

Interest Group Coordinator

Cathy Kinn

Goal: To fully integrate Interest Groups with branch members and the board.

Objectives:

1. To be the liaison between the board and Interest Groups.
2. To ensure that group leaders instill within their members the sense of being part of a whole.
3. To ensure that board members respect the work of group leaders and have reasonable expectations of their time and ability.
4. To support group leaders and assist in the formation of new groups.
5. To promote adherence to the branch calendar and to help with time conflicts.

Completed Activities:

1. Group leaders were still requested to promote upcoming branch meetings and events. The concept of a “chanteuse” was developed for those leaders who **wanted someone to remind them**.
2. Open House was challenging this year; in spite of my information about what is expected, one new leader decided she had enough members and wouldn't attend. **Two** other long-term leaders said the same. I **explained** once again that Open House is for informational display, not recruitment.
3. Reminders to make new members welcome and to revisit those who signed up were barely needed. This graciousness is automatic for almost all the leaders.
4. In January, I challenged the leaders about awareness of our branch as a whole and participation in it for themselves and their members. I do think we have made great progress in connectivity among the Interest Groups, the Board and the Branch. It now seems like the “olden days” that a member would not be aware of upcoming activities. Of course, credit for this goes to Margaret Nijhuis as well.
5. Gained one new group: Poetry and Play Readings.

Still to Come:

Interest group leaders are steadfast in the time, effort, and care they give their groups. Some are sensitive to any perceived criticism; others take any suggestion and make it exciting and fun. This upcoming year, my last as their coordinator, I will return to praise alone accompanied by a little nudging.