

IN TOUCH

Italian Catholic Federation

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District Mentor Newsletter

October 2017

Vincent Piro, Mentor Program Chairperson (209) 756-4817 vpairo@icloud.com

MENTOR PROGRAM NOW IN PLACE

As of the 2017 Annual I.C.F. Convention, the Deputy Program has been renamed the Mentor Program. This change was made to better reflect the role of the Branch Deputy - now Mentor - in assisting the local Branch. In reality, Branch Mentors do not act like officers of the law - rather they often act as an experienced and trusted adviser to their Branch and, especially, the Branch officers. They often give advice or guidance to the President of the local Branch, offering suggestions on running meetings, supporting I.C.F. events and dealing with challenges. They also act as a liaison between the local Branch and Central Council by promoting I.C.F. events, relaying news from the Central Council and promoting changes in the Federation. Of course, Branch Mentors also help implement the I.C.F. Strategic Plan at the local level and provide feedback to the Central Council about the general health of the Branch. All in all, the Branch Mentor is there to assist and guide the local Branch. On the District level, the District Mentor has many of the same duties as the Branch Mentor but at the District Level and has direct reporting duty to the Central Council. I, personally, look forward to working with each District and Branch Mentor as we work to further the aims and ideals of the Federation.

- In your Service, Vince Piro

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each Branch should elect Officers in October. Refer to your Branch By-Laws Book, Chapter XI. **If a Branch has not yet elected officers for the new year, please be sure to assist them in doing so and inform me if there are any problems.** 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. Thank all of the officers of the past year for their hard work and dedication to the Branch and the I.C.F.
- 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 or the Grand President for advice and ideas.

- The new officers should plan a Calendar of Events for the coming year. A Branch Budget for the upcoming year is also recommended.
- Remind Branches to send a list of their new officers to the I.C.F. office by December 1st.

I.C.F. CALENDARS

Branches received their allotment of 2018 calendars at the Convention or by mail. This is the time of year that calendars should sell like “Hotcakes.” Sell them to friends, business suppliers, family and members of your Church. Be sure to purchase one for your Pastor. They make great Raffle Gifts for your Branch and Stocking Stuffers at Christmas. Remember, the Branch keeps \$5.00 for every Calendar sold.

WANT TO BE A MENTOR?

District and Branch Mentors are needed. Please ask your Branch and District members to encourage volunteers. It truly is a rewarding experience. Contact Vince Piro for more information.

Typical Duties of a Branch Mentor

- Mentor Branch President and other Officers of the Branch.
- Attend Branch Membership Meetings, Branch Executive Meetings, Branch Events and Fundraisers as possible.
- Report from the Central Council to the Branch membership.
- Assist Branch with Strategic Plan goals and activities, such as Annual Membership Drive and Retention.
- Report to the District Mentor monthly (form).
- Attend District Mentor workshops.

- If necessary, contact CC Mentor Program Chair if there are Branch problems.

IMPORTANT E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you need to contact Michelle Feldman, the I.C.F. Bollettino Editor, her e-mail address is icfeditor@gmail.com.

If you need to contact Patty Smith for accounting issues her e-mail is accounting@icf.org or if you need to contact Charlene Kramer at the I.C.F. Office her e-mail is admin@icf.org or info@icf.org.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

At its June 2017 meeting, the Central Council adopted a Strategic Plan to guide the Federation until the year 2020. This plan has four core strategies, or focus points.

The core strategies are the primary means and methods we will use to move the I.C.F. from today to our vision for the year 2020.

Core Strategies are the primary ways we “close the gap” between today and our desired Future Vision. Thus, they are also the “glue” and “organizing framework” for all parts of the organization. They replace the obsolete concept of separate department goals. These are those goals; the same for each department. Although we recognize all core strategies are intertwined, our level of effort will be focused in order of the below hierarchy.

1. Core Strategy #1: Membership Growth and Retention (including marketing)

We will grow and maintain our membership base through leadership training and marketing.

2. Core Strategy #2: Leadership

We will evaluate and revise leadership structure in the I.C.F. so that leadership is developed and encouraged among its

members and so that new leadership is encouraged and developed.

3. Core Strategy #3: Community Connections
We create connections between the I.C.F., our parishes, and communities; these connections are part of our commitment to apostolic and charitable work.

4. Core Strategy #4: Finances

We will balance our budgets at all levels so that the I.C.F. is no longer financing its operations through investment returns.

As a Branch or District Mentor, your assistance with implementing the Strategic Plan at the local level is greatly appreciated by the Central Council and its officers.

The complete Strategic Plan can be found on the ICF website in the Membership area at <http://www.icf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ICF-Strategic-Plan-2018-to-2020.pdf>. Please, take the time to review it personally and with your District and local Branch.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF MENTOR PROGRAM

There will be a meeting of the District Mentors - and any Branch Mentors who wish to attend - via phone conference on December 6th at 7 P.M. At this time, we will review the Strategic Plan, your roles as Mentors, and share any successes and challenges you have had as a District or Branch Mentor. More information will be sent to you via email or USPS soon.

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

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 9/30/17 BY DISTRICT

		Gain/Loss since 6/30/17
Central Coast	1,347	+ 3
Santa Clara Valley	1,090	- 4
Fresno	968	- 4
Santa Rosa	756	- 15
Contra Costa	747	+ 2
San Mateo	640	- 10
Los Angeles	514	- 6
Stockton	452	+ 1
Chicago	419	- 6
East Bay	396	+ 0
Blessed Sacrament	376	- 9
San Diego	309	+ 7
Santa Barbara/Ventura	268	- 11
Marin	231	+ 0
San Gabriel Valley	199	- 2
San Francisco	183	- 3
Orange	109	- 2
Tucson	103	+ 1
San Bernardino	92	+ 4
San Fernando Valley	66	- 2
Reno	46	+ 1

Total membership as of 9/30/17 **9,311**

New members	122
Reinstated	2
Cancelled/Non Payment	142
Deceased	38
Dues not paid 6 – 8 months	8
Dues not paid 9 – 12months	460

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Encourage Branches to participate in a Membership Drive. Presidents can arrange with their Pastors for time at the Masses to speak about the Italian Catholic Federation. A two minute Mass script is available that really works. After Mass, a table should be set up at the back of the Church with I.C.F. Brochures, Italian cookies and a few members to answer questions. Take down names and then call them to invite them to the next meeting.

You can call Membership Chairperson Anne Interrante at (805) 529-6871.