

MLD Training
Follow-up Responses to Questions
July 21, 2018

Can we do more get-togethers?	<i>Due to the number of questions suggesting additional training or networking, we are currently exploring some options. Will communicate those after discussion.</i>
How can each League more frequently share best practices with each other?	<i>Due to the number of questions suggesting additional training or networking, we are currently exploring some options. Will communicate those after discussion. Also, use League Leaders Google Group. (To join, please send an email to info@lwvil.org with your name and email)</i>
How to get members (beyond board) more involved in LWV activities, issues and advocacy?	Several League leaders have found that issuing an “all call” for involvement is not nearly as productive as reaching out to individuals. Conducting a survey of members (when they join or as an annual task) facilitates this, as you know who wants to be involved in advocacy, who wants to be a voter registrar, etc. Offering opportunities that appeal to different types of people also matter: contacting an elected official by email/letter might be more attractive than participating in a face-to-face interview; being a greeter at an event, rather than being on the organizing team.
How do you think about long-term strategy when there are so many short-term distractions?	This is a constant challenge, and there doesn’t seem to be one answer that will fix it. But, being able to share leadership provides somewhat of a path. One of the primary roles of the President is to be the gatekeeper for the long-term strategy; others may assist with this, but ultimately, the President needs to wear this. And so, sharing the short-term distractions is a necessity. (I know...easier said than done.) Often, it is mere convenience that makes members reach out to President; this is a habit to break. Perhaps having a simple organizational chart on your website that delineates the various responsibilities of Board members could minimize the email and text traffic to the President.
How does the consent agenda process specifically work?	Consent agendas are popular with many organizations because they help streamline meetings and allow the focus to be on substantive issues. A consent agenda includes routine, procedural, informational and self-explanatory non-controversial items typically found in an agenda; these are submitted in advance, and all have an opportunity to read through items before meeting. These items are then presented to the board in a single motion for a yes or no vote after allowing anyone to request that a specific item be moved to the full agenda for individual attention.
How do we get Board training?	Please contact me directly if you are interested in this. (Sue)
Who should be on the MLD call? As President, I feel already overwhelmed and one more call seems a burden.	Each league can decide who should be on this monthly call, since each league is a bit different in its structure and those personalities involved. If this is burdensome to a President who is already overloaded, then clearly other leaders in the league should be the participants. Ideally, the membership chair and program chair are on the team. And, although it’s great if the President can be on it, it is not necessary. This could be an opportunity to empower another leader in your league. It is important,

	however, that a couple of people on the call are serving on the Board so that they can act on the suggestions.
What are some strategies for recruiting young members?	<p>For some ideas on this topic, there are a couple of guidances in the MLD program that might be helpful: "Reaching Out on Campus, Nov. 2013 and Engaging the "New Breed", January 2016. (link: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/recruitment-engagement/membership-leadership-development-mld-guidances)</p> <p>Also see Building the League of Tomorrow toolkit: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/recruitment-engagement/young-peoples-task-force-building-league-tomorrow-toolkit</p>
What about leadership accountability?	<p>This is a very interesting question. There seems to be a lot written about this in the workplace, but not in the volunteer world. (Which says something.) One way to approach this concern is for the Board to agree to norms at the first meeting of the year. Another nonthreatening suggestion is to have leaders anonymously do a self-assessment, and then have those responses compiled for discussion by the group. Clearly, this does not address the problem head on, but the resulting conversation can assist in creating an atmosphere more conducive to problem-solving. Here's an example of an accountability assessment: https://www.partnersinleadership.com/insights-publications/quizzes/accountability-builder/</p>
What type of membership training was included?	We decided to focus more on practical leadership with this training, given the requests that we've had for that. But, also woven into membership retention is the idea of valuing members, finding good roles for them within the organization, and creating programs that are meaningful. And make sure you check out the MLD handbook
What is a one-on-one relational organizing meeting (from leadership assessment sheet)?	The one-to-one relational meeting is an intentional, well-framed conversation between two people and is the basic building block of all community organizing.
How do we start up a new project within current structure (eg. project to get folks off the grid the documents they need for automatic voter registration)?	<p>(Was a little unclear on question; if this does not address your it, could you please contact me so that we can discuss this issue further?)</p> <p>All it takes is board approval and a willing volunteer to coordinate the effort. If you want people to become aware of voter registration, you could create and handout a brochure or business card including the following information:</p> <p>Voter Registration lookup: https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx</p> <p>Online Voter Registration: https://ova.elections.il.gov/</p> <p>Illinois Voter Guide: https://lwvil.civicense.com/</p> <p>Since some high schools have a community service graduation requirement, you might contact them to work with you on distribution. See more great ideas at the Illinois LWV website: http://www.lwvil.org/voting--elections.html</p>

We need guidance in operating across multiple cities and/or counties.	Please contact me directly, so that we can talk. (Sue)
We need more on leadership! Can you provide?	<i>Due to the number of questions suggesting additional training or networking, we are currently exploring some options. Will communicate those after discussion.</i>
I was busy listening, so no notes. Can you supply a brief summary of 3-5 most important points?	<p>~Learning to appreciate personalities that are different from one's own is a key ingredient in maximizing the potential of any organization.</p> <p>~Instituting methods and procedures (detailed agendas, consent agendas, Roberts rules of order, instituting norms, etc.) for efficient, productive, goal-oriented meetings are very worthwhile.</p> <p>~Earnestly practicing shared leadership ("leaderful organization") is the best way to encourage and utilize member talents, protect "veteran" leaders from burn-out, and make one's league more responsive and engaging.</p> <p>~Reflecting on and assessing our own leadership skills provides an opportunity to set goals for ourselves, as well as see the areas where we can empower others.</p>
How can we move forward (technologically) if board members are not using email or cell phones?	This is certainly a challenge, and something that many leagues face. Training is one option (although, this is often resisted.) Trying to reach a middle ground, perhaps, and agree to make phone calls for certain things. But, at some point—for the sake of expense and efficiency—it seems that email, at the very least, can be an expectation for timely communication.
How can we keep updated with what other Leagues are doing? (Can State keep a master calendar online?)	There actually is an online calendar in place on the state league website (http://www.lwvil.org/events-calendar.html). However, it will only be useful if we can get all leagues to make it a point to list their events.
Is there an MLD II (and advanced class to go over what we've learned and add more tools?)	<i>Due to the number of questions suggesting additional training or networking, we are currently exploring some options. Will communicate those after discussion.</i>