

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CHAPTERS

“How to recruit Chapter members and increase attendance at Chapter events”

This was the title of a session at the NPM Chapter Directors’ Meeting, July 10 during the 2017 NPM Convention in Cincinnati. The gathering of Chapter Directors and Chapter Representatives shared strategies that have worked for them and the results were displayed in the NPM Exhibit Hall Booth for the remainder of the Convention. Additional resources will periodically be sent to you to assist your Chapter outreach efforts. Remember that you can always access resources dedicated to chapters at the NPM website in the “members” section under “chapters.”

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National Committee for Chapters Communications Chair

1. Establish relationships, particularly via personal contact.
2. Assign Chapter leaders to serve a specific Deanery or Vicariate (interchangeable terms - dioceses use these terms to designate specific areas of the diocese).
3. Insure these people are up to date on the Chapter News and Activities.
4. Establish a Board member to be in charge of personal communications
5. Contact Musicians in each Deanery – NOT just a one-time thing. Stay in touch often.
6. Collaborate with parishes and organizations to recruit new Chapter members or promote an event.
7. Build bridges: personal touch, “Basic Training”, interdisciplinary cooperation
8. Encourage all musicians in diocese to join the NPM Chapter no matter what role they play, i.e. handbells, cantors, etc.
9. Reach for new and diverse people in music ministries, choir members and cantors as well as Directors.
10. Be consistent in communications and offer varied programming.
11. Have a Chapter Website and FaceBook Page. Make sure they are kept up-to-date!
12. Commit to involving new people on the Chapter Board.
13. Empower more members to get involved in the planning of Chapter Events
14. Include all members of music ministry in events such as choral reading sessions and St, Cecilia sing - these get the biggest response.
15. Program workshops aimed at music/choir directors that explain new policies (GRIM, new rite of celebrating matrimony) and Cantor Certification.
16. Disperse Responsibility
 - a. Set due date for requested action.
 - b. Use email to encourage and enhance the work of the Board Members
17. If possible, partner with a nearby Chapter on a program or event.
18. Learn about exciting events that other chapters are doing. (Note: Check *Chapter Happenings* Section of Pastoral Music Magazine).
19. Canvass Chapter meetings to recommend Program content. Check the NPM Website, Chapter Resources for the document, Programming Ideas.
20. Make sure Chapter Events do not conflict with local, public events

21. Gear events towards all parish musicians, not just Music Directors
22. Hold a practice for the Presider and musicians as wedding preparation
23. Arrange an event with the Bishop – dinner or reception; Special Mass or other Liturgy with a Blessing of Music Ministers
24. Organize monthly Music Director lunches, by Deanery, if appropriate.
25. Solemn Blessing of Musicians at a parish with (Arch)bishop for St. Cecilia Sing
26. Review board policies and procedures once a year. Adjust them if necessary.
27. Hold a well-planned Annual Banquet.
 - a. Suggestions – use as a social time, hire musical entertainment, conduct Board elections at this time.
28. Establish a good communications network with the Diocesan Office of Worship
 - a. Invite Office of Worship staff to NPM meetings
 - b. Work harder to get Archdiocesan support.
 - c. Reach out to Pastors; if needed, solicit assistance of Diocesan Office of Worship.
 - d. Develop an email list of pastors and send notices of Chapter events of interest to them, such as cantor training, reading session, etc.
29. Offer a Scholarship such as NPM Convention Registration or a workshop at a nearby educational institution.
30. Reach out to the Hispanic musicians in your diocese.
31. Following a Chapter program or event, ask for and listen to feedback