

DISBANDING DILEMMA

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

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National Director

What is the problem anyway?? Why do courts consider disbanding??

- **Membership numbers are way down.**
- **Courts are not able to find or elect officers.**
- **Failure to function as a court. No program or projects to engage members.**
- **Ongoing conflict that is not resolved.**

DISBANDMENT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Involve State officers, district deputies or National Directors to help.
- Conduct a membership drive with pulpit talks and meet and greet.
- Work on officer recruitment.
- Focus on CDA as a spiritual organization.
- Encourage members to share in the “sisterhood of CDA.”
- Attempt conflict resolution.

HELPFUL PREVENTION STEPS

- Review financial health of the court. (pay National and State dues)
- Consider a six-month reprieve to resolve issues. (no dues are billed during this time, but past debts must be paid). Courts should continue to collect local court dues if at all possible.
- Reprieves are requested by State Regents or National Directors for territorial courts.
- Local court officers **DO NOT** have the authority to disband their court.

REASONS NATIONAL MAY AGREE TO DISBAND A COURT

- Membership is fewer than 15 members.
- Court is not compliant with by-laws.
- No officers are in place by December 31 of the election year.
- Court has failed to function as a court. (not meeting or unable to get a quorum for meetings.)
- A reprieve has not resolved issues.

DISBANDMENT PROCEDURE

- Process is led by the State regent or her representative. Disbanding of territorial courts is handled by the assigned National Director.
- When possible, two meetings should be held:
 - 1) meeting to discuss future of the court. A court may not vote to disband at this meeting. A quorum of 8 is needed.
 - 2) meeting to vote on disbandment.
- National office should be kept informed by State regent or National Director.

PREPARATION FOR DISBANDMENT MEETING

- Notify members 15 days prior to meeting in writing by snail mail or email.
- Have lists of other local courts available as well as transfer forms.
- Encourage members to transfer to other courts.
- Court officers are the last to transfer out.
- State Regent or her representative must attend.

FINAL DISBANDMENT MEETING PROCEEDINGS

- A motion to disband is needed. A 2/3 vote of those present is required.
- Outstanding debts and debts to National and State must be paid.
- State court is financially responsible to pay National bills if local court cannot.
- Funds will be needed to return items to National and State.
- Disbursement of remaining assets to charities, State or National projects need to be discussed and decided. A donation to the State may be considered to defray costs.
- A final disbandment date is set at least one month from this final meeting. This allows checks to clear and a bank statement of zero balance to arrive.

OTHER DISBANDMENT DETAILS

- A final meeting report with attendance record is prepared and signed by the local Regent and financial secretary.
- State Regent sends an official letter of disbandment to National with the final date noted.
- Collect all transfer applications. Transfers are good for 120 days from effective date of disbandment.
- Take care of items going to National or State.

ITEMS TO RETURN TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE

- Final bank statement showing a zero balance.
- Treasurer book for the last five years.
- Minutes of the court since 2002.

ITEMS TO RETURN TO STATE BOARD

- Robes, but only if in decent condition.
- Banners without the court name and in decent condition.
- Please dispose of banners with court names.
- Gavel
- Charter may be kept or destroyed.

DISBANDING IS NEVER A DESIRED OR PLEASANT PROCESS.

TIMING and COMMUNICATION are key elements in REBUILDING or DISBANDING A COURT.

**DON'T MAKE DISBANDING THE SOLUTION....
IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE**

**THE
LAST
RESORT.**

