal to add 200 new members by the end of 2018. (Well, Mills did; we agreed and then called him crazy behind his back.) We knew we couldn’t do it alone, so we decided to ask our “village” to help.

Hence, the “ALL IN Initiative.” We have asked our “All In” members to help, either by making calls to fellow members or providing names of prospective member – or both! We first asked the Officers and the Board to kick off this major recruitment project by coming to Charlevoix with the name of at least one prospective new member. They came through -- every single officer and board member gave us a name; many gave us several.

We then asked the past presidents to help. Within minutes of the email being sent, John Woodard had a name and Bill Roedder called to ask what we needed. And they were just the first past presidents to offer to help.

Then the big ALL IN Initiative started. We asked Board, P&O and MDR committee members to each call five active members to explain to them why we were making this push and to ask for their help in providing nominations. These volunteers all attended training sessions for the project and then started calling fellow members. Over 25 members personally called over 150 members.

Those asked to make these calls reported an overwhelmingly positive reception. The members they called were eager to help, often expressing their love of, and willingness to help, the FDCC. That speaks volumes about the quality of this organization and our members.

The results have been tremendous. Together, we have generated 189 names of potential new Federation members since August. We now have 30 new members and 12 nominations pending before the admissions committee. That’s the great news.

The good news is we also have 147 prospects – names of possible members that have not completed, for one reason or another, their applications to become FDCC members. We want to turn your prospects into members and we need your help (again) to do that. If you provided a name, or several names, for the ALL IN Initiative, please follow up, Ask your prospects if they have filled out their applications. If they have, thank them and wish them well. If they haven't, urge them to do so and remind them of all of the reasons you love the FDCC and how it has made you a better lawyer.

Our very sincere thanks to all that have provided names of potential new members, or called fellow members, or helped with the logistics of this project. We still have some FDCC members yet to call and ask for a name. This project will continue. We know we can succeed, because in this village, a call for help is always answered.