

Membership Orientation Tips

“Maybe we should offer a new member orientation”.

There are many things to consider when planning an orientation. If your league is attracting new members on a regular basis, put membership orientation into your calendar planning and plan one or two each year. For leagues with smaller growth, consider offering an orientation quarterly, prior to a general meeting.

Above all, keep it short and simple. League can be overwhelming to new members. Offer the information in small bites, preferably using upcoming programs to illustrate how the League works.

Some examples of events to attract new members to orientation:

Wine & Cheese Party

An orientation prior to a general meeting

An orientation offered prior to a unit meeting

Orientation offered during lunch at a restaurant (reserve a party room for this purpose)

Keep in mind that Saturday mornings are precious to working people and their families. If you do decide to make it a Saturday, choose an early time – say 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

To be covered at orientation:

Introduce local board members who are present

Read the League’s Mission statement, Non-Partisan Policy, and Diversity Policy

Explain the 3 levels of the League

What grass-roots means to our Program Planning (study, consensus, and action)

(Consider handing out the summary on page 14 of the publication, “The Road from Study to Action”.)

League Lingo

Do a show and tell with a membership packet, explaining why each item was included

Voter Service

Leadership Development Opportunities

One way to orient and refresh all League members is to offer a 15-minute orientation/refresher prior to each general meeting. It can be fun to ask the members in a general audience to decipher League Lingo. (What’s the difference between consensus and concurrence?)

Above all, factor in time for socializing. People do business with people they like, and that includes volunteer business.

DON’T FORGET THE NAME TAGS!